



Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

April 13, 2017

Amy Brand, PhD
Director
MIT Press
One Rogers Street
Cambridge MA 02142-1209

Dear Dr. Brand,

I write regarding the recent publication of Bini Adamczak's *Communism for Kids* by MIT Press. While I can imagine a book so titled that would make a valuable contribution to a reader's understanding of the truth about communism, the book MIT Press published is not it. *Communism for Kids* whitewashes and infantilizes ideas that, when put into action, have cost more than 100 million lives.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, which established the world's first communist regime. It is a fitting time to teach people about an ideology that so dramatically shaped the 20th century and continues to shape the 21st. Educating Americans about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism is the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's mission.

That collectivism ends in dictatorship is overwhelmingly evident. Take Venezuela, whose experiment in democratic socialism began in 1999. With each passing year, what was once one of the most prosperous countries in Latin America becomes poorer; what was once a free country becomes more and more repressive. Whether in Lenin's Soviet Union or Maduro's Venezuela 100 years later, collectivist policies must be coercively implemented and enforced.

Marxists, such as the book's author, often say "true" communism has never been tried. This assertion is on par with denying the violence inherent in the ideas of Nazism. Communism has been tried in more than 40 countries, and each time results in the worst and widest scale human rights abuses known to man. There is no "different kind of communism, one that is true to its ideals and free from authoritarianism." We will not tolerate denying the history of Nazism. Nor will we tolerate obfuscating the crimes of communist regimes.

Far from providing a "political awakening," by publishing *Communism for Kids*, a book utterly devoid of any awareness of politics and history, MIT Press has furthered the efforts of communist ideologues to spin a tale of false hope and to deny the reality that communism leads not to a better world, but to a dreadful one.

Sincerely,

Marion Smith
Executive Director