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Vladimir Tismaneanu, Marius Stan
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Romania Confronts Its Communist Past

Reckoning with mass crimes perpetrated by an ideologically driven regime entails engaging in a thorough exploration of its utopian foundations. In the case of Romania, such an analysis requires an interpretation of the role of personality in the construction of a uniquely grotesque and unrepentant form of neo-Stalinist despotism. Of all the revolutions of 1989, the only violent one took place in Romania. Confronting its Communist past therefore involves addressing the abuses committed by the Communist regime up until its very last day, its failure to engage in Round Table-type agreements with democratic representatives, and the repression during the first post-Communist years – a direct legacy of the old regime. This book shows how moral justice can contribute to a restoration of truth and a climate of trust in politics, in the absence of which any democratic polity remains exposed to authoritarian attacks.

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Democracy, Memory, and Moral Justice

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To the five members who passed away since the Final Report was presented by then-president of Romania, Traian Băsescu, to the country's Parliament on December 18, 2006: Mihnea Berindei, Constantin Ticu Dumitrescu, Virgil Ierunca, Monica Lovinescu, and Romulus Rusan, co-founder with his wife, poetess and civic activist Ana Blandiana, of the Sighet Memorial of the Victims of Communism and of the Resistance.

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