

Dictator's Handbook: A Practical Manual for the **Aspiring Tyrant**

Randall Wood, Carmine DeLuca

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Dictator's Handbook: A Practical Manual for the Aspiring Tyrant Randall Wood, Carmine DeLuca Ever wonder if the world's tyrants are all using the same instruction manual? They are: here it is. From getting to power to dividing your enemies, suppressing revolution, stealing elections, and making your fortune, this 320 page volume shows you how the pros have been doing it for centuries. Fully factual, with a complete bibliography and footnotes, the Dictator's Handbook gives you a road map to tyranny, step by step. Beautifully illustrated by a professional artist, the text is funny and deadly serious. This is truly a practical manual for the aspiring tyrant.

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From Reader Review Dictator's Handbook: A Practical Manual for the Aspiring Tyrant for online ebook

Randall Wood says

Ha ha. I wrote it! Of course I think it's worth 5 stars.

Hua Wang says

Seizing power is hard, but keeping the power is even harder. In order to remain a dictator, or more generally a person in power, you need to pay your allies well enough to ensure their loyalty, but in the meantime, keep as much discretionary money as possible for rainy days. This logic applies to both authoritarian and democratic governments. In China, there is an saying which goes like"All crows are dark". That logic applied to all politicians as well.

Eric Timar says

This book is a description of the habits of dictators over the ages and around the world, written in the form of a how-to guide for a would-be autocrat. (Something like The Prince but taken even further down the road of brazen scheming.)

Some of the play-by-play about power grabs will be (sadly) familiar for anyone who pays attention to international news, but there is plenty of real insight into the habits and eccentricities of dictators. Wood and DeLuca point out, for example, that autocrats tend to associate themselves with deceased national heroes, to the point of actual exhumation of bodies in some cases. There is also a list of crackpot dictatorial ideas that have recurred throughout the decades, such as forced migration and misguided wars.

The material of the book ranges from the grave (such as psychopathic torture methods employed by various dictators) to the humorous (such as advice on picking a nickname: Great Leader and Dear Leader are helpful; The Goat, not).

The Dictator's Handbook boasts a bibliography of a stunning 502 works cited, everything from a history of Sparta to very recent news of Hungary's Viktor Orban. Whether you want to manage a riot, spy on your populace, or militarize your society, The Dictator's Handbook shows you how it has been done.

J Preston says

Overall I was presently surprised by the book. I run a few fantasy sports leagues (a.k.a. The Commish) and I try to emulate the leadership styles of Pol Pot, Ceau?escu, Stalin, and others. I read the book hoping to pick up a few new ideas, techniques, etc. that I might employ in my never ending quest to heap heartache and misery on the wretched masses (a.k.a. The Team Mangers) whilst simultaneously regarding myself with numerous championships trophies. I especially enjoyed the chapter on Effective Use of The No 2 Man - in

particular I enjoyed the idea of choosing the least competent person to fill the role so that his mistakes during the Tyrants absence will only make the masses clamor for the return of the Tyrant. This is a technique that I employed successfully last Summer whilst traveling abroad, so it was nice to have my considerable ego inflated by seeing the very technique I used listed in the book. I also read with great interest the chapters dealing with Stalin's purges in the 1930's and Saddam's historic 1979 Purge - great inspirational reading for the upcoming fantasy baseball season! Overall I give the book 5 stars.

- J. Preston

Sam Hagen says

Outstanding book that covers the forces that drive the behavior of our heads of state. It gets a little repetitive in the middle but should be required reading for anyone interested in the political process.

Nadia says

Must read for any political science student.