ON THE COVER: Underground print shop producing Solidarity flyers during martial law. Reproduction courtesy KARTA Center. From Books Are Weapons (see pg. 6).

ABOVE: Images from Greetings from Novorossiya (see opposite page).

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Greetings from Novorossiya
Eyewitness to the War in Ukraine

Paweł Pieniążek
Introduction by Timothy Snyder

“Pieniążek provides an excellent rendition of the intense, strange atmosphere that prevailed in 2014 Ukraine, complete with descriptions of trains full of corpses from the downed Malaysian airliner, the corrupt political circus in the people’s republics, and the infiltration of the country by the now-familiar phenomenon of ‘fake news.’ A lively and detailed account.” —Publishers Weekly

“There was no Orwell of the Ukrainian revolution, but readers of Paweł Pieniążek will get something like the everyday grit and political insight of Homage to Catalonia.” —Timothy Snyder, from the introduction

Polish Journalist Paweł Pieniążek was among a handful of courageous journalists to enter the war-torn region of eastern Ukraine, and Greetings from Novorossiya is his vivid firsthand account of the conflict. He was the first reporter to reach the scene when Russian troops in Ukraine accidentally shot down a civilian airliner, killing all 298 people aboard. Unlike Western journalists, his fluency in both Ukrainian and Russian granted him access and the ability to move among all sides in the conflict. With powerful color photos, telling interviews from the local population, and brilliant reportage, Pieniążek’s account documents these dramatic events as they transpired.

This unique eyewitness account of history in the making brings to life the tragedy of Ukraine for a Western audience. Historian Timothy Snyder provides wider context in his superb introduction and explores the significance of this ongoing conflict at the border of East and West.
OVERTAKEN BY THE NIGHT
One Russian’s Journey through Peace, War, Revolution, and Terror
RICHARD G. ROBBINS JR.

“Overtaken by the Night is an extremely detailed account of Vladimir Dzhunkovsky’s life. His story spans not just one, but several of the most tumultuous periods in modern Russian history, and Robbins nicely positions Dzhunkovsky’s life as a way to tell the story of the Soviet revolution from its inception to its bloody aftermath. Dzhunkovsky played prominent roles in some of Russia’s most important history: World War I, the fall of the monarchy, the communist revolution, and Stalin’s purges leading up to World War II. A well-researched biography of a consistently influential Russian leader.”
—Foreword Reviews

Vladimir Fedorovich Dzhunkovsky was a witness to Russia’s unfolding tragedy—from Tsar Alexander II’s Great Reforms, through world war, revolution, the rise of a new regime, and finally, his country’s descent into terror under Stalin. But Dzhunkovsky was not just a passive observer—he was an active participant in his troubled and turbulent times, often struggling against the tide. In the centennial of the Russian revolution, his story takes on special significance.

Highly readable, Overtaken by the Night captivates on many levels. It is a gripping biography of a man of many faces, a behind-the-curtain look at the inner workings of Russian politics at its highest levels, and also an engrossing account of ordinary Russians engulfed by swiftly moving political and social currents.

Dzhunkovsky served as a confidant in the tsar’s imperial court and as governor in Moscow province during and after the 1905 revolution. In 1913 he became the empire’s security chief, determined to reform the practices of the dreaded tsarist political police, the Okhrana. Dismissed from office for daring to investigate and warn Tsar Nicholas about Rasputin, his path led him into combat on the battlefields of the First World War. A natural leader of men, he held his units together even as revolution spilled into the trenches. Arrested as a counterrevolutionary in 1918 and imprisoned until 1921, Dzhunkovsky avoided execution thanks to an outpouring of public support and his reputation for treating revolutionaries with fairness and dignity. Although later he consulted for the Stalinist secret police, he was tried and executed in 1938 as an enemy of the people.

Based on Dzhunkovsky’s detailed memoirs and extensive archival research, Overtaken by the Night paints a fascinating picture of an important figure. Dzhunkovsky’s incredible life reveals much about a long and crucial period in Russian history. It is a story of Russia in revolution reminiscent of the fictional Doctor Zhivago, but perhaps even more extraordinary for being true.
An Intellectual Biography of William C. Bullitt

ALEXANDER ETKIND

“A brilliant portrait of one of the most important American diplomats of the twentieth century. A man of immense charm, a friend and savior of Freud and his family in 1938, an admirer of Russia and witness to the horror of the purges, a figure turned into fiction by Bulgakov, Bullitt comes to life in Etkind’s remarkable book. Essential reading for all students of twentieth-century Europe and the European-American embrace.”
—Jay Winter, Yale University

“Alexander Etkind is among the most fecund and original of cultural historians. Extraordinary lives like William Bullitt’s—deeply involved with Freud, Wilson, Lenin, Stalin, Kennan, and Roosevelt—make extraordinary demands on their biographers. Etkind has more than met these demands in this wonderful volume.”
—Eli Zaretsky, the New School for Social Research

A journalist, diplomat, and writer, William Christian Bullitt (1891–1967) negotiated with Lenin and Stalin, Churchill and de Gaulle, Chiang Kai-shek and Goering. He took part in the talks that ended World War I and those that failed to prevent World War II. While his former disciples led American diplomacy into the Cold War, Bullitt became an early enthusiast of the European Union. From his early (1919) proposal of disassembling the former Russian Empire into dozens of independent states, to his much later (1944) advice to land the American troops in the Balkans rather than in Normandy, Bullitt developed a dissenting vision of the major events of his era. A connoisseur of American politics, Russian history, Viennese psychoanalysis, and French wine, Bullitt was also the author of two novels and a number of plays. A friend of Sigmund Freud, Bullitt coauthored with him a sensational biography of President Wilson. A friend of Bullitt, Mikhail Bulgakov depicted him as the devil figure in The Master and Margarita. Taking seriously Bullitt’s projects and foresights, this book portrays him as an original thinker and elucidates his role as a political actor. His roads were not taken, but the world would have been different if Bullitt’s warnings had been heeded. His experience suggests powerful though lost alternatives to the catastrophic history of the twentieth century.

Based on Bullitt’s unpublished papers and diplomatic documents from the Russian archives, this new biography presents Bullitt as a truly cosmopolitan American, one of the first politicians of the global era. It is human ideas and choices, Bullitt’s projects and failures among them, that have brought the world to its current state.
MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ROLE OF INTELLECTUAL DISSIDENTS, LABOR, AND RELIGION IN THE HISTORIC OVERTHROW OF COMMUNISM IN POLAND DURING THE 1980s. 

**Books Are Weapons** presents the first English-language study of that which connected them—the press. Siobhan Doucette provides a comprehensive examination of the Polish opposition’s independent, often underground, press and its crucial role in the events leading to the historic Round Table and popular elections of 1989. While other studies have emphasized the role that the Solidarity movement played in bringing about civil society in 1980–1981, Doucette instead argues that the independent press was the essential binding element in the establishment of a true civil society during the mid- to late 1980s.

Based on a thorough investigation of underground publications and interviews with important activists of the period from 1976 to 1989, Doucette shows how the independent press, rooted in the long Polish tradition of well-organized resistance to foreign occupation, reshaped this tradition to embrace nonviolent civil resistance while creating a network that evolved from a small group of dissidents into a broad opposition movement with cross-national ties and millions of sympathizers. It was the galvanizing force in the resistance to communism and the rebuilding of Poland’s democratic society.
Strategic Frames analyzes minority policies in Estonia and Latvia following their independence from the Soviet Union. It weighs the powerful influence of both Europe and Russia on their policy choices, and how this intersected with the costs and benefits of policy changes for the politicians in each state.

Prior to EU accession, policymakers were slow to adopt minority-friendly policies for ethnic Russians despite mandates from the European Union. These initiatives faced majority opposition, and politicians sought to maintain the status quo and their positions. As Jennie L. Schulze reveals, despite the credit given to the democratizing influence of European institutions, they have rarely produced significant policy changes alone, and then only when domestic constraints were low. Whenever domestic opposition was high, Russian frames were crucial for the passage of reforms. In these cases, Russia’s activism on behalf of Russian speakers reinforced European frames, providing powerful justifications for reform.

Schulze’s attention to both the strategic framing and counterframing of external actors explains the controversies, delays, and suboptimal outcomes surrounding the passage of “conditional” amendments in both cases, as well as the local political climate postaccession.

Strategic Frames offers a significant reference on recent developments in two former Soviet states and the rapidly evolving spheres of political influence in the postindependence era that will serve students, scholars, and policymakers alike.
This book analyzes how Central Asians actively engaged with the rapidly globalizing world of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In presenting the first English-language history of the Khanate of Khoqand (1709–1876), Scott C. Levi examines the rise of that extraordinarily dynamic state in the Ferghana Valley. Levi reveals the many ways in which the Khanate’s integration with globalizing forces shaped political, economic, demographic, and environmental developments in the region, and he illustrates how these same forces contributed to the downfall of Khoqand.

To demonstrate the major historical significance of this vibrant state and region too often relegated to the periphery of early modern Eurasian history, Levi applies a “connected history” methodology, showing in great detail how Central Asians actively influenced policies among their larger imperial neighbors—notably tsarist Russia and Qing China. This original study will appeal to a wide interdisciplinary audience, including scholars and students of Central Asian, Russian, Middle Eastern, Chinese, and world history, as well as the study of comparative empire and the history of globalization.
From Belonging to Belief
Modern Secularisms and the Construction of Religion in Kyrgyzstan
JULIE MCBRIEN

“Through her close-in studies of religion, secularism, and modernity in Kyrgyzstan, McBrien makes a powerful case for bringing Soviet and post-Soviet nonliberal forms of secularism into current analytical debates.”
—John R. Bowen, Washington University, St. Louis

From Belonging to Belief presents a nuanced ethnographic study of Islam and secularism in post-Soviet Central Asia, as seen from the small town of Bazaar-Korgon in southern Kyrgyzstan. Opening with the juxtaposition of a statue of Lenin and a mosque in the town square, Julie McBrien proceeds to peel away the multiple layers that have shaped the return of public Islam in the region. She explores belief and nonbelief, varying practices of Islam, discourses of extremism, and the role of the state, to elucidate the everyday experiences of Bazaar-Korgonians. McBrien shows how Islam is explored, lived, and debated in both conventional and novel sites: a Soviet-era cleric who continues to hold great influence; popular television programs; religious instruction at wedding parties; clothing; celebrations; and others. Through ethnographic research, McBrien reveals how moving toward Islam is not a simple step but rather a deliberate and personal journey of experimentation, testing, and knowledge acquisition. Moreover, she argues that religion is not always a matter of belief—sometimes it is essentially about belonging.

From Belonging to Belief offers an important corrective to studies that focus only on the pious turns among Muslims in Central Asia, and instead shows the complex process of evolving religion in a region that has experienced both Soviet atheism and post-Soviet secularism, each of which has profoundly formed the way Muslims interpret and live Islam.
The Logics of State Weakness in Eurasia
Edited by JOHN HEATHERSHAW and EDWARD SCHATZ

“An impressive collection, providing fresh, original analysis. This volume presents a solid mix of common themes and individual, compelling chapters, and fascinating topics. Heathershaw and Schatz wrestle with an important concept—the strong-weak state distinction—and offer a conceptual set of alternative roles and dynamics that they observe states playing in the post-Soviet space. It will become a standard source on the topic of the state in Eurasia.”
—Alexander Cooley, Columbia University

“A thrill to read. Paradox of Power is at once theoretically compelling and empirically rich. We desperately need to understand how these states function, and step into the ‘shadows’—shadows that we ourselves cast—and look anew at how Eurasian governments work. This volume makes that step, allowing the reader to evaluate anew the weaknesses, but equally important, the strengths of the enduring Eurasian state.”
—Eric McGlinchey, George Mason University

“State weakness” is seen to be a widespread problem throughout Central Asia and other parts of postsocialist space, and more broadly in areas of the developing world. Challenging the widespread assumption that these “weak states” inevitably slide toward failure, Paradox of Power takes careful stock of the varied experiences of Eurasian states to reveal a wide array of surprising outcomes. The case studies show how states teeter but do not collapse, provide public goods against all odds, interact with societies in creative ways, utilize coercion effectively against internal opponents, and establish practices that are far more durable than the language of “weakness” would allow. While deepening our understanding of the phenomenon in Eurasia in particular, the essays also contribute to more general theories of state weakness.
Nick Megoran explores the process of building independent nation-states in post-Soviet Central Asia through the lens of the disputed border territory between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. In his rich “biography” of the boundary, he employs a combination of political, cultural, historical, ethnographic, and geographic frames to shed new light on the nation-building process in this volatile and geopolitically significant region.

Drawing on twenty years of extensive research in the borderlands, Megoran considers the problems of nationalist discourse versus local vernacular, elite struggles versus borderland solidarities, boundary delimitation versus everyday experience, border control versus resistance, and mass violence, all of which have exacerbated territorial anxieties. Megoran also revisits theories of causation—such as the loss of Soviet control, poorly defined boundaries, natural resource disputes, and historic ethnic clashes—to show that while these all contribute to heightened tensions, political actors and their agendas have clearly driven territorial aspirations and are the overriding source of conflict. As this compelling case study shows, the boundaries of the Ferghana Valley put in succinct focus larger global and moral questions of what defines a good border.
Azan on the Moon is an in-depth anthropological study of people’s lives along the Pamir Highway in eastern Tajikistan. Constructed in the 1930s in rugged high-altitude terrain, the road fundamentally altered the material and social fabric of this former Soviet outpost on the border with Afghanistan and China. The highway initially brought sentiments of disconnection and hardship, followed by Soviet modernization and development, and ultimately a sense of distinction from bordering countries and urban centers that continues to this day.

Based on extensive fieldwork and through an analysis of construction, mobility, technology, media, development, Islam, and the state, Till Mostowlansky shows how ideas of modernity are both challenged and reinforced in contemporary Tajikistan. In the wake of China’s rise in Central Asia, people along the Pamir Highway strive to reconcile a modern future with a modern past. Weaving together the road, a population, and a region, Azan on the Moon presents a rich ethnography of global connections.

“Azan on the Moon is a landmark contribution to the anthropology of modernity. Meticulously researched and lucidly written, Mostowlansky’s subtle analysis of the afterlives of Soviet developmentalism along the Pamir Highway shows how ‘modernity’ itself becomes a central figure through which Pamiris navigate economic change, religious reform, and political marginalization at the turn of the millennium.”
—Madeleine Reeves, University of Manchester

“Places that we consider remote and disconnected look different to those who live in them. Skillfully drawing on life and road trips in the Pamirs, Azan on the Moon is an inviting book that offers us an enchanting ethnography. There are numerous lessons here for scholars working at other intersections of mobility, culture, geopolitics, and nature.”
—James D. Sidaway, National University of Singapore
LIVING LANGUAGE IN KAZAKHSTAN
The Dialogic Emergence of an Ancestral Worldview
EVA-MARIE DUBUISSON

“Outstanding. This book is a rare attempt to capture what Dubuisson names as the ‘affective landscapes’ of Kazakh spirituality. By focusing on the construction of intergenerational relationships within families and broader communities, she demonstrates that the spirits of deceased ancestors play a central role in Kazakh social life, constituting a particular worldview historically rooted in an Inner Asia’s belief system.”
—Saulesh Yessenova, University of Calgary

“To understand politics in Kazakhstan, you need to understand Dubuisson’s argument. She shows how many Kazakhs, through their activities, interactions, and conversations, create a life-world where ancestors are experienced as playing an active, caring role. Because of their presence in everyday social interaction, ancestors take on a power to shape social reality and political discourse.”
—Laura Adams, author of The Spectacular State: Culture and National Identity in Uzbekistan

Eva-Marie Dubuisson provides a fascinating anthropological inquiry into the deeply ingrained presence of ancestors within the cultural, political, and spiritual discourse of Kazakhs. In a climate of authoritarianism and economic uncertainty, many people in this region turn to their forbearers for care, guidance, and advice, invoking them on a daily basis. This “living language” creates a powerful link to the past and a stable foundation for the present. Through Dubuisson’s participatory, observational, and lived experience among Kazakhs, we witness firsthand the public performances and private rituals that show how memory and identity are sustained through an oral tradition of invoking ancestors. This ancestral dialogue mediates questions of faith and morality, providing role models, and offering a mechanism for sociopolitical critique, change, and meaning making. Looking beyond studies of Islam or heritage alone, Dubuisson provides fresh insights into understanding the Kazakh world view that will serve students, researchers, NGOs, and policymakers in the region.
BREAD UPON THE WATERS
The St. Petersburg Grain Trade and the Russian Economy, 1703–1811
ROBERT E. JONES

“A superb overview of eighteenth-century agriculture and trade in Russia and should be essential reading for those interested in the empire’s economic history.”
—Russian Review

“As a study of internal market dynamics, Robert E. Jones’s work offers new insights for anyone interested in not only economic history but also social and political history of the eighteenth century. By focusing on the grain trade, Jones recovers the history of one of the largest sectors of the Russian economy and examines the equally important issue of logistics and supply within the empire.”
—Slavic Review

“A far-ranging analysis of eighteenth-century Russian economic and social history. Jones shows not only how the regime toiled to feed a fast-growing but remote city but also how that essential task reflected broader state economic policy. Specialists in Russian history—and Europeanists more generally—will appreciate and value highly this original, carefully researched study of a long but unduly neglected subject.”
—The Historian

Bread upon the Waters chronicles how the unparalleled effort put into the building of a wide infrastructure to support the provisioning of the newly created but physically isolated city of St. Petersburg profoundly affected all of Russia’s economic life and, ultimately, the historical trajectory of the Russian Empire as a whole.
“Michael Katz has provided us with an elegant, highly readable translation of a work that is an illuminating historical artifact of the Emancipation. This translation, rich in material for the social and cultural historian, should be of interest to historians of nineteenth-century Russia, and would work well in undergraduate classes at all levels.”

—Russian Review

“If you are convinced that ‘leftist’ nineteenth-century Russian literature is long-winded and boring, prepare yourself for a big surprise. Hard Times makes for an excellent read and offers a well-informed and realistic picture of life in the Russian countryside after the abolition of serfdom in 1861. Thanks to Michael Katz’s compelling translation, this gem of Russian realism is now finally available to the English-speaking reader.”

—Otto Boele, Leiden University

“[Platt] analyzes the Soviet Union’s 1937 Alexander Pushkin jubilee, which commemorated the centennial anniversary of the beloved Russian poet’s death. Greetings, Pushkin! is the most comprehensive study of the event to date, bringing together an impressive number of sources within the framework of Bakhtinian literary theory.”

—Choice

“Greetings, Pushkin! is the first comprehensive analysis of the celebrations of the centenary of Pushkin’s death. Prodigiously researched, lucid, nuanced, and captivating, this is truly an interdisciplinary study that analyzes the visual and literary arts as well as ideology, education, and cultural politics.”

—Evgeny Dobrenko, University of Sheffield
THE SOVIET GULAG
Evidence, Interpretation, and Comparison
Edited by MICHAEL DAVID-FOX

“This deeply-researched collection brings together many of the world’s best Gulag scholars. Their new research challenges the old paradigm of the Gulag existing outside Soviet society by placing it squarely in a dynamic and interactive relationship with it. These chapters allow a more nuanced understanding of the Gulag, Soviet society, and the nature of the communist experiment.”
—Deborah Kaple, Princeton University

SOCIALIST FUN
GLEB TSIPURSKY

“An invaluable resource for cultural studies students who are interested in the Soviet period.”
—H-Net Reviews

“Fascinating, original, and superbly researched. The emphasis on state-sponsored leisure culture is particularly important because it opens a window in the interactions between the state and ‘ordinary’ Soviet youth, that is, those who were not members of the intelligentsia.”
—Denise Youngblood, University of Vermont
RUSSIA IN THE GERMAN GLOBAL IMAGINARY

Imperial Visions and Utopian Desires, 1905–1941

JAMES E. CASTEEL

“Casteel argues that German images of Russia in the modern period reflected not only this international relationship but also more widely were influenced by concepts of Germany’s status in world politics, in ‘a world of empires.’ This is an important insight, and Casteel covers the subject thoroughly. He extends earlier scholarship to a global scale, and thus this is a valuable contribution to globalizing German history.”
—Vejas G. Liulevicius, University of Tennessee

WHITE SPOTS—BLACK SPOTS

Difficult Matters in Polish-Russian Relations, 1918–2008

Edited by ADAM DANIEL ROTFELD and ANATOLY V. TORKUNOV

“A remarkable book. Analyzes most of the big issues between the countries, from the Polish-Soviet war following the Bolshevik Revolution, through the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland in September 1939, the mass murder of thousands of Polish officers by Soviet security forces at Katyn in 1940, all the way to relations between Putin’s Russia and today’s Poland, a leading member of NATO and the EU. This is a specific Polish-Russian story, but we all have our difficult matters—whether in a country, a community, a company, or a family. As in this example, the search for historical truth is both cause and symptom of better political understanding.”
—Timothy Garton Ash, The Guardian
“Based on prodigious research, and framed within interdisciplinary theoretical constructs, Gerovitch has written a fascinating cultural history of Soviet space mythology and technology. This is a work of profound importance in the cultural history of technology. Elegantly written, with cogent analysis of the process of myth-making, [it] dramatically deepens our understanding of the Soviet space project writ large.”

—Russian Review

“This very readable book provides a new insight into the Soviet space programme and the way in which it has been presented to the world, both at the time and subsequently.”

—British Journal for the History of Science
**CROSSING BORDERS**

Modernity, Ideology, and Culture in Russia and the Soviet Union

MICHAEL DAVID-FOX

WINNER OF THE 2016 HISTORIA NOVA PRIZE

“This book would be suitable for any reader interested in Stalinist history. Its lucid discussion of the historiography and important concepts of Stalinism also make it particularly valuable for advanced undergraduate or graduate students.”

—Soviet and Post-Soviet Review

“A provocative work on modernity, ideology, and culture in the Russian revolutionary period through Stalin’s era. This outstanding contribution to the literature delves deeply into the politics and culture of the early Soviet experience.”

—Choice

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**BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA**

The Origins, Theories, and Legacies of Russian Eurasianism

Edited by MARK BASSIN, SERGEY GLEBOV, and MARLENE LARUELLE

“Goes a long way toward meeting the need for a multidisciplinary and multiethnic understanding of this important and fascinating current in modern Russian history. [These essays] advance our understanding of Eurasianism’s origins, the contexts within which it took shape as a movement among emigre and exile circles in interwar Europe, and its legacies across time and space—from interwar Japan to late Soviet and contemporary Russia. This volume should help readers formulate their own answers to key questions on Russia’s historical identity and the future trajectory of the post-Soviet space and the peoples that inhabit that space.”

—Russian Review

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“Makes a great contribution to our understanding of everyday life in the Soviet Union. With nuance and insight, it outlines key emotive, discursive, and tactical practices that officials and average citizens, peasants and workers, supporters and opponents, victims and perpetrators used to navigate and ultimately undermine the Soviet system.”
—Russian Review

“Using a wide array of archival sources, Rittersporn offers new insights into the workings of the Soviet Union. His attention to the depth and breadth of conspiratorial thinking in the early Soviet period and to the generation of specifically Soviet folkways are especially noteworthy.”
—Choice

“With nuance and insight, it outlines key emotive, discursive, and tactical practices that officials and average citizens, peasants and workers, supporters and opponents, victims and perpetrators used to navigate and ultimately undermine the Soviet system.”
—Slavic Review

“The essays are excellently researched empirical investigations into the Holocaust in the former Soviet Union, specifically from the point of view of local perpetrators and Soviet authorities as well as of local contemporary memory, all of which continue to provide avenues for further explorations. The editors deserve praise for collecting them together in one highly readable and inspiring volume.”
—Choice

“This valuable collection, the result of foresight by its outstanding editors, is an important milestone on the way toward a fuller scholarly understanding of the Holocaust in the East—and thus of the Holocaust itself.”
—Timothy Snyder, Yale University
Praise for the German edition:

“In his innovative and stimulating book, Malte Rolf explores with subtlety and insight the complex and contested processes of festivities, festivals, and parades through which the Communist Party and the Soviet state tried to legitimize themselves. It adds much to our knowledge of the cultural history of the Stalinist period in general and marks a welcome departure in scholarship on Soviet festivals and celebrations in particular.”
—Russian Review

“Innovative and well-written. It should interest scholars of the Soviet Union and of other state socialist societies as well as those exploring the role of festivals and choreographed displays of power in nonsocialist societies.”
—Slavic Review

“Words like ‘pioneering’ and ‘foundational’ aptly describe Hick’s extraordinary account of the long-forgotten but historically important corpus of Soviet documentary and fiction films about Nazi atrocities. Splendid archival research and an excellent filmography make this a superb resource for students of history as well as film.”
—Choice

“Feeling utterly satisfied with a book after finishing it is a very rare thing, and if a glaring gap in the historiography is filled, that satisfaction goes together with an impression of scientific achievement. This is exactly how I felt after reading [First Films of the Holocaust].”
—Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema
SWANS OF THE KREMLIN
Ballet and Power in Soviet Russia
CHRISTINA EZRAHI

“As dramatic as any of the grand ballets, Ezrahi’s investigation delves into the storied past of Russian ballet as the paragon of choreographic and balletic superiority and as a symbol of cultural supremacy under the Soviet regime. In the end, Ezrahi proves that even though art may be political, great art is not only deceitful and complex, but can rise above any ideology.”
—ForeWord Reviews

 “[Ezrahi enriches] the developing sense of how Soviet artists worked with and against the official dictates of their time, and how they responded to the incidental squabbles and long-term preoccupations with which they had to contend. Some vastly entertaining examples of the kind of bone-headed rhetoric still directed at adventurous work in the arts today (and not just in Russia) is what one might term an expected, but still welcome, bonus.”
—Times Literary Supplement

THE HISTORY OF LIBERALISM IN RUSSIA
VICTOR LEONTOVITSCH
Foreword by ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN

“An illuminating and profound analysis. One of the most thoughtful and penetrating studies that have appeared in the field of Russian history in any country for some time.”
—Donald Treadgold, American Historical Review

“We find in this history of liberalism a profound analysis of some of the key factors that made revolution possible in Russia.”
—Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, from the Foreword
THE STATE AS INVESTMENT MARKET

JOHAN ENGVALL

“A superb study that fundamentally challenges our perception of the post-Soviet Central Asian state. Engvall’s thesis is the most novel and convincing account of post-Soviet Kyrgyz state formation of the past decade.”
—Eric McGlinchey, George Mason University

Based on a detailed examination of Kyrgyzstan, Johan Engvall goes well beyond the case of this single country to elaborate a broad theory of economic corruption in developing post-Soviet states regionally—as a rational form of investment market for political elites. He reveals how would-be officials invest in offices to obtain access to income streams associated with those offices. Drawing on extensive fieldwork Engvall details how these systems work and the major implications for political and economic development in the region.

THE FORCE OF CUSTOM

Law and the Ordering of Everyday Life in Kyrgyzstan

JUDITH BEYER

“Judith Beyer has done a magnificent job of unfolding current notions of legalism among the Kyrgyz of Talas province. Her prose is crystal clear, her ethnography is rich, and her theoretical engagement is stimulating and accessible. This book deserves a place on readers’ shelves alongside the best works on the anthropology of post-socialist Eurasia.”
—Paolo Sartori, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna

Judith Beyer presents a finely-textured ethnographic study that sheds new light on the legal and moral ordering of everyday life in northwestern Kyrgyzstan. Through her extensive fieldwork, she captures the thoughts and voices of local people in two villages, Aral and Engels, and combines these with firsthand observations.

Beyer shows how local Kyrgyz negotiate proper behavior and regulate disputes by invoking custom, known to the locals as salt. While salt is presented as age-old tradition, its invocation needs to be understood as a highly developed and flexible rhetorical strategy that people adapt to suit the political, legal, economic, and religious environments.
During the 1990s, there was a general consensus that Central Asia was witnessing an Islamic revival after independence, and that this occurrence would follow similar events throughout the Islamic world in the prior two decades, which had negative effects on both social and political development. Twenty years later, we are still struggling to fully understand the transformation of Islam in a region that’s evolved through a complex and dynamic process, involving diversity in belief and practice, religious authority, and political intervention. This volume seeks to shed light on these crucial questions by bringing together an international group of scholars to offer a new perspective on Central Asian states and societies.
DESPITE CULTURES

Early Soviet Rule in Tajikistan

BOTAKOZ KASSYMBEKOVA

“Kassymbekova’s book is a highly innovative contribution to the historical study of Central Asia. Her analysis of the predicaments of establishing Soviet rule in Tajikistan is compelling. In striking detail she manages to uncover the Bolsheviks’ simultaneously radical and compromising attempts at mundane state building in the country.”

—Till Mostowlansky, National University of Singapore

“Kassymbekova offers a rich and much needed history of the early Soviet era in Tajikistan. Her archival research provides a detailed insight into people’s everyday lives. The nuanced analysis of her findings is the primary strength of this book, giving historians and students of Central Asia a chance to connect Soviet cultural policies with ordinary citizens in this previously overlooked region.”

—Ali Iğmen, California State University, Long Beach

SPEAKING SOVIET WITH AN ACCENT

Culture and Power in Kyrgyzstan

ALI IĞMEN

“The book’s special contribution lies in examining the people in charge of implementing what we would now call the ‘soft power’ policies of the Soviet revolution in Central Asia, the Kyrgyz artistic intelligentsia whose subjectivity was formed in the employ of the first Soviet clubs, theaters, and houses of culture.”

—Russian Review

“A great contribution to the growing literature on the Central Asian region. In an elaborate analysis of cultural and educational clubs in Kyrgyzstan beginning in the 1920s, Iğmen argues that Kyrgyz tradition meshed with Soviet art in the clubs to create representations of ‘Kyrgyzness.’ The book sheds light on the ways in which Kyrgyz selectively maintained certain pre-Soviet traditions while casting off others and adopting a new culture that resulted in an entirely new society.”

—International Social Science Review
UNDER SOLOMON’S THRONE

Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh

MORGAN Y. LIU

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A Cultural Encyclopedia
OSCAR SWAN
Foreword by ADAM ZAMOYSKI

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