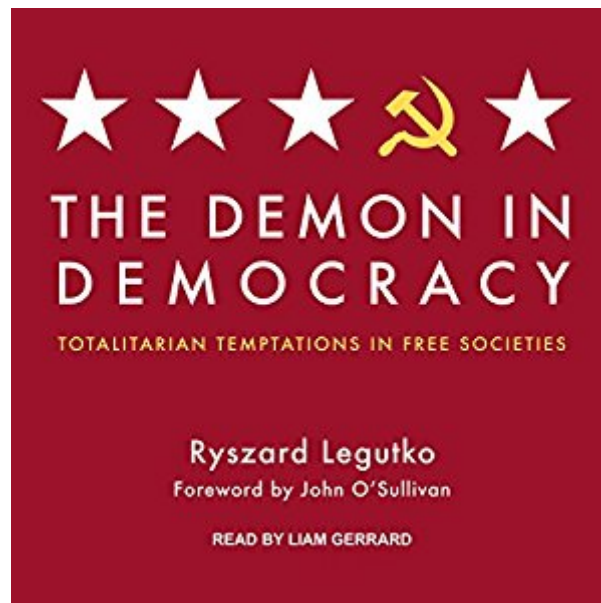




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The Demon In Democracy: Totalitarian Temptations In Free Societies



Synopsis

Ryszard Legutko lived and suffered under communism for decades - and he fought with the Polish anti-communist movement to abolish it. Having lived for two decades under a liberal democracy, however, he has discovered that these two political systems have a lot more in common than one might think. They both stem from the same historical roots in early modernity, and accept similar presuppositions about history, society, religion, politics, culture, and human nature. In *The Demon in Democracy*, Legutko explores the shared objectives between these two political systems, and explains how liberal democracy has, over time, lurched towards the same goals as communism, albeit without Soviet-style brutality. Both systems, says Legutko, reduce human nature to that of the common man, who is led to believe himself liberated from the obligations of the past. Both the communist man and the liberal democratic man refuse to admit that there exists anything of value outside the political systems to which they pledged their loyalty. And both systems refuse to undertake any critical examination of their ideological prejudices.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the best book on political philosophy I've read in twenty years. And, I've read many. Absolutely brilliant, brief, and very readable ("accessible"). 99.9999% of the people living in Western democracies are completely ignorant of the thesis presented in this book, i.e., the similarities between totalitarian communist regimes and the social systems which have evolved in liberal democracies. (And because 99.9999% couldn't care less, creeping totalitarianism will

succeed in so-called liberal democracies.) The author's credentials are impressive.

Remarkable and compelling analysis of contemporary liberal democracy.

This book has important insights about the modern world, including Communist states and liberal democratic states. I loved it.

A fascinating and disturbing exploration of the ideological links between modern progressive liberalism and totalitarianism.

I've always wondered why the bureaucrats from Eastern Block countries fit so well into the Western Block system after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Now I know. Liberal Democracy of the West has too much in common with the old Soviet system!

The author's argument that liberal-democracy and communism have far more in common than liberal-democrats realize is fascinating one. He lays out his position in clear language. Admittedly, it feels as though the author doesn't offer examples to support his position often and tends towards some hyperbolic language. Nonetheless, it's a fascinating read for getting some insight into the intellectual position behind the movements spreading through Europe and the West.

My only complaint with this otherwise excellent book is that it deals mainly with Europe. One of the other things I liked it was fairly easy to understand the concepts. As a high school graduate I really appreciate. Most books of this caliber get deep in the weeds philosophically.

A very important book, illuminating the authoritarian tendencies in the EU. It could only be understood by someone who lived under communism. Sometimes the language is too pompous, I assume it is the translation.

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