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## Red Fortress: History and Illusion in the Kremlin

By Merridale, Catherine.

Metropolitan. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. At the heart of the Russian state is the Kremlin, the fortress-city within Moscow whose blood-red walls have witnessed more than 800 years of political drama and violent uprising. It has been the seat of a priestly monarchy, a worldly church, and the Soviet Union; it has survived earthquakes, devastating fires, and at least three revolutions; and from Ivan the Terrible to Vladimir Putin, Russian leaders have used it to legitimize their vision of statehood. Here the author of *Ivan's War* and *Night of Stone* uses the Kremlin as a singular lens to view Russia itself, exploring the evolution of its culture and the meaning of its politics. "Churchill famously referred to Russia as a 'riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.' If so, it is undeniable that many of the components of that riddle have unfolded within the red-tinged, forbidding walls of the Kremlin, the complex of buildings in Moscow that has been at the center of the Russian state apparatus for eight centuries. [Catherine] Merridale, a specialist in Russian and Soviet history who teaches at Queen Mary University in London, shows how much of Russia's often tortured, bloody history...



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