

*Russia After Communism*, Anders Åslund and Martha Brill Olcott, editors

### **New Book from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Despite Russia's significant progress in introducing a democratic political system and a market economy, it remains a paradoxical and at times, unpredictable actor in the global arena. Russian president Boris Yeltsin has continued to rule through long periods of illness and regularly dismisses prime ministers when they challenge his hold on power. Many Russian leaders want their country to retain its former superpower status both with the former Soviet states and the West, even as the Russian economy requires regular and large infusions of Western financial assistance.

*Russia After Communism*, edited by Anders Åslund and Martha Brill Olcott, is a new collection of five essays, each written by a pair of Russian and American scholars, that analyzes the most important political, economic, and foreign policy developments in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The book includes studies of political and constitutional reform, elections and political party development, and the complexities of building civic nationalism in a multiethnic state, plus analyses of why the economic reforms and Russia's relations with its new neighbors have yet to achieve their full potential.

The authors differ in their optimism about Russia's immediate future, but all agree that the fundamental democratic and market reforms appear irreversible. The huge task of advancing and consolidating those reforms will require the best efforts of Russia reformers and wise policies from Western governments based on a thorough understanding of post-Soviet Russia.

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### ***Russia After Communism***

Published June 1999 by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Distributed by Brookings Institution Press (to order, call 1-800-275-1447 or 202-797-6258)

190 pages, paper, 0-87003-151-1, \$16.95

