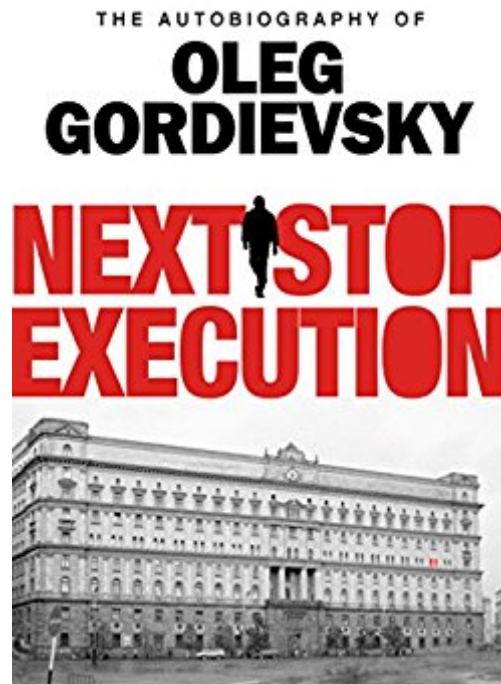




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Next Stop Execution: The Autobiography Of Oleg Gordievsky



Synopsis

Oleg Gordievsky was the highest ranking KGB officer ever to work for Britain. For eleven years, from 1974 to 1985, he acted as a secret agent, reporting to the British Secret Intelligence Service while continuing to work as a KGB officer, first in Copenhagen, then in London. He gave Western security organizations such a clear insight into the mind and methods of the KGB and the whole system of Soviet Government that he has been credited with doing more than any other individual in the West to accelerate the collapse of Communism. Here for the first time his extraordinary, meticulously planned escape from Russia is described. Peopled with bizarre, dangerous and corrupt characters, Gordievsky's story introduces the reader to the fantastical world of the Soviet Embassy, tells of the British MPs and trade unionists who helped and took money from the KGB, and reveals at last what the author told Margaret Thatcher and other world leaders which made him of such value to the West. Gordievsky's autobiography gives a fascinating account of life as a secret agent. It also paints the most graphic picture yet of the paranoia and incompetence, intrigues and sheer nastiness of the all-encompassing and sometimes ridiculous KGB. Praise for Oleg Gordievsky 'Gripping.' - Luke Harding, Guardian correspondent and author of Mafia State: How one reporter became an enemy of the brutal new Russia. 'Only Gordievsky could...persuade the powers that mattered.' - The Spectator Oleg Gordievsky was born in Moscow in 1938. He attended the Moscow State Institute of International Relations where he specialized in German. He was sent to East Berlin as a diplomatic trainee in August 1961. Two days after his arrival, the Wall went up. In 1962 he joined the KGB and was posted to Copenhagen and London. He worked as a secret agent for eleven years until his dramatic escape to the West in 1985. He is the author of KGB: The Inside Story.

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Customer Reviews

The author gives readers an inside look into the KGB from a second generation KGB officer who defects to the west after becoming disenchanted with Soviet Communism. This is not a cloak and dagger spy saga but rather an account of efforts of KGB officers trying to satisfy the demands of Moscow Center whether by embellishing reports or creating outright fabrications with reporting often designed to support preconceptions about what was motivating the West to do preposterous things primarily involving a pre-emptive nuclear attack during the Reagan era. There no doubt would have been more spectacular revelations particularly about westerners who were of assistance to the KGB, but tougher libel laws in Great Britain and continuing secrecy of some of the material combine to make the book less revealing than it might have been.

This is an interesting book written by a man with a change of heart. Growing up in post-World War Two Russia, he was an ardent Soviet who turned on the KGB in favor of the British. Along the way, he made several interesting contributions to the West by providing information about Soviet era perspectives on American intentions in Europe. Much of this information was important in regards to SALT treaties, SDI, and other programs. Important enough he eventually had an audience with Ronald Regan and Margaret Thatcher in regards his place in history. Historically he shows how in the 1960s the Soviets sought to integrate themselves into various national and international organizations within the US and our allies with the express idea of using these organizations to confuse and cause issues inside with miss-information and miss-guidance. The idea was to use the citizens against their own nation's best interest. Ultimately, I feel this fetid effort has produced a noxious fruit based on our own blind-ignorance, self-delusion and deception and ultimately an obnoxious level of denial of reality. How wicked the world of miss-information. Sadly, it sounds as if such methods of espionage have reached a higher standard and have muddled the

politics of the day. Sometimes a failed effort has as much an impact as a successful one.

Sometimes the smoke clearing reveals a perceived truth rather than a reality. There is a wonderful expression that everything old is new again. Reading history books is clear that history does not repeat itself. However, as the Russians say, "It most certainly rimes." Over all I enjoyed the book tremendously. It is a quick easy read and is rich in details. However, surprisingly vague in the technical aspects of being a spy. This curious fact is lurking beneath the covers of most books written by men in this line of work. They can tell you a great story without telling you the entire story. In fact it was only near the end that I started putting together a time-line that showed who had ratted him out to the Russians. The author was lucky not to be shot and killed by the KGB. If you enjoyed this book I would suggest reading Circle of Treason, A CIA account of Traitor Aldrich Ames by Sandra Grimes and Jeanne Vertefeuille,, The Craft we Chose by Richard Holm.

Oh My Gosh! I'm a 56 year old native English speaker, and I had to look up the definitions of several of the words that Oleg used. Keep in mind that English is Oleg's 4th or 5th language. Yikes! That said, this was a gripping and fascinating story about the operation of the KGB and the British intelligence service. After reading this, I cannot imagine the stress that Oleg went through when he was in the hands of the KGB and had been identified as a British spy. Mr. Gordievsky, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service to the western powers. You may have prevented World War III.

Oleg Gordievsky highlights life inside the KGB, both inside Russia and also in its overseas locations. More than this though, he highlights his own 'motivations' and these two aspects brought together, make for a very interesting and unputdownable autobiography.

Fascinating tale but not especially well written. A good edit would have gotten it 5 stars.

As I have read numerous spy books, this story of Oleg Gordievsky has been very enjoying. He brought to life Russia at it's worse. I never knew this country was so corrupt and the citizen's unaware of real life as we know it! Sad situation for many Russian's.

Fascinating to see the policies, strategies, and tactics of the KGB are still used effectively today. Had to keep reminding myself that this was written in the 1990s about events in the 1980s and not

present day.

I'm fully satisfied.

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