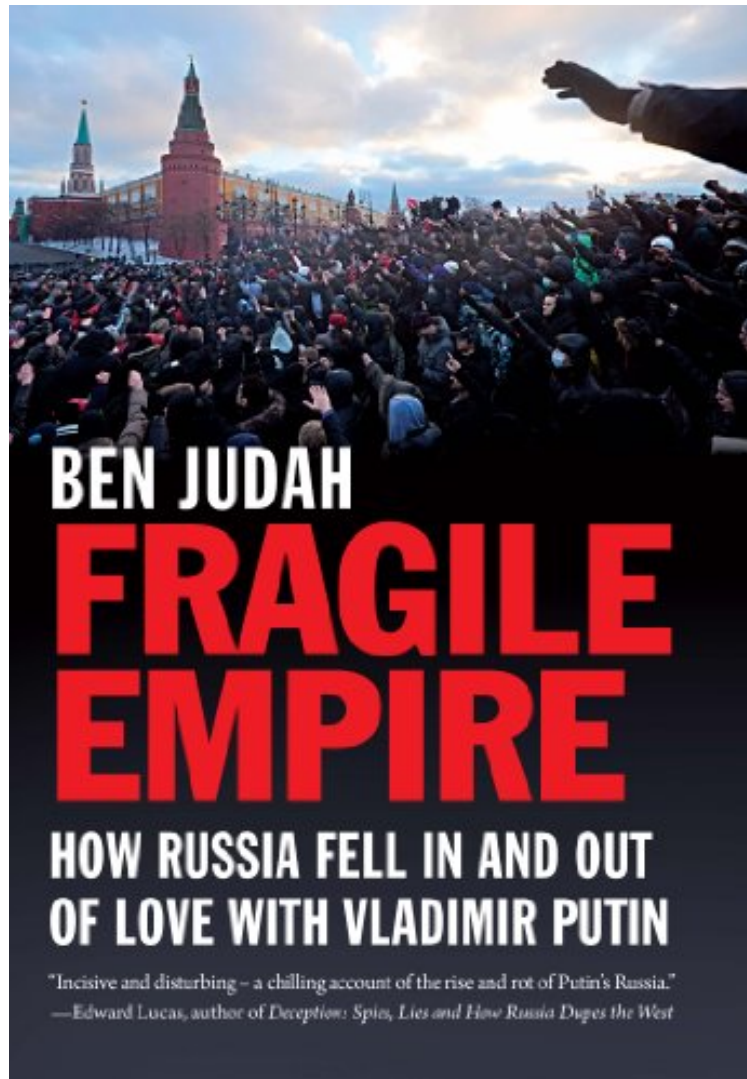


(Free read ebook) Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin

Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin

Ben Judah

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Ben Judah : Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin:

29 of 31 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Overview of Modern Russia By Carl from Chicago I picked up this book based on positive reviews in Bloomberg and elsewhere and was very impressed. I have a reasonably good understanding of Russia based on military history and a decent understanding of the global energy business. The first thing that comes to my mind is how brave the author must be to go around Russia asking questions

about Putin. From my understanding and this book that is a very risky thing to do since the primary purpose of the security apparatus in Russia is to keep Putin in power. The book follows Putin from the chaos in post-collapse St Petersburg where he worked for a local politician through his election to presidency, the Medvedev years (which were actually the Putin years), and then back into his current stint in charge. The book is not all negative about Putin, which is what I find most interesting. The oligarchs that took control of the energy and media companies were extremely unpopular and Putin brought them to heel. This was in fact popular among much of the population. He also took energy revenues and used them to pay some salaries and pensions and bring some modest amount of stability to the poor. And Moscow was substantially rebuilt with sky scrapers and other elements. He also resolved (for the time being) the situation in Chechnya by allying with the current warlord and this momentarily resolved a horrible active war that was being fought in an embarrassing way for Russia. It is very interesting to see how close associates of Putin, even those in his Judo club and KGB days, have become billionaires. They have taken control of the energy infrastructure and then a Swiss trading function is another source of his supposed vast personal wealth (unproven). Judah talks to Navalny, the activist against Putin's latest election, and this is insightful because today Navalny is subject to a phantom prosecution designed to deter him from elective office. You can jump between the articles in the book and the latest news and this is very helpful. There is a lot in this book. It covers an amazing amount of topics from coast to coast, including the border wars with China and the far, Far East. The author attempts nothing less than a comprehensive, border to border analysis of modern Russia. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Key text for understanding Russia today By A. D. Bydzan One of a handful of key texts for understanding Russia today. Deeply researched over five years in Russia. A great story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Worthwhile Read! By BRIAN HARRISON A wonderfully researched book that gives one insights into the real Russia and the problems that Putin faces by not building the right institutions. Some of the examples were over used!

From Kaliningrad on the Baltic to the Russian Far East, journalist Ben Judah has travelled throughout Russia and the former Soviet republics, conducting extensive interviews with President Vladimir Putin's friends, foes, and colleagues, government officials, business tycoons, mobsters, and ordinary Russian citizens. *Fragile Empire* is the fruit of Judah's thorough research: a probing assessment of Putin's rise to power and what it has meant for Russia and her people.

From Publishers Weekly Judah's dynamic account of the rise (and fall-in-progress) of Russian President Vladimir Putin convincingly addresses just why and how Putin became so popular, and traces the decisions and realizations that seem to be leading to his undoing. The former Reuters Moscow reporter maps Putin's career and impact on modern Russia through wide-ranging research and has an eye for illuminating and devastating quotes, as when a reporter in dialogue with Putin says, "I lost the feeling that I lived in a free country. I have not started to feel fear." To which Putin responds, "Did you not think that this was what I was aiming for: that one feeling disappeared, but the other did not appear?" His style, however, feels hurried, an effect of which is occasional losses of narrative clarity. In some cases limited information is available, and his pace-maintaining reliance on euphemistic, metaphorical, and journalistic language can leave readers underserved and confused. Judah is at his best when being very specific, and perhaps the book's achievement is that it makes comprehensible how Putin got to where he is; those wondering how Putin became and remained so popular will benefit from this sober, well-researched case. (June) "Ben Judah, a young freelance writer, paints a more journalistic and more passionate picture in *'Fragile Empire'*. He shuttles to and fro across Russia's vast terrain, finding criminals, liars, fascists and crooked politicians, as well as the occasional saintly figure." —The Economist