



Iron Curtain: From Stage to Cold War

Patrick Wright

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Starting with the original use of "iron curtain" to describe an anti-fire device fitted into theatres, this engaging volume tells the story of how the term evolved into a powerful metaphor that shaped the world for decades before the onset of the Cold War. Along the way, Wright offers fascinating perspectives on a rich array of historical characters and developments, from the lofty aspirations and disappointed fate of early twentieth century internationalists, through the topsy-turvy experiences of the first travelers to Soviet Russia, to the theatricalization of modern politics and international relations. And, as Wright poignantly suggests, the term captures a particular way of thinking about the world that long pre-dates the Cold War--and did not disappear with the fall of the Berlin Wall or the collapse of the Soviet Union. Published in paperback to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, this brilliant culture history illuminates the life and legacy of this powerful metaphor.

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