Weigel George (EN). The collapse of communism in central and eastern Europe—the Revolution of 1989—was a singularly stunning event in a century already known for the unexpected. How did people divided for two generations by an Iron Curtain come so suddenly to dance together atop the Berlin Wall? Why did people who had once seemed resigned to their fate suddenly take their future into their own hands? Some analysts have explained the Revolution in economic terms, arguing that the Warsaw Pact countries could no longer compete with the West. But as George Weigel argues in this thought-provoking The Final Revolution book, Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. The collapse of communism in central and eastern Europe—the Revolution... Two key players were Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement and Cardinal Karol Wojtyła who was elected Pope John Paul II on October 16th, 1978. Poland is approximately 93% Catholic and the spirit of the people was lifted as one of their own became the first Slavic Pope to be elected. The Bolshevik revolution was the first modern revolution that had made militant atheism and a virtual war against religion its official state policy. A brutal persecution of the church followed but in Pope John Paul II the strong arm of Stalinist oppression had come up against a true warrior and could no longer s The collapse of the Soviet system left the remnants of the cold war school in triumphalist mood and caused confusion among many revisionists, even though this unforeseen turn of events tied in better with the views of the latter. After all, if the Soviet system had been as closely controlled and dictatorial as the “totalitarians” argued, how could the system have collapsed? Today, two lines of interpretation dominate the subject. On the one hand, there is re-energized, straightforwardly political anti-Bolshevism, which eschews social history. How far do the books under review tie in with the emerging interpretations? Lieven’s book grows out of a liberal branch of the “cold war” school which in the mid-s began to develop an “optimistic” interpretation of the last decade or so of tsarist rule.