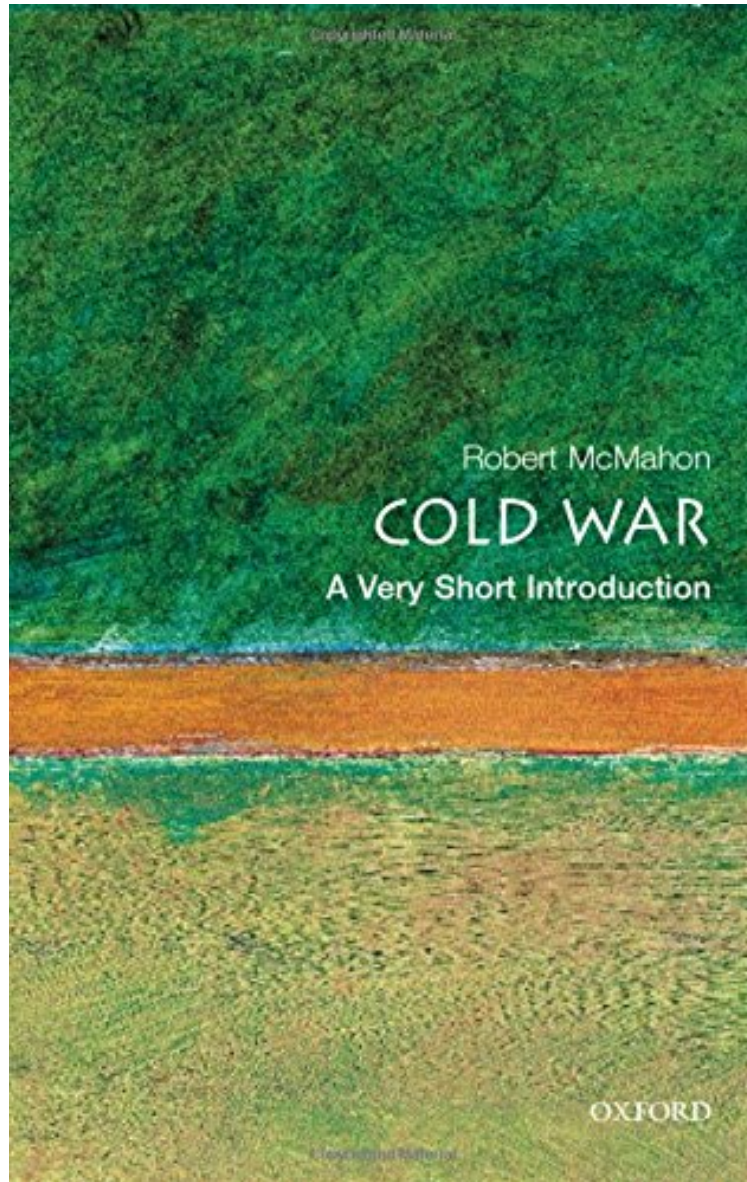


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The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction

Robert J. McMahon

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Robert J. McMahon : The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good, but not greatBy Blake WoodGood, but not great. It was interesting to compare this to John Lewis Gaddis' "The Cold War, A History", which is a better book, I think. For instance, the big heroes of the end of the Cold War in Gaddis' book are Reagan, the Pope, and Lech Walesa, with

Gorbachev sort of along for the ride. In this book, the hero is Gorbachev, Reagan is Along for the ride, and the Pope and Walesa are not mentioned at all. Gaddis' book has a bit of a right-wing slant, whereas this one has a bit of a left-wing slant, in particular, he tends to portray the Cold War as the-Soviet-Union-was-provoked-by-the-US. This book was very good through the 1970s (the coverage of colonial wars like Vietnam is particularly good), but then dipped with the implosion of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union very superficially - almost as if the author ran out of time. Worth reading, but get Gaddis' book too. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. As complete as one could want. By HH This book is among the best of Oxford's VSI series. An authoritative and concise international history of the Cold War, McMahon devotes much attention to the Cold War's domestic as well as international dimensions. He manages to cover the entirety of the Cold War era, highlighting key players, such as Stalin, de Gaulle, and Reagan, but without short-changing any one figure given his space constraints. (That's a major feat!) At the same time, McMahon gives equal attention to the impact of the conflict on the Third World, as well as on the West and on Asia. He also highlights key developments, such as the Berlin Wall and the 'Star Wars' missile defense strategy. Readers of all ages who want to learn about the Cold War should begin here. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good brief overview of the Cold War. By Gregory J. Casteel Many excellent books have been written about the Cold War, but if you're looking for a short, easy-to-digest summary of what the Cold War was all about and how it affected the course of world events, suitable for readers who have little or no background in history or political science, it's hard to beat this little gem. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a quick overview of Cold War history without getting bogged down in the minute details of the subject. It would be perfect for high school and college students, or for anyone who would benefit from taking a simplified "big picture" look at the Cold War as a whole, rather than focusing closely on specific events within the Cold War era. (Personally, both as a student and as an educator, I've always found that it helps to have a simplified "big picture" overview of the subject as a whole before delving into the details. Though, of course, your mileage may vary.) If you want to get a quick "big picture" look at the Cold War, this book will give you exactly what you need. I plan to recommend it to any of my students who need to brush up on their Cold War history, and I may even consider assigning it as supplemental reading the next time I teach a course on foreign policy or international relations.

The massive disorder and economic ruin following the Second World War inevitably predetermined the scope and intensity of the Cold War. But why did it last so long? And what impact did it have on the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, and the Third World? Finally, how did it affect the broader history of the second half of the twentieth century--what were the human and financial costs? This Very Short Introduction provides a clear and stimulating interpretive overview of the Cold War, one that will both invite debate and encourage deeper investigation. About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

Small but impressive * Soldier Magazine * About the Author Robert J. McMahon is Professor of History at the University of Florida, and President of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. Among his many acclaimed books are *The Cold War on the Periphery: the United States, India, and Pakistan* (1994), and *The Limits of Empire: the US and Southeast Asia since World War II* (1999). He has held visiting professorships in Britain and Ireland as well as in Asia and around the US. He received the Bernath article prize from SHAFR in 1989 and the Bernath lectureship in 1991.