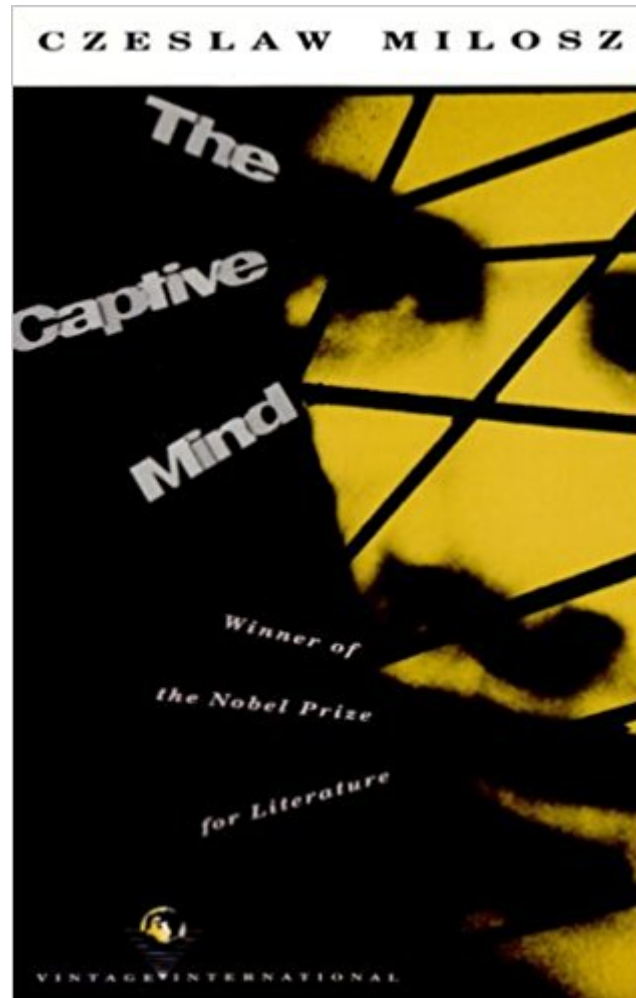




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The Captive Mind



Synopsis

The best known prose work by the winner of the 1980 Nobel Prize for Literature examines the moral and intellectual conflicts faced by men and women living under totalitarianism of the left or right.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reissue edition (August 11, 1990)

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Polish (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A central text in the modern effort to understand totalitarianism. --The New York Times Book Review
"As timely today as when it was written."--Jerzy Kosinski

They say 'those not students of history are doomed to repeat it'. In our current national and states rights climate this is a must now read. Very readable and the passing years since it was written provide a 'proof text' for the ideas discussed.

Accurate and a necessary read, although dated, if you want to keep up with the continuing history of the world-wide domination of dictatorial governments so clearly evident in today's world.

A monumental work - more philosophical than anything else. It's the kind of book that requires the reader to slow down and absorb the author's words and intent. The amazing thing is WHEN it was

written - at the outset of the post-war lives of Eastern Europeans behind the Iron Curtain. Milosz does an outstanding job using irony and hard-cutting realism to instruct the West on what was going on in Russian controlled states. When you finish this book, you understand completely what he meant by 'the captive mind.'

Milosz offers here some of the most damning evidence and useful insights into the workings of the Soviet system in the post-WWII period in Central Europe. His portraits reveal a damaged and psychologically exhausted culture that the USSR ruthlessly appropriated and systematically manipulated. The talents of some of Poland's most promising intellectuals succumbed to an all too deluded optimism that was the utopian dream of communism. A necessary book for anyone who wishes to better understand the cultural and social consequences of the Soviet Union, and its inner-workings in depth.

This is not an easy read but a powerful read. Having worked in the former CIS states knowing how the leaders who grew up under this system is very important if you wish to work or live with these people. Fascinating.

Impressive. Period

This is the story of our times. Unfortunately. My mother and father read this book in the 1950s, and they argued heatedly about its contents and implications. Today, there is no doubt. It is all too easy to read this book and discover figures acting exactly as those described here, in the rising fascism of Eastern Europe in the first half of the 20th century. It's important to read books such as this one, to get a clearer perspective, and to become wiser and more able to navigate and make choices. I don't want to be too detailed, the book itself is a challenge to come up with your own solutions.

A classic. It's been around a long time for a reason.

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