Radu Stern is an independent curator and art historian who taught Art History at the University of Lausanne and was also Director of Education at Musée de l’Elysée in Switzerland. In 2004 he published Against Fashion. Clothing as Art, 1850–1930 on the subject of avant-garde fashion.

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Radu Stern and Vladimir Tismăneanu’s book was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022, translated into Romanian by Marius Stan and published by Curtea Veche the following year.
SCALCĂU, A.
BOOK REVIEW: COMMUNISM AND CULTURE. AN INTRODUCTION by Radu STERN and Vladimir TISMĂNEANU

The book explores the relationship between the communist ideology and culture and it shows how the former perverted the latter so that it could serve its purpose. The authors investigate the ways in which culture was disciplined in order to serve the interests of the communist party and they describe several practices that existed in various countries during the twentieth century and which affected different cultural fields, such as: literature, education, music, the visual arts, the cinema. The two writers discuss several important events, such as the emergence and expansion of social realism, different manifestation of censorship, the Zhdanovshchina, the Thaw, the Cultural Revolution and many more.

In my opinion the book has three major strengths. First of all, it reads easily (like a collection of stories) although the subject matter is far from being simple; moreover, the events which are described are real, not fictional. Secondly, it manages to sift out the truth from the propaganda and offers a variety of captivating examples to back up all the factual information. Last but not least, it gives the readers a clear understanding of the ways in which communist ideology invaded the culture of several countries, in an attempt to turn all people into good communists.