



February 2010
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\$29.95 (\$37.50 CAN)

Authoritative, original, personality-driven narrative history based on fresh archival research

DID YOU KNOW?

- Stalin had all of Roosevelt and Churchill's rooms bugged
- One of the points the Big Three couldn't come to terms on was the fate of Iran
- Churchill wrote home to his wife almost every night
- 2 out of the 3 top Soviet military commanders at Yalta were later investigated for treason—one was executed
- Stalin considered plans to move all Russian Jews to a "Jewish California" in the Crimea right before Yalta

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS BOOK?

- YALTA is the first history of the conference in 20 years, and the first that wasn't written as part of a Cold War polemic. (Fraser Harbutt's *Yalta 1945*, which Cambridge University press will publish in November, is a thesis-driven book on US-UK relations).
- Plokhy closes the debate on Poland and the selling out of Eastern Europe—a topic that fired up McCarthy and that has agitated conservatives ever since Yalta. Soviet archives make it clear that Poland was the cornerstone of Stalin's strategic defense and he was never going to let it go.
- The book suggests that Stalin's ambitions in Eastern Europe and Turkey helped convince Hitler he would have to invade the USSR—the event that determined the course of the war.
- Lots of new archival material here including Soviet archives, British war cabinet minutes, and internal memos to FDR.
- Convincingly demonstrates that Alger Hiss had no impact on FDR's decisions—a huge issue for the Right.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Yalta forces us to consider the hard compromises democratic leaders have to make to come to terms with unsavory dictators. FDR was pilloried by the Right for being too soft on Stalin—and Obama is getting the same treatment. Could he have done better? Bush refused to negotiate with leaders of countries whose values he didn't share. Relations with Iran, Iraq, Syria,

and North Korea got a lot worse as a result. Obama has chosen to reach out to the regimes Bush shunned. This book will inspire comparisons between Obama's foreign policy and FDR's. Left and Right on the talk show circuits should find a lot to talk about—expect debate in the editorial pages too.

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