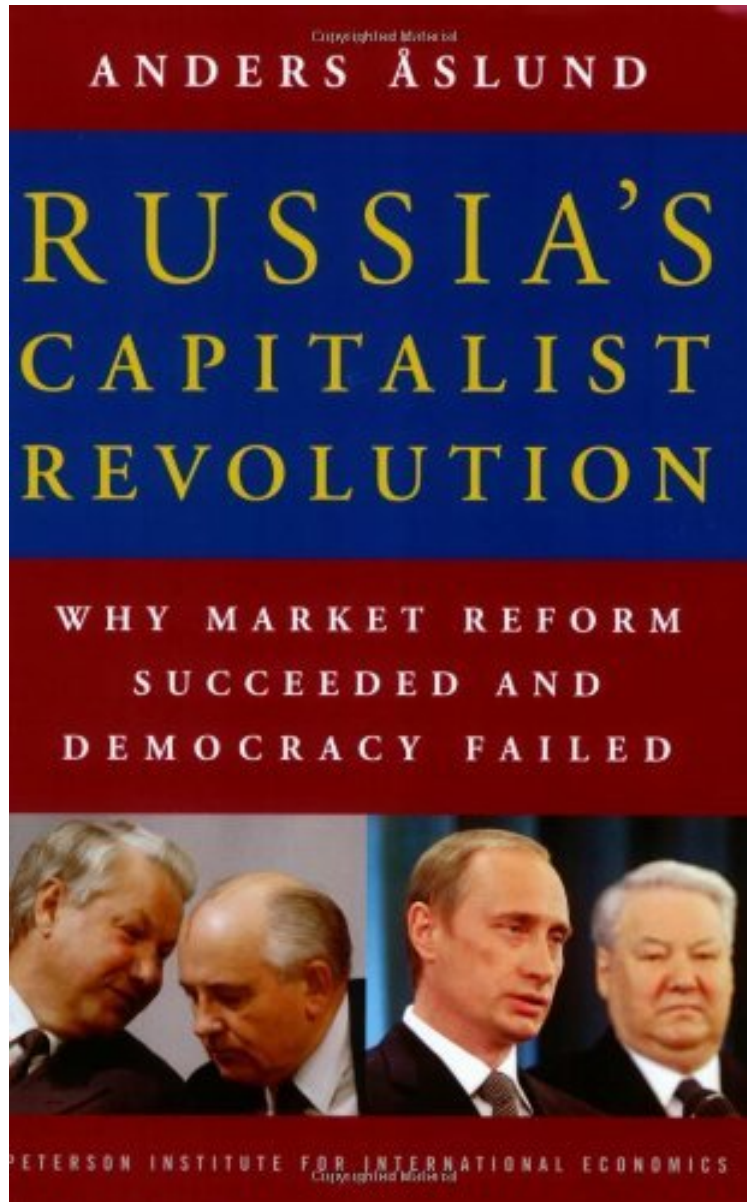


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Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed

Anders Aslund

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Anders Aslund : Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent for those who have an interest in the topic By KismetI

learned plenty from this book, which is a detailed economic history of post-Soviet Russia. Overall, it's a success, though it's not highly readable, and the author repeats himself not only from book to book but within the same book. He has a strong grasp of economics, and politics, if not of history, and he's an effective communicator. He includes some dubious information but he is reliable for some things. He knows plenty about Russia and Ukraine, but not about the other CIS countries - to the point he neglects their impact on Russia and Ukraine. He doesn't know about Central Asia, nuclear power, Chernobyl, Chechnya, nuclear weapons, FSB, or geopolitics, so you will find him saying weird or wrong things every 2-3 pages when he veers off of what he knows. The worst part is actually that you have to double check much of his information since he includes things he has heard from other people, his impressions, and what he perceives as commonly accepted knowledge, rather than things he knows to be true. You have to puzzle out to realize that the source for some things is anecdotes from other people, so while it's interesting, you cannot rely on things he reports unless you find it verified elsewhere! If you do not like reading about economic history or have no interest in Russia, then this book is not for you. If you do, this is an excellent and illuminating book. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An absolute "must-have" for modern Russian history shelves, very highly recommended. By Midwest Book Review Economist Anders Aslund presents *Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed*, a recounting of modern Russian political and economic history from the mid-1980s to the present. Examining statistical and historical evidence with a critical eye, Aslund points out that even though market reforms have flourished, and Russia is currently in a relatively productive economic state (compared to much of its modern history), the government under Vladimir Putin has become so strongly centralized and authoritarian as to resemble that of former czar Nicholas. *Russia's Capitalist Revolution* intricately ferrets out the causes driving this proud nation's dual transformation, with the eye-opening revelation that the changes most likely to take were the radical and sudden rather than slow and gradual. An absolute "must-have" for modern Russian history shelves, very highly recommended. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Z.

Chen Economist Anders Aslund presents *Russia's Capitalist Revolution: Why Market Reform Succeeded and Democracy Failed*, a recounting of modern Russian political and economic history from the mid-1980s to the present. Examining statistical and historical evidence with a critical eye, Aslund points out that even though market reforms have flourished, and Russia is currently in a relatively productive economic state (compared to much of its modern history), the government under Vladimir Putin has become so strongly centralized and authoritarian as to resemble that of former czar Nicholas. *Russia's Capitalist Revolution* intricately ferrets out the causes driving this proud nation's dual transformation, with the eye-opening revelation that the changes most likely to take were the radical and sudden rather than slow and gradual. An absolute "must-have" for modern Russian history shelves, very highly recommended.

The Russian revolution, collapse of the Soviet Union, and Russia's ensuing transformation belong to the greatest dramas of our time. Revolutions are usually messy and emotional affairs, challenging much of the conventional wisdom, and Russia's experience is no exception. This book focuses on the transformation from Soviet Russia to Russia as a market economy, and explores why the country has failed to transform into a democracy. It examines the period from 1985, when Mikhail Gorbachev became the Soviet Union's Secretary General of the Communist Party, to the present Russia of Vladimir Putin. Aring;slund provides a broad overview of Russia's economic change, highlighting the most important issues and their subsequent resolutions, including Russia's inability to sort out the ruble zone during its revolution, several failed coups, and the financial crash of August 1998. Includes photos, maps, graphs and charts.

The central paradox about contemporary Russia is why capitalism has taken root, but democracy has not. Anders Aslund provides a crisp, comprehensive, and compelling answer. *Russia's Capitalist Revolution* will become a classic overnight, the standard by which all future books on the last two decades of Soviet and Russian history will be judged. --MICHAEL McFAUL, director, Center on Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law, Stanford University Anders Aslund has done for the collapse of Russian communism what E. H. Carr did for the Bolshevik Revolution. In a series of seminal contributions, he takes you through the events, helps you distinguish the personalities from the policies, and explains what worked and for whom. You should really read all of Aslund's collected works on the subject, which must run to at least as many pages as Carr's opus. But if you would like all the key ideas in one easy to read place, with clear policy implications, and a view of the future that is part encouraging and part chilling, this volume is for you. --SIMON JOHNSON, director, Research Department, International Monetary Fund Anders Aslund's *Russia's Capitalist Revolution* is an exceptionally well-informed account of Russia's tortuous evolution since the reforms of Gorbachev. It reveals why the economic reforms succeeded while the political democratization, begun in the 1990s, did not. Based on both wide reading and personal experiences in Russia, it is an authoritative study of a subject of great importance not only to Russians but the rest of the world. --RICHARD PIPES, Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of History Emeritus, Harvard University About the Author Anders Aslund, known to repeatedly challenge conventional wisdom on transition economies, is a leading specialist on post-communist economic transformation with more than 30 years of experience in the field. He boldly predicted the fall of the Soviet

Union in his, Gorbachev's Struggle for Economic Reform (1989). In *Building Capitalism: The Transformation of the Former Soviet Bloc* (2002) he firmly stated that the only choice Russia had was market reform. In his new book, *Russia's Capitalist Revolution*, he explains why Russia's market reform succeeded and democracy building failed. Dr Aring;slund joined the Peterson Institute for International Economics as senior fellow in January 2006. He has worked as an economic adviser to the Russian government (1991-94), to the Ukrainian government, and to the president of the Kyrgyz Republic. Before joining the Peterson Institute he was the director of the Russian and Eurasian Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and he codirected the Carnegie Moscow Center's project on Post-Soviet Economies. He was founding director of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics and professor at the Stockholm School of Economics (1989-94).