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# BOOK NEWS

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The Book That Made Headlines Before Publication

## KHRUSHCHEV REMEMBERS

With Introduction, Commentary, and Notes by Edward Crankshaw

Bizarre, ingenuous, shocking, humorous, illuminating, absorbing - no less than a plethora of adjectives could describe this unique historical first - the memoirs of the man who sat at the apex of power in the modern Russian empire from 1953 to 1964. Never before, in all the years since the great Russian Revolution, have we had access to the intimate political reminiscences of a Soviet leader. Never before have we had the opportunity to penetrate to the power centre of the Kremlin itself-- or had the guidance of a personality whose influence on the outside world was as vivid and unsettling as that of Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev remembering takes us to the bedside of the dying Stalin; among the select group who plotted the downfall of the notorious secret-police chief Beria; into the tense drama of the Cuban missile crisis. Here is the behind-the-scenes Russian version of the break with Mao Tse-Tung and of the pacification of Hungary in 1956. From summit conferences when plans were made to wage the disastrous Winter War with Finland, we go to the Twentieth Party Congress where the famous secret speech was given.

These singular reminiscences of the intensely human, if somewhat enigmatic Khrushchev are full of unexpected insights into the minds, motives, strengths and weaknesses of his colleagues - Stalin, Bulganin, Beria, Voroshilov, Malenkov, Zhukov, Molotov, Mikoyan, Kaganovich and many others - all of whom lived dangerously and some of whom came to sudden and anonymous ends. The man who brought Russia into the twentieth century speaks across the East-West barrier in the earthy, forthright style we were so familiar with before he was deposed, and what he had to say forms one of the most important records - and experiences - of our generation.

"The Publishing Coup of the Century"

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