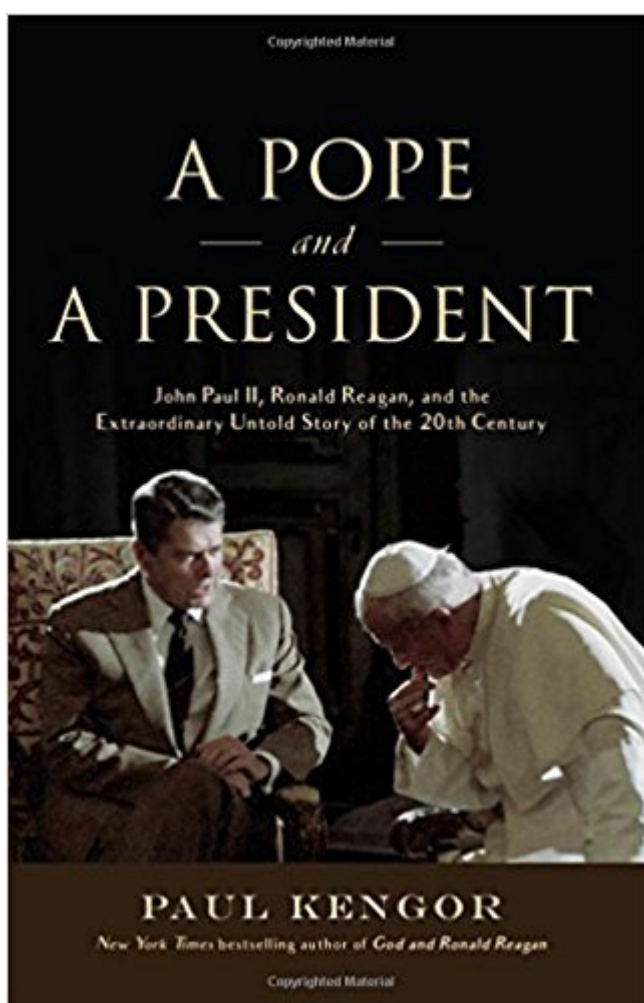


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A Pope And A President: John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, And The Extraordinary Untold Story Of The 20th Century



Synopsis

A Singular Bond That Changed History Even as historians credit Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II with hastening the end of the Cold War, they have failed to recognize the depth or significance of the bond that developed between the two leaders. Acclaimed scholar and bestselling author Paul Kengor changes that. In this fascinating book, he reveals a singular bond "which included a spiritual connection between the Catholic pope and the Protestant president" that drove the two men to confront what they knew to be the great evil of the twentieth century: Soviet communism. Reagan and John Paul II almost didn't have the opportunity to forge this relationship: just six weeks apart in the spring of 1981, they took bullets from would-be assassins. But their strikingly similar near-death experiences brought them close together "to Moscow" dismay. A Pope and a President is the product of years of research. Based on Kengor's tireless archival digging and his unique access to Reagan insiders, the book reveals: The inside story on the 1982 meeting where the president and the pope confided their conviction that God had spared their lives for the purpose of defeating communism. Captivating new information on the attempt on John Paul II's life, including a previously unreported secret CIA investigation "was Moscow behind the plot? The many similarities and the spiritual bond between the pope and the president" and how Reagan privately spoke of the "Divine Plan to take down communism. New details about how the Protestant Reagan became intensely interested in the "secrets of Fátima," which date to the reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fátima, Portugal, starting on May 13, 1917 "sixty-four years to the day before John Paul II was shot. A startling insider account of how the USSR may have been set to invade the pope's native Poland in March 1981 "only to pull back when news broke that Reagan had been shot. Nancy Reagan called John Paul II her husband's "closest friend"; Reagan himself told Polish visitors that the pope was his "best friend." When you read this book, you will understand why. As kindred spirits, Ronald Reagan and John Paul II united in pursuit of a supreme objective "and in doing so they changed history.

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Customer Reviews

• "No Reagan biographer or scholar knows Ronald Reagan and conservatism like Paul Kengor. • Michael Reagan [Kengor] has written the most exhaustive and definitive account of Communism's twentieth-century assault on America to date. • "Townhall • Mr. Kengor's research is prodigious, his analysis keen and insightful, his writing clear, and his work distinguished. His command of the Reagan legacy is incomparable. • "Tony Dolan, chief speechwriter and special assistant to President Reagan • Kengor makes clear just how central the defeat of the Soviet Union was to Reagan's personal project. • "National Review • Combines great story-telling with his commitment to scholarly detail. • "Peter Schweizer, bestselling author of Reagan's War • [Kengor provides] more fascinating and never-before-reported details about how Ronald Reagan succeeded than any other Cold War historian. . . . Kengor somehow got his hands on more secret documents than the KGB. • "American Thinker • Kengor has unearthed eye-popping new information that left me amazed. • "Fred Barnes, Weekly Standard • Provides authoritative insight into Reagan's campaign to destroy Soviet Communism. • "Richard Pipes, professor of history, emeritus, Harvard University • Kengor assembles a wealth of material. • "National Catholic Reporter • There are few historians who are closer students of the Reagan message, his thoughts, his utterances, and his convictions than Paul Kengor. • "William J. Bennett, President Reagan's secretary of education

Paul Kengor, PhD, is the New York Times bestselling author of God and Ronald Reagan, The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism, 11 Principles of a Reagan Conservative, Dupes, The Communist, and other books. A professor of political science and the executive director of the Center for Vision and Values at Grove City College, he has written for a range of popular and scholarly publications, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, National Review, Political Science Quarterly, Christianity Today, the National Catholic Register, and

the National Catholic Reporter. Kengor has appeared on Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, C-SPAN, and many other outlets. He and his family live in Pennsylvania.

In this book, author Paul Kengor draws parallels between Pope John Paul II and Ronald Reagan. Not only in their great desire to rid the world of the threat of communism but also in events that happened during their lives. The focus is mainly on the history of these two individuals and their combined efforts against what they saw as the greatest threat to liberty and faith but there is considerable thought and room given to the historical stance of the leadership of the Catholic Church. As I am a Christian but not a Catholic, much of this information was new (and informative) to me. The events the two leaders shared start with their childhood influence of a deeply religious parent (father with the Pope and mother with President Reagan) to their first careers as actors to the loss of their fathers mere weeks apart in 1941 and then to their attempted assassinations (again weeks apart) in 1981. The two men, once they met in 1982, developed a good relationship in their efforts and became close friends with what President Reagan called a shared "Divine Plan". The book also chronicles some of the history of the Catholic Church's stand against Communism when the rest of the world seemed to see it as less of a threat. It also touches on the history of Nazi Germany and other totalitarian movements but the main focus of the book is the relationship and the actions that two of the foremost Christian leaders of their time took to bring down what President Reagan dubbed "the evil empire". While I generally read historical accounts of much older events than these (some of which happened during my lifetime), I found the book both interesting and thought provoking.

this is one of the most fascinating bios on president reagan that I have read in along time the research that the writer has done on these two historical giants who encouraged so many people and brought freedom to countless individuals is very amazing. what is very special to me is both the pope and president reagan had so much in common they very both very devoted christians and they both survived assassins bullets and they were both deeply committed friends very hard to put down have already recommended it to several people great gift idea for a friend or family member also recommended any books by paul kengor or pope john paul 2 or by or about president reagan

A very carefully researched scholarly history of President Reagan and Pope John Paul II, and how their relationship brought an end to the USSR. Which I consider a miracle; and if anyone, besides these two men, say they knew the USSR would collapse they are full of baloney. President Reagan

and Saint Pope John Paul II, and many many others prayed for this to happen, but even they did not know it would occur in the amazing way it did.

Before I read this monumental book, the best book I had read on Ronald Reagan and Reagan and winning the Cold War was *The Crusader, Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism*, also by Paul Kengor. It greatly covered in specific detail the precise steps and the risks Reagan took to bring down the "evil empire" and the Berlin Wall. It included Reagan's defense build-up, including missile defense, and his efforts to bankrupt the Soviet Union, all playing a pivotal in Reagan bringing down communism. It's been a while since I have read the book, but, as I remember there was much about Saint John Paul II's major role as well, especially of course in Poland, that proved to be the linchpin in the eventual fall of communism in eastern Europe and Soviet Union. And it was in that book that I first heard that President Reagan considered Pope John Paul II his best friend. I have read a number of books on Ronald Reagan and his role in ending the Cold War, so I thought I was well informed on the subject. I had never heard though what was revealed in this great book. *A Pope and a President, John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, and the Extraordinary Untold Story of the 20th Century*. I knew of course that Pope John Paul was shot of the Feast of Fatima, May 13, but had no idea how much Reagan was interested in Fatima and its messages and the role it, and the Blessed Mother Mary overall, had in the Pope and the President's ongoing efforts to end communism. I also didn't realize or had forgotten how much President Reagan literally preached a faith in God in his numerous historical speeches in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the communist world. And the confluence of dates is amazing as well. The Russian Revolution was in 1917, the same year as the Blessed Virgin appeared to the 3 peasant children at Fatima. And I had never realized that Archbishop Fulton Sheen played a role in influencing the Protestant Reagan and bringing down communism. He had given many talks on the evils of communism and how it is a Godless evil. Both Sheen and Reagan are products of the Illinois prairie. I knew that communism is of course and atheistic evil that killed over 100 million in the last century, but did not focus so much on it being a problem of spiritual desolation. Reagan and Pope John Paul II knew though that it was largely a problem of being a Godless system with a spiritual vacuum. Yes, there were specific tactics that Reagan initiated to bring down communism, but his emphasis on the spiritual aspect was what finally did it, even likely playing a role in influencing Mikhail Gorbachev to resign as head of the Soviet Union and thus make way for its demise. Reagan was a life long Protestant, though he had much Catholic influence throughout his life, starting with his Catholic father, his great friend and confidant, Judge William Clark, who served Reagan so well in many posts and played a major role

in Reagan's efforts to bring down communism, a long time goal of his too.(Paul Kengor's book on Judge Clark is great as well and highly recommended.) And of course, his "best friend," Pope John Paul II. Reagan also had a great affection for the mostly Catholic Polish citizenry, and so wanted them to be out from under the shackles of communism.I'm a slow reader and rarely read books twice. Even though it is over 500 pages, I plan to make this great book an exception and read it at least one more time. There are so many great lessons, including spiritual lessons, from the examples of two of the greatest men of the millennium, Saint John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan. This book gives one hope in mankind that the world could produce two such great and good men. I cannot recommend this great book highly enough.

I absolutely love this insightful and informative book. I would give it a 5 star, but it is very detailed and taking me a long long time to read. But I don't want to miss a word!

This is a VERY interesting book and sheds so much light on the similarities of one of the USA's favorite presidents and one of the world's blessed and favored Pope. They shared a common background and so many experiences plus shared a desire to rid the world of communism and oppression in all its forms. It is a wonderful look at the history of our land and gives insight in this 100th year of the anniversary of Fatima to see why our prayers are so very important. I have read this book to all my friends and encourage anyone who has a love of mankind and history to embrace it. The book arrived in excellent condition and I also have it on my Kindle.

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