

THE INVENTION OF RUSSIA

ARKADY OSTROVSKY

READ BY MICHAEL PAGE

The end of communism and breakup of the Soviet Union was a time of euphoria around the world, but Russia today is violently anti-American and dangerously nationalistic. So how did we go from the promise of those days to the autocratic police state of Putin's new Russia?

The Invention of Russia reaches back to the darkest days of the cold war to tell the story of the fight for the soul of a nation. With the deep insight only possible of a native son, Arkady Ostrovsky introduces us to the propagandists, oligarchs, and fixers who have set Russia's course since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union yoked together dreamers and strongmen—those who believed in an egalitarian ideal and those who pushed for an even more powerful state. The new Russia is a cynical operation, where perpetual fear and war are fueled by a web of lies. Twenty-five years after the Soviet flag came down over the Kremlin, Russia and America are again heading toward a confrontation, but this course was far from inevitable. With this riveting account of how we got here—of the many mistakes and false promises—Ostrovsky emerges as Russia's most gifted chronicler.

Arkady Ostrovsky is a Russian-born journalist who has spent fifteen years reporting from Moscow, first for the *Financial Times* and then as bureau chief for the *Economist*. He was one of the first journalists to warn of the resurgence of the KGB under Vladimir Putin.

Michael Page has been recording audiobooks since 1984 and has over two hundred audio-books to his credit. He has won several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, including for *The Lies of Locke Lamora* by Scott Lynch. A professional actor, Michael is currently a professor of theater at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he lives with his wife.



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