



The First Domino

By Dr. Johanna Granville, Foreword by Raymond L. Garthoff

In the spring and summer of 1956 the Soviet Union invaded Hungary to reassert control of the country. The First Domino is the first full analysis in English drawing on new archival collections from East-bloc countries to reinterpret decision making during this Cold War crisis. Johanna Granville selects four key patterns of misperception as laid out by political scientist Robert Jervis and shows how these patterns prevailed in the military crackdown and in other countries' reactions to it. Granville examines the statements and actions of Soviet Presidium members, the Hungarian leadership, U.S. policy makers, and even Yugoslav and Polish leaders. She concludes that the United States bears some responsibility for the events of 1956, as ill-advised U.S. covert actions may have convinced Soviet leaders that America was attempting to weaken Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe. Granville's multi-archival research tends to confirm the post-revisionists' theory about the cold war: it was everyone's fault and no one's fault. It resulted from the emerging bipolar structure of the international system, the power vacuum in Europe's center, and spiraling misconceptions.

"This is a remarkable study of Cold War history because the author . . . has availed herself of recently opened Soviet and other archives to describe how Hungary became the first 'domino' in a process that resulted ultimately in the Soviet Union's loss of hegemony over Eastern Europe in 1989." - *Washington Times*, March 21, 2004, by Arnold Beichman, Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Johanna Granville, Ph.D. is currently a Hoover Institution Campbell National Fellow at Stanford University in California. She has conducted extensive archival research in Moscow, Budapest and Warsaw. She is currently in Yekaterinburg, Russia (Urals region) doing archival research for another book on the 1956 Hungarian crisis and Soviet intervention entitled, "Spillover! The Soviets and Satellites in the Hungarian Crisis of 1956."

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