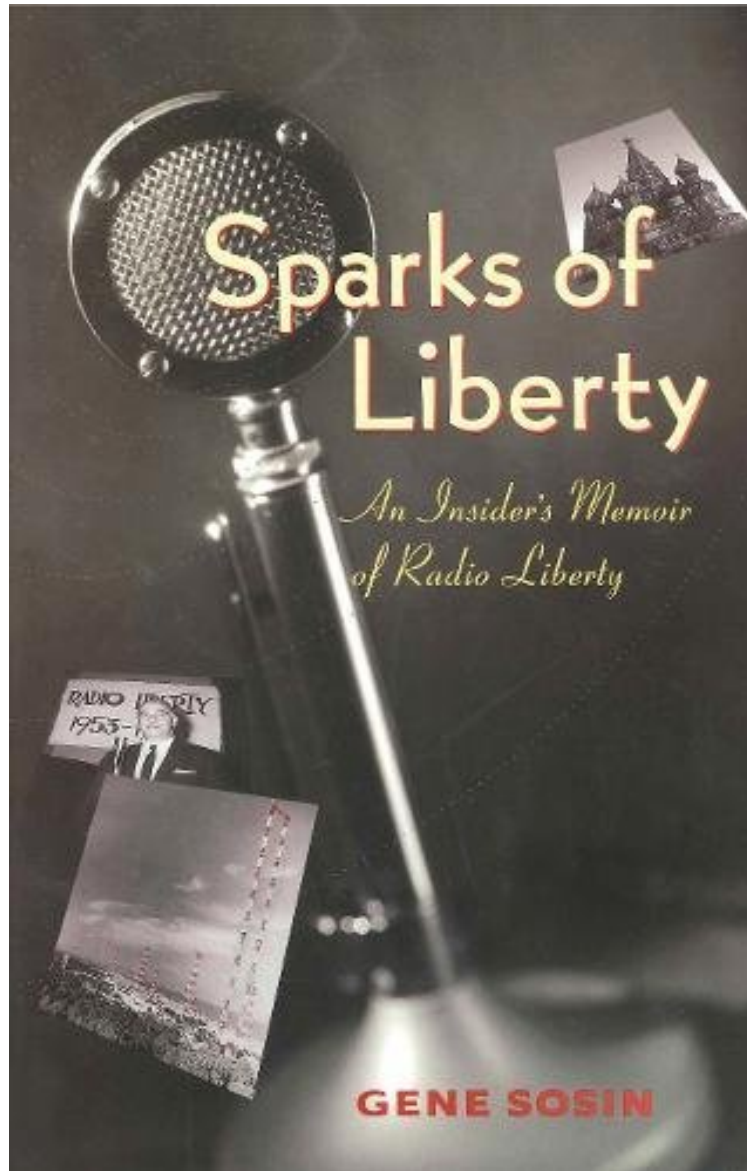


(Read ebook) Sparks of Liberty: An Insider's Memoir of Radio Liberty

Sparks of Liberty: An Insider's Memoir of Radio Liberty

Gene Sosin

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Gene Sosin : Sparks of Liberty: An Insider's Memoir of Radio Liberty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sparks of Liberty: An Insider's Memoir of Radio Liberty:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Account of Winning the Cold War By Ozymandias Anyone who is interested in the history of international media and how the Cold War was won by the West should read this book--it was extremely well-written, informative and engaging. The author, a former Radio

Liberty programming executive and PhD in Russian from Columbia, has put together a fascinating account of the mission of Radio Liberty (RL) from its beginning broadcast at the time of Stalin's death in 1953 to its joining force with Radio Free Europe (RFE) in 1976 as RFE/RL. The book ends with RFE/RL's current status at the end of the 1990s. It was very interesting to read this account from a Western viewpoint of how the emigre Russian intelligentsia connected with the intelligentsia and average citizen in the Soviet Union during the Cold War. In many ways this account is a heroic but not overly aggrandized portrait of how the idea of freedom of speech rent the Iron Curtain by means of radio broadcasts--it could have been very pro-Western and propagandistic in outlook but wasn't, thank goodness. The book seems fairly balanced in that it also discusses internal problems the Radio staff had over a period of time--these conflicts were in effect microcosms of the ethnic tensions that existed within the Soviet Union. I found it also to be a case study on international broadcasting and how the U.S. government has decided to fund it in the past and the present. After finishing this, I wanted to read more books about the history of the dissident movement in the Soviet Union and the history of Western broadcasting.

The story of how a U.S. broadcasting station helped win the Cold War. (Sosin) tells [Radio Libertys] story in a sober, judicious manner, extolling its achievements without concealing its shortcomings. His is the first authoritative account of an institution that played a major role in undermining Soviet authority and paving the road to its collapse. The New Leader It is also a story of Jewish interest, intersecting at key junctures with the tale of the struggle to free Soviet Jewry."Forward A valuable contribution to our understanding of how the Cold War was won. Radio Liberty was an important instrument in that struggle, and Gene Sosins memoir provides a detailed and informative account of how that struggle was waged. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor "One of the most important lessons still to be learned from a study of the Cold War period concerns the ambiguities and dilemmas associated with our quasi-governmental efforts to break through the Soviet monopoly of propaganda and information. Gene Sosin, in Sparks of Liberty, has provided a useful resource for future studies of this problem."Marshall D. Shulman, Adlai E. Stevenson Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Columbia University Gene Sosin has produced an animated and readable history of Radio Liberty. He enlivens the story with many deftly written thumbnail sketches of staff members and contributors, providing a virtual whos who of American intellectual life and the Soviet dissident and migr intelligentsia. It is fortunate for the historical record that Sosin has written this book. Robert V. Daniels, University of Vermont A well-documented, lively account of one of the most fascinating chapters in the history of the Cold War. Gene Sosins story of Radio Liberty is a major contribution to the annals of the ideological war between the United States and the Soviet Union that was waged from Stalins death in 1953 to the dissolution of the Soviet Empire in 1991. Maurice Friedberg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign During the Cold War, one of Americas most powerful weapons struck a major blow against tyranny every day over the airwaves. Radio Liberty became a critical source of information for listeners within the Soviet Union, broadcasting in Russian and more than a dozen other languages, and covering all aspects of Soviet life. Sparks of Liberty provides an insiders look at the origins, development, and operation of Radio Liberty. Gene Sosin, a key executive with the station for thirty-three years, combines vivid eyewitness reports with documents from his personal archives to offer the first complete account of Radio Liberty, tracing its evolution from Stalins death to the demise of the USSR, to its current role in the post-Soviet world. Sosin describes Radio Libertys early efforts to cope with KGB terrorism and Soviet jamming, to minimize interference from the CIA, and to survive pressure exerted by J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who considered Radio Liberty a deterrent to dtente. The insiders perspective sheds important light on world affairs as Sosin tells how, over the years, Radio Liberty took the advice of experts on Soviet politics to adapt the content and tone of its messages to changing times. The book is rich in anecdotes that bring home the realities of the Cold War. Sosin tells how famous Western political figures, educators, and writers broadcast messages about workers rights, artistic freedom, and unfettered scholarly inquiry and also how, beginning in the late 1960s, Radio Liberty beamed the writings of Soviet dissidents back into the country. During these tumultuous years, Sosin and his associates saturated the airwaves with the words of Sakharov, Solzhenitsyn, and o

From Publishers Weekly Taking an insider's look at a little-known chapter of Cold War history, Sosin, a senior adviser to, and broadcast planning director of, the Munich-based station in the 1960s and '70s, tells how Radio Liberty went after the hearts and minds of people in the U.S.S.R., while it struggled to survive incessant jamming, a Kremlin campaign of vilification and infiltration by spies. Radio Liberty's first broadcast in 1953 occurred, by a strange twist of fate, hours before Stalin suffered a stroke; he died four days later. Sosin's account, drawing on confidential and previously unpublished documents, reveals, for instance, how Radio Liberty disseminated the content of Khrushchev's key 1956 anti-Stalin speech, given to a closed session of the Communist Party. The station, claims Sosin, became the principal forum for airing samizdat that is, uncensored, self-published calls by dissidents such as Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov for human rights and an end to one-party dictatorship. The station also broadcast Eleanor Roosevelt, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Linus Pauling, Martin Luther King Jr., ex-Communist novelist Howard Fast and Trotsky's widow, Natalia Sedova. In 1971, Senator J. William Fulbright, opposing the Cold War, widely publicized the fact that Radio

Liberty was secretly subsidized by Congress via the CIA, but the station weathered the storm, merging in 1975 with Radio Free Europe (which had primarily targeted Eastern Europe). Sosin ends by arguing that RFE/RL (now headquartered in Prague) has a continuing role to play, working for democratic pluralism and opposing xenophobic nationalism in the former Soviet Union. Photos. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. One of the most important lessons still to be learned from a study of the Cold War period concerns the ambiguities and dilemmas associated with our quasi-governmental efforts to break through the Soviet monopoly of propaganda and information. Gene Sosin, in *Sparks of Liberty*, has provided a useful resource for future studies of this problem. Marshall D. Shulman, Columbia University

Gene Sosin has produced an animated and readable history of Radio Liberty. He enlivens the story with many deftly written thumbnail sketches of staff members and contributors, providing a virtual who's who of American intellectual life and the Soviet dissident and migr intelligentsia. It is fortunate for the historical record that Sosin has written this book. Robert V. Daniels, University of Vermont

A well-documented, lively account of one of the most fascinating chapters in the history of the Cold War. Gene Sosin's story of Radio Liberty is a major contribution to the annals of the ideological war between the United States and the Soviet Union that was waged from Stalin's death in 1953 to the dissolution of the Soviet Empire in 1991. Maurice Friedberg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

About the Author Gene Sosin, former director of program planning for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, is also a contributing author to *Dissent in the USSR* (Johns Hopkins, 1975) and other books on Russia.