



# The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism

By Paul Kengor

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Based on extraordinary research: a major reassessment of Ronald Reagan's lifelong crusade to dismantle the Soviet Empire—including shocking revelations about the liberal American politician who tried to collude with USSR to counter Reagan's efforts

Paul Kengor's God and Ronald Reagan made presidential historian Paul Kengor's name as one of the premier chroniclers of the life and career of the 40th president. Now, with *The Crusader*, Kengor returns with the one book about Reagan that has not been written: The story of his lifelong crusade against communism, and of his dogged—and ultimately triumphant—effort to overthrow the Soviet Union.

Drawing upon reams of newly declassified presidential papers, as well as untapped Soviet media archives and new interviews with key players, Kengor traces Reagan's efforts to target the Soviet Union from his days as governor of California to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of what he famously dubbed the "Evil Empire." The result is a major revision and enhancement of what historians are only beginning to realize: That Reagan not only wished for the collapse of communism, but had a deep and specific understanding of what it would take—and effected dozens of policy shifts that brought the USSR to its heels within a decade of his presidency.

*The Crusader* makes use of key sources from behind the Iron Curtain, including one key memo that implicates a major American liberal politician—still in office today—in a scheme to enlist Soviet premier Yuri Andropov to help defeat Reagan's 1984 reelection bid. Such new finds make *The Crusader* not just a work of extraordinary history, but a work of explosive revelation that will be debated as hotly in 2006 as Reagan's policies were in the 1980s.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this hagiographic account, political scientist Kengor (*God and Ronald Reagan*) makes the familiar case (made most recently by John Lewis Gaddis in *The Cold War*) that Reagan played a decisive role in ending the Cold War. Reagan was troubled by communism well before he arrived at the White House. As a young man in Hollywood, he railed against the red threat, and as early as 1967, he called for the destruction of the Berlin Wall. As president, Reagan engaged in "economic warfare," invaded Grenada and proved that the Soviets couldn't win an arms race against the U.S. Though "those enslaved by the Soviet Communist state" didn't find freedom until after the Reagan administration, Dutch gets the credit. And what of other major figures who contributed to the Cold War's end? Gorbachev, of course, figures prominently, and John Paul II makes significant appearances—Kengor credits the pope with helping turn Reagan's attention to Poland. Ted Kennedy, on the other hand, emerges as a sneak and a dupe, willing to undermine U.S. foreign policy and make nice with the Russians. The book's structure is somewhat stilted—each chapter is broken up into short chunks, so it feels as though one is reading not a sweeping narrative, but an annotated time line of Reagan's presidency. While the book is workmanlike, the chronology is useful and the footnotes reveal an impressive amount of research. (*Oct. 17*)

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#### Review

Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "God and Ronald Reagan captures the real Ronald Reagan." (Michael Reagan Michael Reagan)

Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "A profound character study, and engrossing work of history..." (Peter Robinson, author of *How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life*)

Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "Fascinating... This is a must-read piece of political history." (Donald M. Goldstein, coauthor of *At Dawn We Slept*)

Praise for *God and George W. Bush*: "Excellent" (National Review)

Praise for *God and George W. Bush*: "A wealth of material." (National Catholic Reporter)

"Combining great story-telling with his commitment to scholarly detail, Paul Kengor has written an important and fascinating book." (Peter Schweizer, author of *Do As I Say Not As I Do* and *Reagan's War*)

"While many have tried, few have succeeded in telling such a complete history of my dad's greatest triumph." (Michael Reagan)

"Paul Kengor's latest book illuminates a side of the man evident only to those closest to him." (Bill Clark, National Security Advisor 1982-1983)

#### About the Author

Paul Kengor is the author of the *New York Times* extended-list bestseller *God and Ronald Reagan* as well as *God and George W. Bush* and *The Crusader*. He is a professor of political science and director of the Center

for Vision and Values at Grove City College. He lives with his wife and children in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Steve Duran:**

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A e-book The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism will make you to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading any book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or appropriate book with you?

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#### **Kevin Shepherd:**

The book untitled The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

#### **Iona Calhoun:**

In this particular era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list will be The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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