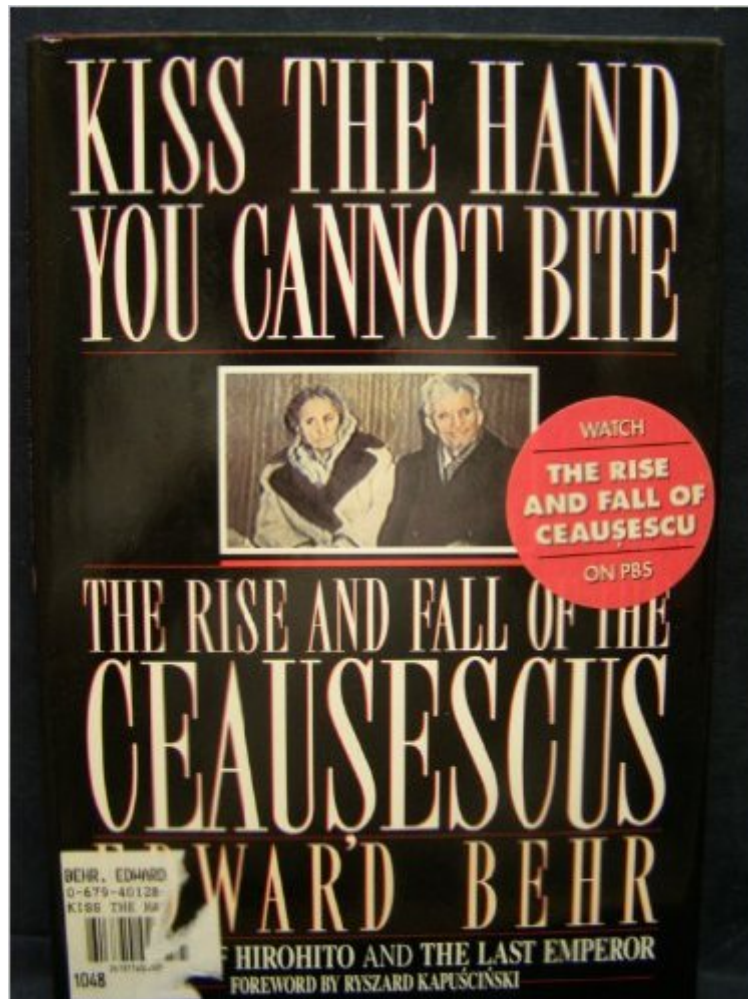


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# Kiss The Hand You Cannot Bite: The Rise And Fall Of The Ceausescus



## Synopsis

Book by Behr, Edward

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

25 December 1989 may have been notable as the last Christmas of the 1980's, but the people in communist Romania got a much needed Christmas present they're likely never to forget. On that particular St. Nicholas's Day, Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu were executed by members of the National Salvation Front. Romania thus became the last of the Communist East bloc countries to fall, albeit violently. That's how the book begins, before going back in time and detailing Ceausescu's rise and fall. Ceausescu worked as a cobbler in his father-in-law's shop and was lousy. When asked by his father-in-law what he would do for a living, Ceausescu prophetically replied, "I won't need a trade. I'm going to be Romania's Stalin." Ceausescu did become Romania's Stalin, but the term Conducator comes from the title given to Ion Antonescu, the head of fascist Romania during World War II. Also, readers will learn that Ceausescu was Romania's third Communist leader, the others being Petru Grosz (1946-1948) and Gheorge Gheorgiu-Dej (1948-1965). There's also the usual historic background behind Romania from World War I, when it was ruled by the ineffectual but tyrannical King Carol. The rise of the RCP under Gheorge Gheorgiu-Dej in the 1930's, and Romania under the Axis-allied Iron Guard is covered. These are important, as Romania's rival communists began jockeying for power when the tide of the war began to turn. But being a high-ranking lackey for Gheorgiu-Dej helped Ceausescu when the former became the second Communist leader of Romania. There's also an unflattering look at Elena Ceausescu, nee Petrescu, who was a lousy student and whose doctorate in chemistry was gotten by bogus

means--she didn't even know the formula for sulfuric acid.

I read this good book, here in Brazil. This book is mainly about the rise and fall of the Communist couple Ceausescu in Romania. This book has these advantages and many others:1- This book makes a clear connection between Ceausescus' lack of education and complete megalomania decades later.2- Behr exposes Nicolae's personal main bad qualities: Corruption, stuttering, bad temper, ignorance, vanity, bad taste and erratic behavior as a terrible leader.3- This book exposes centuries of Romanians' complacency and historical tendency to compromise, without ever romanticizing these features.4- This book shows that a group of yes-men and above all Ceausescu's wife, Elena, were following centuries of same features in government of Romania. Things like nepotism, corruption, lack of scruples, bad taste, huge and useless palaces, etc. the very leadership principles of Romania for many decades before Ceausescu's government.5- Communism itself produced the Ceausescu couple government. In fact, this book shows that Communism is a system where the correct values is totally reversed, and Behr makes this clear with detachment and professionalism.6- This book shows how easily former Nazis of Iron Guard became complete communists. See page 111, as an example.7- Romanian Communist Party grew more than one hundred times, between 1944 and 1947. See page 106.8- For Communists, the past is something they exchange at their will and lies are normal tools for Communists. See page 100 as an example.9- The fake "scientific works" of Elena Ceausescu are exposed. See pages 140 and 141. Her evil genius is exposed on pages 182 to 184. Elena Ceausescu's bad education is covered.

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