

CHRISTIAN CARYL **STRANGE REBELS**
1979 and the Birth of the 21st Century

Read by Patrick Lawlor

Most historians would have us believe that the twenty-first century began in 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the triumph of the West over the Soviet Union. But the world we live in today—and the problems that plague it—can actually be traced back a decade earlier. 1979 was the year that the postwar order evaporated, reshaping the international system and making way for a new era of global history. Christian Caryl discusses each of the year's five major counterrevolutions in turn, from the start of economic recovery in China to the reigniting of the Catholic faith in Poland, the transformation of Iran into a theocracy, the spread of free-market capitalism in Britain and the United States, and the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, which led to the creation of the Afghan mujahideen resistance, providing the seedbed for al-Qaeda.

Weaving together these dramatic stories into a paradigm-shifting revision of our recent history, Caryl offers a startling new argument about the hinge on which the twentieth century turned.

"Christian Caryl tells the story...with intelligence, grace, and lucidity."
—Fareed Zakaria

"[A] provocative work of scholarship and reporting."
—Anne Applebaum, *New York Times* bestselling author

Christian Caryl is deputy editor at *Foreign Policy*, a contributing editor at *Newsweek*, and a senior fellow of the Center for International Studies at MIT. A regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, he has also written for the *Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New Republic*, *Spectator*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Sunday Times*, *New Statesman*, and *Boston Globe*, among others. He is a graduate of Yale.

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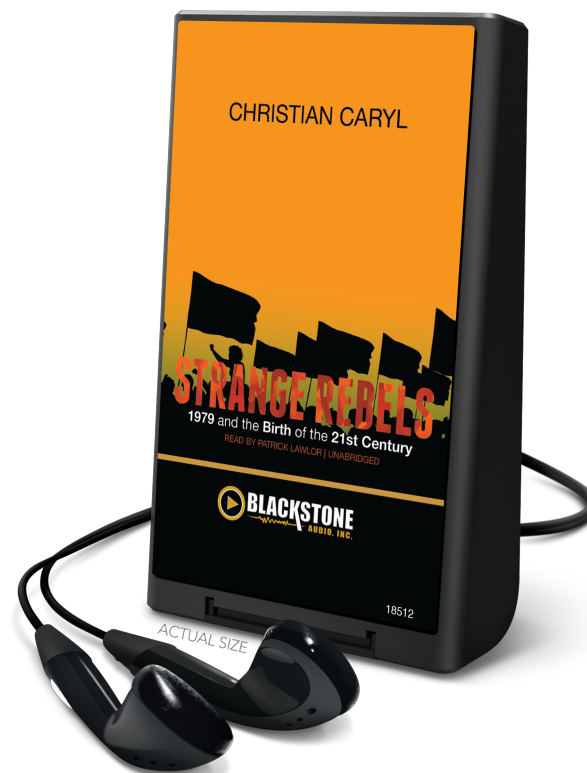
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