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Autore	Domingues Jose Mauricio
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Sommario/riassunto	The book discusses so-called 'real socialism' and offers an alternative conceptualization of it as authoritarian collectivism, making use of an analytical methodology, as well as dwelling on its genesis, development

and demise. The political dimension stands out in the conceptual articulation, with 'democratic centralism' and the prominence of the Communist Party, working from the top down, hierarchically. The book concentrates on the principles of 'real socialism', particularly in the Soviet Union but also globally, analysing also its present embrace of capitalism, particularly in China but also elsewhere, taking account of how these political principles remain however in place today.

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