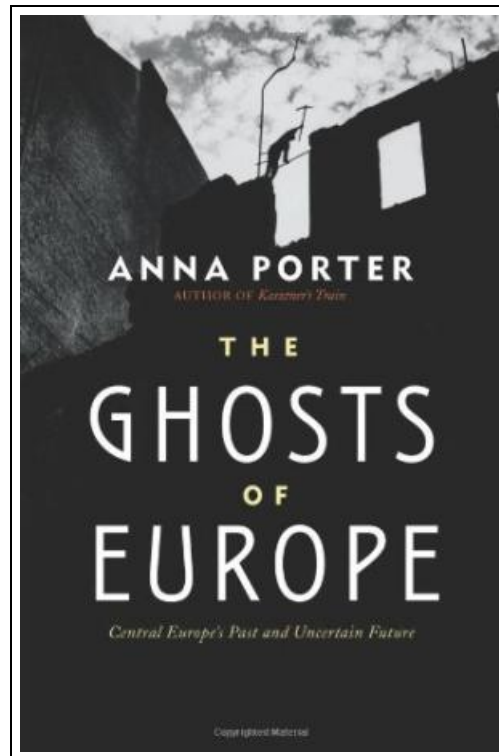


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Thomas Dunne Books, United States, 2011. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1989, Adam Michnik said that Central Europe came as a messenger not only of freedom and tolerance but also of hatred and intolerance. It is here, in Central Europe, that the last two wars began. Nearing the twentieth anniversary of Communism's collapse, acclaimed author Anna Porter traveled to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary to discover whether and how democracy has taken root in these former Iron Curtain countries. The former borderlands of the long-defunct Hapsburg Empire and the more recently dispersed Soviet Empire have attempted to invent their own forms of democracy and capitalism. However, disturbing signs of old attitudes have returned, bringing into question Central Europe's ability to reform its elites and to effectively control public demonstrations of hatred, the rise of racial tensions, and the emergence of fascist parties. Porter interviewed the young and the old, the winners and the losers, in this grand European transformation. Porter walks Wenceslas Square with those who suffered the violence of the state police and helped to organize the 89 revolution. She meets with revolutionary leaders such as Vaclav Havel and Adam Michnik, as well as custodians of the new regimes, among them Radek Sikorski, Michael Kocab, and Ferenc Gyurcsany. She takes us to Poland's Institute of National Remembrance and Budapest's House of Terror Museum—fascinating if controversial attempts to reckon with dark periods of history. She interviews the wealthiest man in Hungary, the general who ordered martial law in Poland, attends an ultraright rally, and visits a Gypsy village where a newly burgeoning yet all-too-familiar racism has destroyed a family. Gradually, a portrait emerges of a Europe struggling under the weight of history and memory,...

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