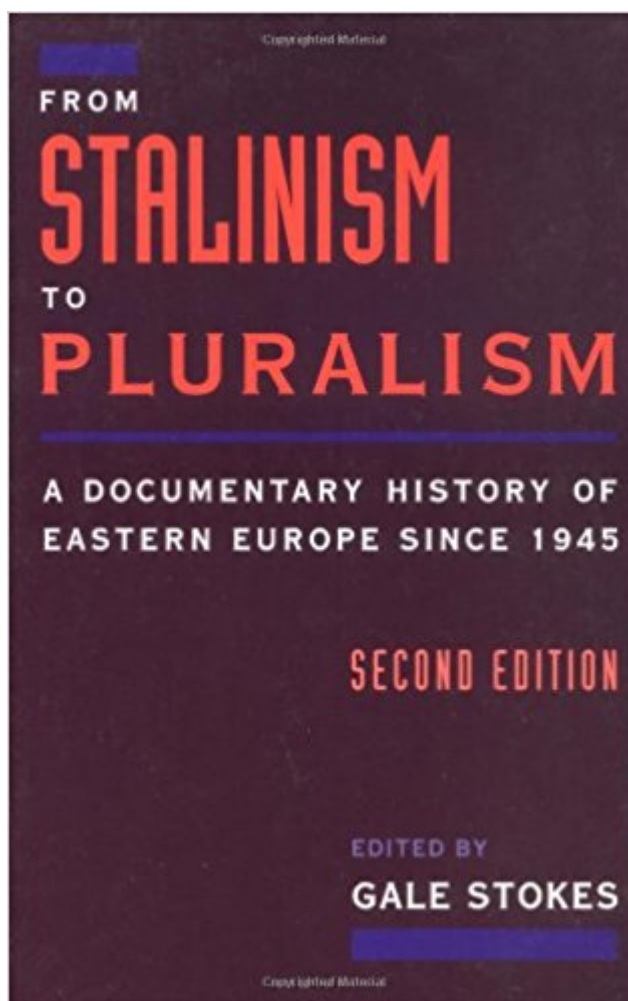




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From Stalinism To Pluralism: A Documentary History Of Eastern Europe Since 1945



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Synopsis

Bringing together a wealth of historical documents, memoirs, essays, and literature from Eastern Europe, this highly successful book vividly illustrates how the most original and challenging minds of the region have understood and reacted to Stalinism and its successors since the end of the Second World War, ultimately showing how Eastern Europeans have made the journey from Stalinism to a new pluralism. The book creates a rich mosaic of political and historical development in these countries, presenting extracts from the works of Leszek Kolakowski, Czeslaw Milosz, Milovan Djilas, George Lukacs, Vaclav Havel, Adam Michnik, and George Konrad alongside such seminal primary documents as the Yalta Agreement, the Helsinki Accords, and the Gdansk Agreement. Organized chronologically and thematically, a fifth chapter, entitled After the Fall, has been added to create a completely updated and expanded second edition. The new edition covers the critical events attending the rise of Stalinism and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. Four new readings on the collapse of Yugoslavia into civil war, as well as close to fifty other documents make this reader the most comprehensive and up-to-date textbook on the history and politics of Eastern Europe since the end of World War II.

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Gale Stokes is at Rice University.

Very helpful for research and writing about European history.

A typical story: this was one of the required books for a history course on the collapse of the USSR and the end of Communism in Eastern Europe. I thought, O gosh, another boring and expensive tome to lug to sections and lectures. Wrong! This is the book that you're glad to have learned about and glad to own and excited to read! (Well, if you are a history undergrad like me!) So, what's so special? It is a collection of primary source documents from virtually every East Bloc country, dealing with everything from the COMINTERN to dissidents, anti-nuclear activists to economists, pro-marxian(non-Lennist) theories to historic speeches and manifestos from virtually every significant historically personality. It's a mix, a grab bag, a delightful kaleidoscope examining every possible aspect you could want to learn about. Of course, it's general, not specific, and panoramic, not complete. But it's complete enough for an undergraduate survey-type course. It offers up quotes, evidence, and stats vital for any sort of paper one could need to write. It is highly readable, though not all entries are equally exciting. There are also help introductions to the sources which contextualize and frame them, reminding one of complex intersecting national timelines of the individual socialist people's republics. Again, fascinating and readable! A book only a college student studying the cold war could love! But you will love it! If you're choosing between taking this out of a

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