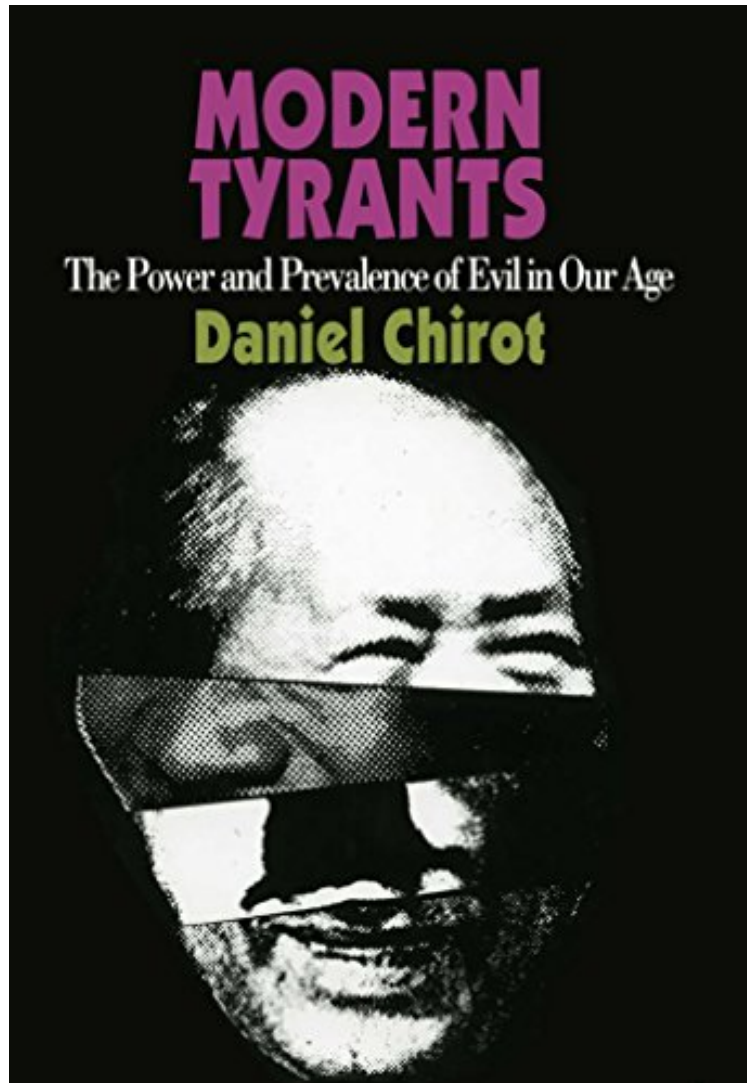


(Free read ebook) Modern Tyrants: The Power and Prevalence of Evil in Our Age (English Edition)

# Modern Tyrants: The Power and Prevalence of Evil in Our Age (English Edition)

Von Daniel Chirot

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**Von Daniel Chirot : Modern Tyrants: The Power and Prevalence of Evil in Our Age (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Tyrants: The Power and Prevalence of Evil in Our Age (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ideology Outkills GreedVon Allan from San FranciscoThe author does a splendid job of analyzing a substantial number of modern dictators, both great and petty, to illustrate their commonalities and differences and to show what drives them

to do what they do. Like Dostoevsky, Chirot shows us that ideology can be deadly and that it can drive political leaders to commit the most heinous crimes. It is, as he points out, their false sense of scientific certainty that pushes them to ignore not only moral rules, but even the constraints of reality and practicality. The result has too often been regimes that have had to kill in order to sustain their unrealistic fantasy-land regimes. There may be differences between the Hitlers and the Stalins of the world, but there are also too many disturbing similarities. The author is to be commended for including the views of Nobel Prize-winning economist Hayek in his book, but instead of just utilizing the ideas in Hayek's *THE ROAD TO SERFDOM*, he should also have used Hayek's *THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION OF SCIENCE*. In this book, Hayek showed that the techniques of the physical sciences cannot (and certainly should not) be used in the social sciences--they simply don't apply there. But the idea that "science" can be used to construct a perfect world (or even a "better society") was a staple concept among 19th century European political writers and theorists, Marx being only one example. What a terrible mess was made of the world when this mistaken notion was put into practice! Chirot's book is a valuable addition to political knowledge, because he does not hesitate to point this out, and to show how (and WHY) ideology can lead to mass murder. Well worth reading.

Kurzbeschreibung Along with its much vaunted progress in scientific and economic realms, our century has witnessed the rise of the most brutal and oppressive regimes in the history of mankind. Even with the collapse of Marxism, current references to ethnic cleansing remind us that tyranny persists in our own age and shows no sign of abating. Daniel Chirot offers an important and timely study of modern tyrants, both revealing the forces which allow them to come to power and helping us to predict where they may arise in the future. Tyrannical rule typically begins in an economically depressed and unstable society with no real tradition of democratic government. Under such circumstances, a self-pitying nationalism often arises along with a widespread popular perception among the citizenry that grave injustices have been committed against them. When a charismatic leader is able to exploit this situation, he may sanction unspeakable atrocities while claiming to uphold cherished national myths. Chirot analyzes the careers and characters of notorious dictators such as Stalin, Hitler, Mao, and Saddam, as well as lesser known tyrants such as Kim II Sung of North Korea, Ne Win of Burma, Argentinas Peron, the Dominican Republics Trujillo, Pol Pot, Duvalier, and others. He demonstrates how they can survive the rise and fall of particular ideologies and reveals the frightening new marriages between nationalism and a host of local concerns. The lesson drawn is stark and disturbing: the age of modern tyranny is upon us, and unlikely to fade soon. From Publishers Weekly Chirot's classification scheme for understanding modern tyrannies makes this survey a valuable sourcebook on dictatorships. At one extreme, he finds "ideologically driven" tyrannies like those of Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot of Cambodia and slain Romanian Communist Nicolae Ceausescu. At the other pole are "old-fashioned" tyrannies, rooted in corruption, wanton brutality and extreme concentration of power, such as Idi Amin's Uganda. A political science professor at Northwestern University, Chirot argues that the volatile mix of angry and resentful nationalisms, combined with economic misery and a lack of democratic traditions, are a recipe for tyranny. He maintains that intellectuals who espouse extremist social theories often sow the seeds of absolutism, citing as examples the fundamentalist Muslim revival, the militaristic authoritarianism of Croatia and Serbia and Peru's Shining Path guerrillas. This is a disquieting and ominous road map of the 20th century's political horrors. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Here is an episodic look at 13 of this century's despots, ranging from champions of murder down to the Duvaliers of Haiti. For the most part, the intellectual heavy lifting has already been achieved in such critiques as *The Origins of Totalitarianism* by Hannah Arendt, *Modern Times* by Paul Johnson, and *Hitler and Stalin* by Alan Bullock. Yet there remains the need for a propagator of their analyses, a role that college professor Chirot adopts for the newcomer to the subject. His work requires a certain determination to read, for it is not light fare, it is rather mechanical rhetorically, and there are some gruesome passages. Moreover, Chirot presents the pessimistic argument that such tyrants as Adolf Hitler and Pol Pot are liable to recur in the post-Cold War situation. To hold the mirror to the future, he gives a capsule history of the country in question, the fanaticism of the dictator's belief in his unique gnosis, and the body count it took to effect it. Libraries where the classics on tyranny circulate might see this title join the stream. Gilbert Taylor