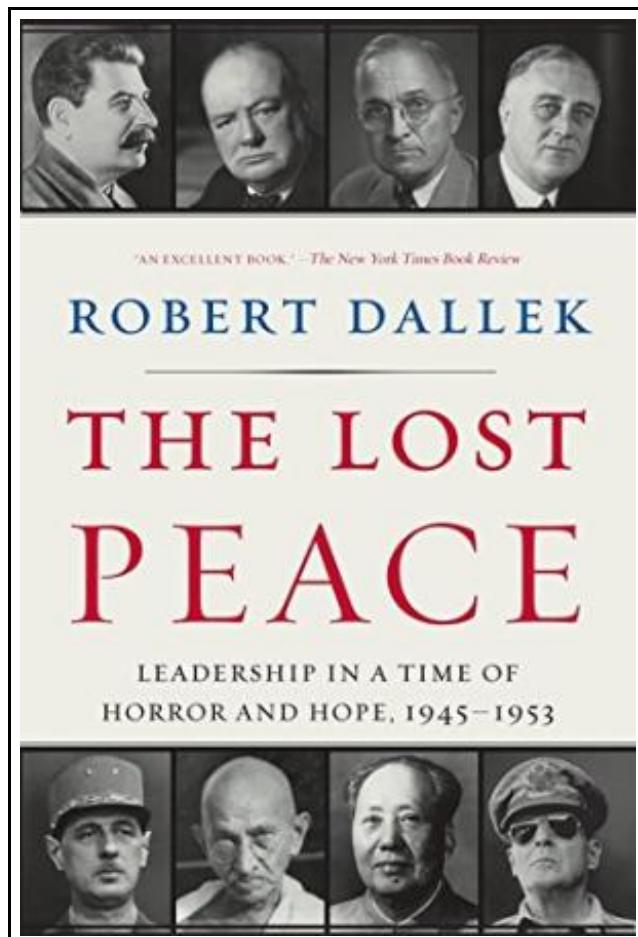


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THE LOST PEACE: LEADERSHIP IN A TIME OF HORROR AND HOPE, 19451953

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Harper Perennial. 1 Paperback(s), 2010. soft. Book Condition: New. Pulitzer Prize nominee Robert Dallek, author of *Nixon & Kissinger*, here offers a penetrating look at misjudgments that caused international strife and suffering during the critical period from 1945 to 1953 from the closing months of World War II through the early years of the Cold War. He examines what drove the world's great leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, Mao, de Gaulle, and Truman to rely on traditional power politics despite the catastrophic violence their nations had just endured. Dallek's history is also a cautionary tale that considers what might have been done differently to avoid conflicts with China, Korea, in the Middle East, and around the globe. "After WWII, the most destructive war in history, everyone yearned for a better world. Veteran historian Dallek delivers a shrewd analysis of why world leaders failed to deliver it. Reviewing postwar crises Soviet occupation of eastern Europe, the creation of Israel, India's independence, France's occupation of Indochina, China's civil war, the Korean War Dallek sadly concludes that the Allies misread history, eschewing anything that smacked of appeasement, treating opponents, mostly the U.S.S.R., as they should have treated Hitler. Without attempting to rehabilitate Stalin, Dallek asserts that Western leaders managed to push all his paranoid buttons. Notwithstanding their conviction that he aimed to conquer the world, Stalin was no apostle of world revolution but a conventional nationalist obsessed with protecting Russia's borders and maintaining his own power. Despite repeated painful experiences and immense expense, traditional, pugnacious power politics proved irresistible (except, ironically, to WWII's losers, Germany and Japan), Dallek concludes in this perceptive work." Publishers Weekly "Events in 1945 and 1946 constitute the bulk of Dallek's text, which has the Americans puzzling over Soviet actions in Poland, Germany, and Iran and Stalin's historically significant speech of February 1946. Diplomat George Kennan's explanation...

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