

Dynamics Of Counterrevolution In Europe 1870 1956 An Analytic Framework Mayer Arno J

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in this classic work which analyzes the context in which thirty years of war and revolution wracked the european continent the great historian arno mayer emphasizes the backwardness of the european economies and their political subjugation by aristocratic elites and their allies mayer turns upside down the vision of societies marked by modernization and forward thrusting bourgeois and popular social classes thereby transforming our understanding of the traumatic crises of the early twentieth century

a critical history of israel and the arab israeli conflict eminent historian arno j mayer traces the thinkers leaders and shifting geopolitical contexts that shaped the founding and development of the israeli state he recovers for posterity internal critics such as the philosopher martin buber who argued for peaceful coexistence with the palestinian arabs a sense of limits is the better part of valour mayer insists plowshares into swords explores israel s indefinite deferral of the arab question the strategic thinking behind the building of settlements and border walls and the endurance of palestinian resistance

the great romance and fear of bloody revolution strange blend of idealism and terror have been superseded by blind faith in the bloodless expansion of human rights and global capitalism flying in the face of history violence is dismissed as rare immoral and counterproductive arguing against this pervasive wishful thinking the distinguished historian arno j mayer revisits the two most tumultuous and influential revolutions of modern times the french revolution of 1789 and the russian revolution of 1917 although these two upheavals arose in different environments they followed similar courses the thought and language of enlightenment france were the glories of western civilization those of tsarist russia s intelligentsia were on its margins both revolutions began as revolts vowed to fight unreason injustice and inequality both swept away old regimes and defied established religions in societies that were 85 peasant and illiterate both entailed the terrifying return of repressed vengeance contrary to prevalent belief mayer argues ideologies and personalities did not control events rather the tide of violence overwhelmed the political actors who assumed power and were rudderless even the best plans could not stem the chaos that at once benefited and swallowed them mayer argues that we have ignored an essential part of all revolutions the resistances to revolution both domestic and foreign which help fuel the spiral of terror in his sweeping yet close comparison of the world s two transnational revolutions mayer follows their unfolding from the french declaration of the rights of man and the bolshevik declaration of the rights of the toiling and exploited masses the escalation of the initial violence into the reign of terror of 1793 95 and of 1918 21 the dismemberment of the hegemonic churches and religion of both societies the externalization of the terror through the napoleonic wars and its internalization in soviet russia in the form of stalin s terror in one country making critical use of theory old and new mayer breaks through unexamined assumptions and prevailing debates about the attributes of these particular revolutions to raise broader and more disturbing questions about the nature of revolutionary violence attending new foundations

was the extermination of the jews part of the nazi plan from the very start arno mayer offers astartling and compelling answer to this question which is much debated among historians today in doing so he provides one of the most thorough and convincing explanations of how the genocide came about in why did the heavens not darken which provoked widespread interest and controversy when first published mayer demonstrates that while the nazis anti semitism was always virulent it did not become genocidal until well into the second world war when the failure of their massive all or nothing campaign against russia triggered the final solution he details the steps leading up to this enormity showing how the institutional and ideological frameworks that made it possible evolved and how both related to the debacle in the eastern theater in this way the judeocide is placed within the larger context of european history showing how similar holy causes in the past have triggered analogous if far less cataclysmic infamies

in neutrality as a policy choice for small weak democracies learning from the belgian experience michael f palo has three main objectives first he employs a counterfactual approach to examine the hypothesis that had permanent neutrality not been imposed on belgium in 1839 it would have pursued neutrality anyway until war broke out in 1914 secondly he analyses why after abandoning obligatory neutrality during world war i the belgians adopted voluntary neutrality in october 1936 finally he seeks to use the historical belgian case study to test specific international relations theories and to contribute to small state studies especially the behaviour of small weak democracies in the international system

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tracing how the emergence of global capitalism gave rise to the thirty years crisis

what makes wars drag on and why do they end when they do here h e goemans brings theoretical rigor and empirical depth to a long standing question of securities studies he explores how various government leaders assess the cost of war in terms of domestic

politics and their own postwar fates goemans first develops the argument that two sides will wage war until both gain sufficient knowledge of the other s strengths and weaknesses so as to agree on the probable outcome of continued war yet the incentives that motivate leaders to then terminate war goemans maintains can vary greatly depending on the type of government they represent the author looks at democracies dictatorships and mixed regimes and compares the willingness among leaders to back out of wars or risk the costs of continued warfare democracies according to goemans will prefer to withdraw quickly from a war they are not winning in order to appease the populace autocracies will do likewise so as not to be overthrown by their internal enemies mixed regimes which are made up of several competing groups and which exclude a substantial proportion of the people from access to power will likely see little risk in continuing a losing war in the hope of turning the tide goemans explores the conditions and the reasoning behind this gamble for resurrection as well as other strategies using rational choice theory statistical analysis and detailed case studies of germany britain france and russia during world war i in so doing he offers a new perspective of the great war that integrates domestic politics international politics and battlefield developments

contains over 800 entries ranging from lord acton and anna comnena to howard zinn and herodotus to simon schama over 300 contributors have composed critical assessments of historians from the beginning of historical writing to the present day including individuals from

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Introduction

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