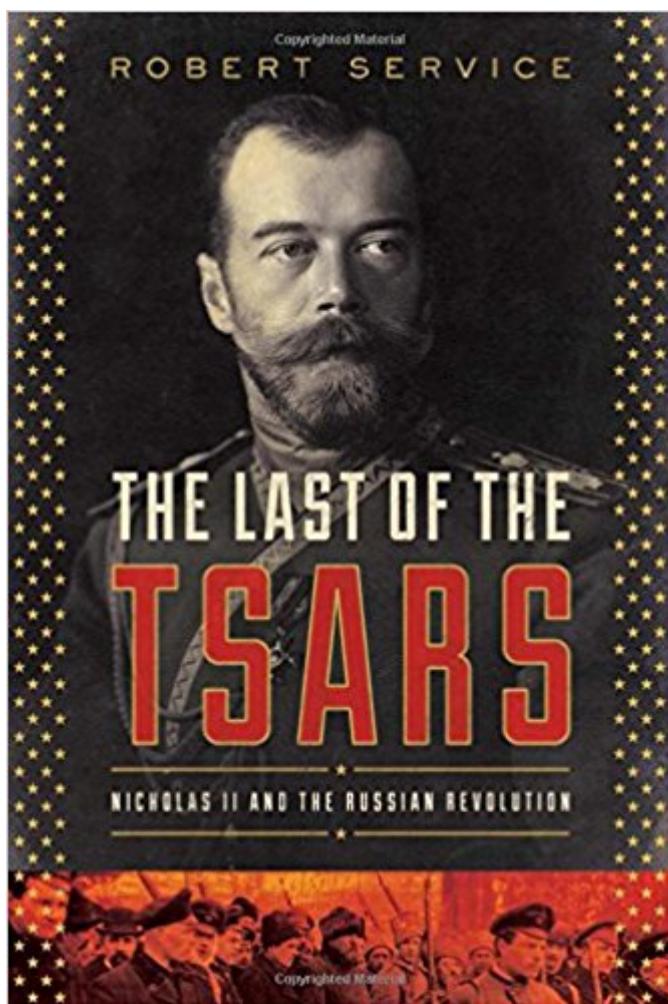


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The Last Of The Tsars: Nicholas II And The Russia Revolution



Synopsis

A riveting account of the last eighteen months of Tsar Nicholas II's life and reign from one of the finest Russian historians writing today. In March 1917, Nicholas II, the last Tsar of All the Russias, abdicated and the dynasty that had ruled an empire for three hundred years was forced from power by revolution. Now, on the hundredth anniversary of that revolution, Robert Service, the eminent historian of Russia, examines Nicholas's life and thought from the months before his momentous abdication to his death, with his family, in Ekaterinburg in July 1918. The story has been told many times, but Service's deep understanding of the period and his forensic examination of previously untapped sources, including the Tsar's diaries and recorded conversations, as well as the testimonies of the official inquiry, shed remarkable new light on his troubled reign, also revealing the kind of Russia that Nicholas wanted to emerge from the Great War. The Last of the Tsars is a masterful study of a man who was almost entirely out of his depth, perhaps even willfully so. It is also a compelling account of the social, economic and political ferment in Russia that followed the February Revolution, the Bolshevik seizure of power in October 1917 and the beginnings of Lenin's Soviet socialist republic. 16 pages of photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Service brings forensic detail to his account of the Romanov family's confinement and murder, mining newly available material that gives the story a you-are-there quality. - Booklist A scholarly biography that goes beyond the gruesome depictions of the Romanovs' end to examine the more complicated nature of Nicholas II's character. A compelling work;

Robert Service is the author of twelve books, including *The End of the Cold War; Spies and Commissars*; the acclaimed *Lenin: A Biography*; *Stalin: A Biography*; and *Comrades: A History of World Communism*. He is currently a professor of Russian history at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford, and a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

I just finished reading this book last night and although I found a few mistakes in it it was still fairly interesting. I would recommend for any Romanov fan.

In 1913, the Romanov Dynasty celebrated its 300th anniversary. A mere four years later, the Dynasty was over. The Tsar had abdicated. However, a whole world of new troubles were about to emerge for the troubled Romanovs. Robert Service has written an excellent brief book covering the period from the Tsar's abdication and the February Revolution through to the grisly death of the Tsar and his family in the cellar of the Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg in July 1918. The reader is introduced to all the conspirators and comes to understand how the events unfolded. Service also attempts to paint a picture as to why the events unfolded as they did. We learn that Nicholas was a man attempting tasks beyond his capabilities. He should never have had supreme command over the Russian war machine. He was simply too autocratic and unwilling to seek advice. Service sums this up well: "The widespread image of him as a blameless monarch is unconvincing. In power and out of it, he was a nationalist extremist, a deluded nostalgist and a virulent anti-Semite." However, in having Nicholas abdicate and then bringing about his gruesome death, Russia inflicted upon itself more than 70 years of Soviet power. The country continues, to this day, to pay a heavy price for its violent history. The nation is now run by anti-democratic oligarchs. The Russian people still suffer. I highly recommend this book by Robert Service to any reader of history seeking an introduction to Russia and the 20th century. Service is to be commended.

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