

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462234403321
Autore	Tismaneanu Vladimir
Titolo	The devil in history [[electronic resource]] : communism, fascism, and some lessons of the twentieth century // Vladimir Tismaneanu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2012
ISBN	1-283-57149-8 9786613883940 0-520-95417-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (335 p.)
Disciplina	335.43
Soggetti	Communist state - History Communism - History - 20th century Fascism - History - 20th century Totalitarianism - History - 20th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Prologue: Totalitarian Dictators and Ideological Hubris -- 1. Utopian Radicalism and Dehumanization -- 2. Diabolical Pedagogy and the (Il)logic of Stalinism -- 3. Lenin's Century: Bolshevism, Marxism, and the Russian Tradition -- 4. Dialectics of Disenchantment: Marxism and Ideological Decay in Leninist Regimes -- 5. Ideology, Utopia, and Truth: Lessons from Eastern Europe -- 6. Malaise and Resentment: Threats to Democracy in Post- Communist Societies -- Conclusions -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Devil in History is a provocative analysis of the relationship between communism and fascism. Reflecting the author's personal experiences within communist totalitarianism, this is a book about political passions, radicalism, utopian ideals, and their catastrophic consequences in the twentieth century's experiments in social engineering. Vladimir Tismaneanu brilliantly compares communism and fascism as competing, sometimes overlapping, and occasionally strikingly similar systems of political totalitarianism. He examines the inherent ideological appeal of these radical, revolutionary political

movements, the visions of salvation and revolution they pursued, the value and types of charisma of leaders within these political movements, the place of violence within these systems, and their legacies in contemporary politics. The author discusses thinkers who have shaped contemporary understanding of totalitarian movements—people such as Hannah Arendt, Raymond Aron, Isaiah Berlin, Albert Camus, François Furet, Tony Judt, Ian Kershaw, Leszek Kolakowski, Richard Pipes, and Robert C. Tucker. As much a theoretical analysis of the practical philosophies of Marxism-Leninism and Fascism as it is a political biography of particular figures, this book deals with the incarnation of diabolically nihilistic principles of human subjugation and conditioning in the name of presumably pure and purifying goals. Ultimately, the author claims that no ideological commitment, no matter how absorbing, should ever prevail over the sanctity of human life. He comes to the conclusion that no party, movement, or leader holds the right to dictate to the followers to renounce their critical faculties and to embrace a pseudo-miraculous, a mystically self-centered, delusional vision of mandatory happiness.
