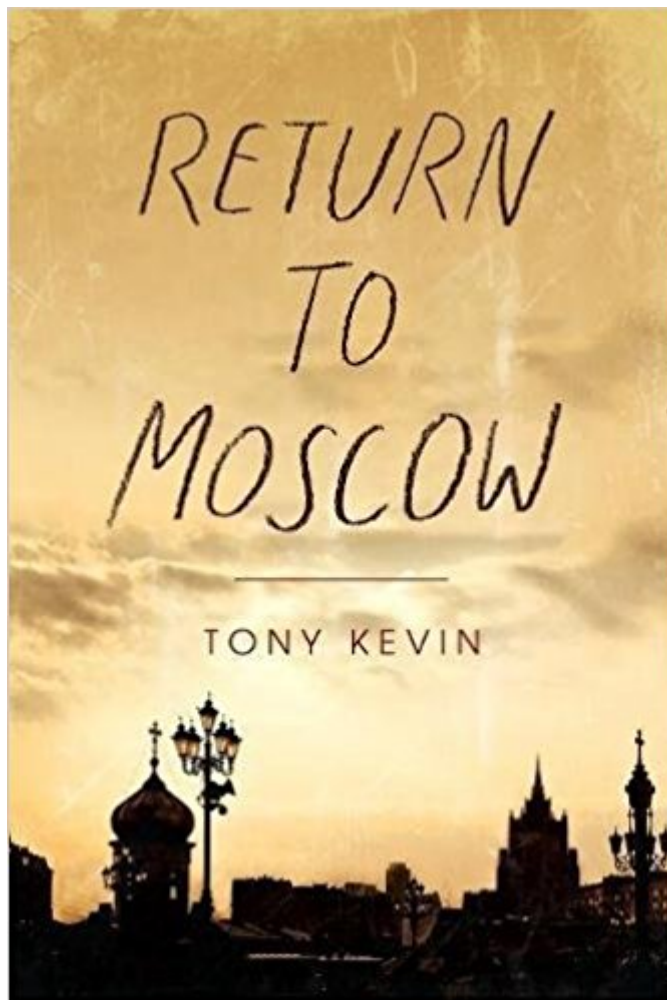


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Return To Moscow



Synopsis

Forty-eight years ago, a young and apprehensive Tony Kevin set off with his family on his first diplomatic posting, to Moscow at the height of the Cold War. In the Russian winter of 2016 he returns alone, a private citizen, aged 73. What will he find? How has Russia changed since those grim Soviet days? Tony Kevin had a successful and challenging diplomatic career, ending with ambassadorships to Poland (1991-94) and Cambodia (1994-97). He now applies his attention to Vladimir Putin's Russia, a government and nation routinely demonized and disdained in Western capitals. Why does President Putin arouse such a high level of Western antagonism? Is the West throwing away the lessons of recent history in recklessly drifting into a perilous and unnecessary new Cold War confrontation against Russia? The author invites readers to see this great nation anew: to explore with him the complex roots of Russian national identity and values, drawing on its traumatic recent seventy-year Soviet Communist past and its momentous thousand-year history as a great Orthodox Christian nation that has both loved and feared 'the West,' and which the West has loved and feared back in equal measure. Tony Kevin's previous books include *A Certain Maritime Incident: the sinking of SIEV X* (2004) and *Reluctant Rescuers* (2012) on Australia's well-resourced maritime border protection system. He published a travel memoir *Walking the Camino* (2007) about his long pilgrimage walk through Spain in 2006. In 2009, *Crunch Time* tackled issues, still unresolved, of framing an effective Australian policy against global warming. [Subject: Non-Fiction, Travel Memoir, Russian Studies]

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Customer Reviews

Tony Kevin was an Australian diplomat based in Moscow in the late 60s and early 70s, during the Cold War. He recently revisited Russia, and in this fascinating book, tells of what he found there, in contrast to his experience of almost 50 years ago. He sees Russia today, led by Putin, as making a serious effort to regain a place as a respected nation in the world, and shake off the image of being the perpetual bad guy. He makes a convincing case that this is greatly hampered by the relentless effort of the Western nations, led by the US, to refuse to accept that there is any fundamental change. Let me emphasize that he is no apologist for Donald Trump. I found this book both fascinating and disturbing. What a giant step forward in international relations it would be for Russia to be gradually brought back into the circle of civilised and trustworthy nations, rather than be regarded as a pariah forever on the brink of causing major conflict, and even nuclear war. I hope Kevin is right, and that this will soon be appreciated by Western leaders.

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