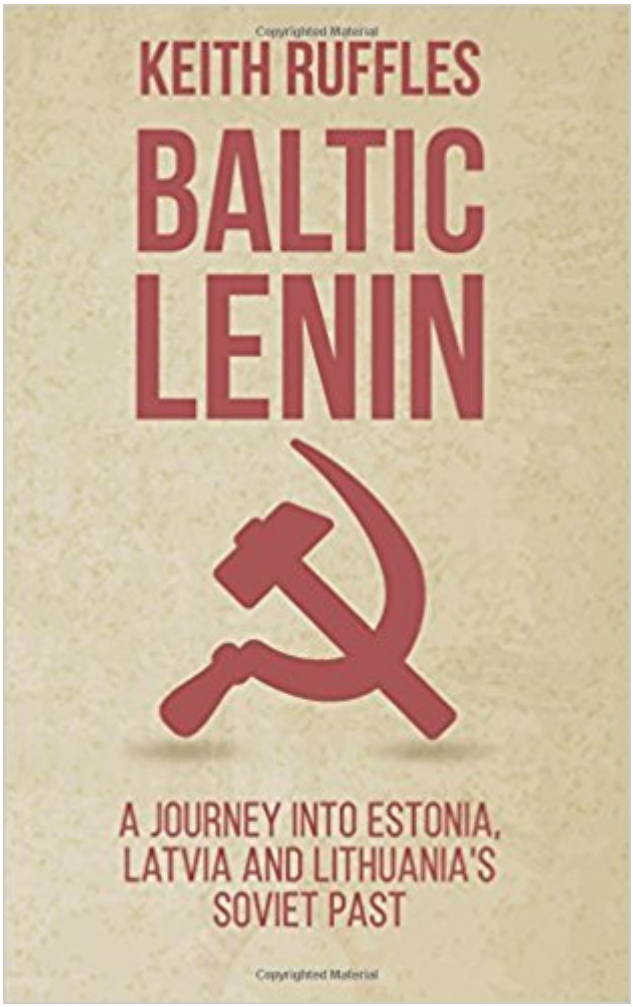
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Baltic Lenin: A Journey Into Estonia, Latvia And Lithuania's Soviet Past



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Synopsis

The fall of the Soviet Union marked a new era of independence for the Baltic states. But what remains of the former Soviet Union in this tiny corner of northeastern Europe? With humor and compassion, travel writer Keith Ruffles tells his story of visiting the little-known countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. On his quest, he discovers how Soviet rule impacted the infrastructures, environments, and cultures of these areas. Travel highlights include the medieval capital of Tallinn, LithuaniaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s baroque-style capital of Vilnius, the Estonian island of Saaremaa, and the cities of Narva and Nida, which border Russia. Along the way, Ruffles meets quirky charactersÃ¢â ¬â •from academics to alcoholicsÃ¢â ¬â •and truly discovers what life is like in the region today. Perhaps, most importantly, he discovers the legacy of the Soviet Union. What does it mean for the future of this region, as tensions reminiscent of the Cold War increase between Russia and the West?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Keith Ruffles is a travel enthusiast who has explored seven former Soviet states. He is also a civil servant with both a master of science and a bachelor of science in geography from the University of Leicester. Originally from London, Ruffles now resides in Belfast. His interests include politics, religion, current affairs, the environment, and animal rights. He has been published in national newspapers and magazines. Baltic Lenin is his first book.

All I have to say is just that is amazing ! Love the writer’s humour!

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This is a lively depiction of modern-day Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. I selected this book to learn some background about the Baltic states before I travel to the region this summer. Keith Ruffles takes you on day-to-day excursions through the region meeting the locals, sipping the coffee, and exploring the monuments and museums. His description of the Soviet legacy on the people and places is fascinating and entertaining. He takes a dark, complex subject and brings it to life. This gem is full of little-know geographical and historical facts about this beautiful region of the world. This book should be recommended reading for anyone interested in a concise overview of the Baltic region.

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