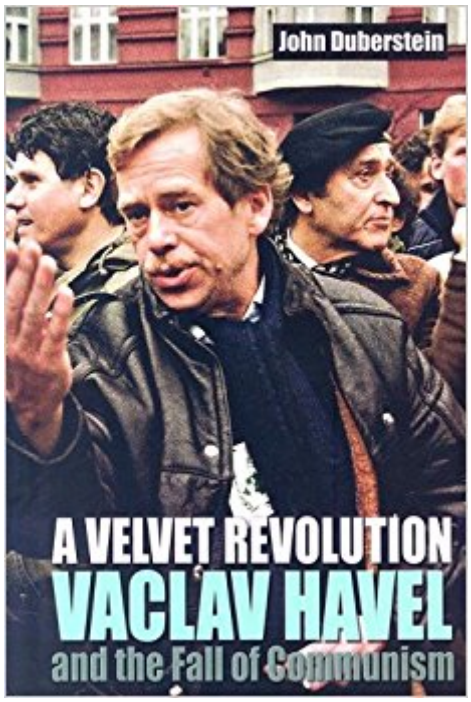
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# A Velvet Revolution Vaclav Havel And The Fall Of Communism (World Leaders)




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## Synopsis

A young adult biography of Czech dissident and politician Vaclav Havel

## Book Information

Series: World Leaders

Library Binding: 160 pages

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â œHavels life is inextricably tied to significant events in the history of Czechoslovakia in the 20th century, in which he became a key player. Early chapters explore his childhood during World War II and its aftermath with keen attention to the impact of being from a bourgeois family. The heart of the book examines his path from a passionate intellectual and playwright to leader of Charter 77, the human-rights group that played a crucial role leading to the collapse of the communist regime. Closing chapters deal with Havels successes and failures as a political leader and first president of his country after the Velvet Revolution. Throughout the book, the author superbly integrates explanations of the relevant historical background and events with his subjects life, thus providing readers with an introduction to a dramatic swath of six decades of history. At the same time, he does not sanitize the life of Havel, whose personal shortcomings are not overlooked. Black-and-white and full-color photos and reproductions further complement this excellent biography.Ã¢â ¬â œElizabeth Talbot, University of Illinois, Champaign Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 8-11. Against a backdrop of Czechoslovakian history from the end of World War I to just beyond the end of its Communist regime, Duberstein profiles one of the century's most unusual political leaders--a dissident writer who rose to power on the strength of his satirical plays, eloquent public statements, and movie-star good looks. Although the author's focus on events more than on personalities unnecessarily distances readers, most will still emerge with a sense of how Havel's stage works reflected his "often absurd and treacherous world" and of the challenges he faced once his skills as a gadfly won him the presidency of the Czech Republic. Duberstein adds admiring glances toward Havel's wife, Olga, with mentions of both spouses' scandalous affairs. Enhanced by archival photographs and brief lists of book and Web resources (most targeting adults), this is an intriguing introduction to a turbulent place and time as well as a case study in how a country came to be run by "a group of long-haired, suede-jacket-wearing intellectuals." John PetersCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

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