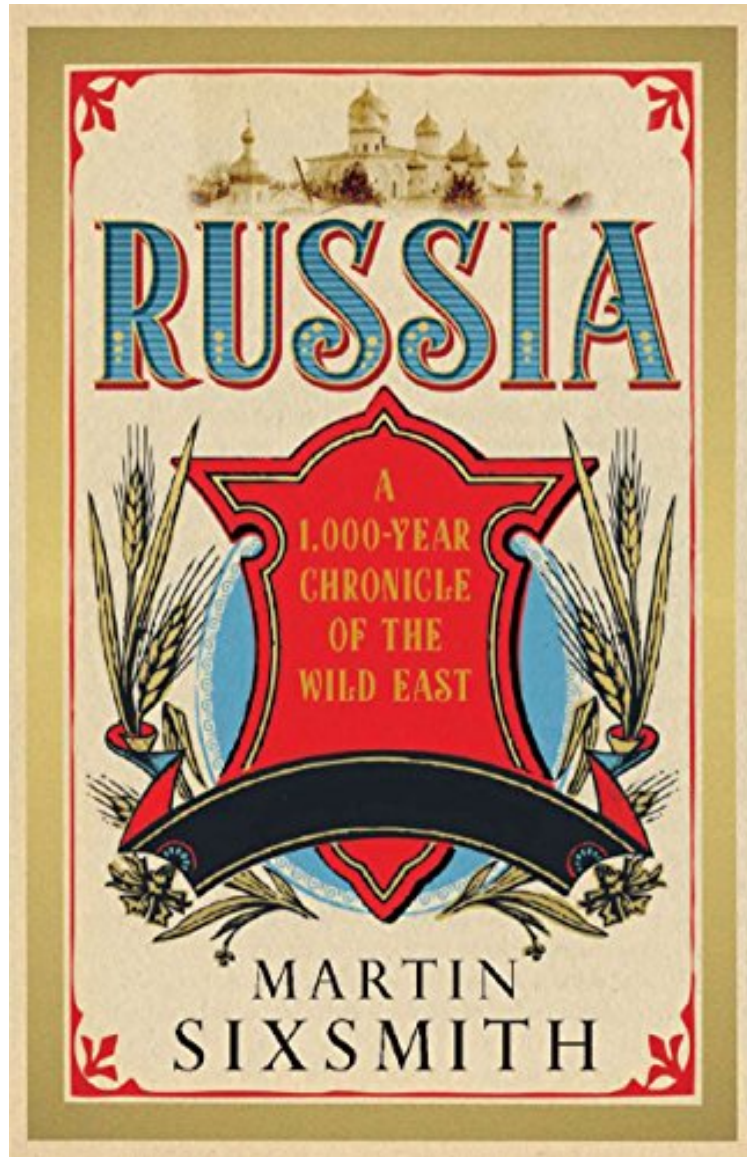


[Free and download] Russia: A 1000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East

## Russia: A 1000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East

*Martin Sixsmith*

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#331617 in Books Overlook Hardcover 2012-03-15 2012-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.28 x 1.70 x 6.20l, 1.95 #File Name: 1590207238624 pages Great product! | File size: 54.Mb

**Martin Sixsmith : Russia: A 1000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russia: A 1000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. GREAT book! By Matthew MI've re-read this book 3 times, and will do so again. One of the very best insights into the history, belief, and minds of our counterparts in the East. Sixsmith went to University in Moscow as a young man, and then returned as Moscow correspondent with the BBC News. He was there when The Wall came down. This is an excellent book for anyone who wishes to know more about a

fascinating country and peoples. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A solution to an enigma  
By Chris McPrior  
to reading Sixsmith's historical understanding of the Russian psyche, I had faintly subscribed to Churchill's "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma". However, written in historical sequence, with insight borne of actual years of reporting from Russia in its turbulent years at the end of communism, and, as the author intended, "with no value judgements", I find this one of the best books I have read after putting down the last of Robert Fisk's. From the age of 15, when I first read Tolstoy and Solzhenitsyn, I have been fascinated by the combination of Asiatic and Western values that Russia embodies. Working with Russian teachers and visiting Russia in 2007, I, three generations removed from my Russian roots, found it hard to believe that they would prefer a system based on secret police and lack of freedom of speech. Although Sixsmith does not do it, it is fascinating to compare the emergence of capitalism in Russia with that of China. As the author points out, when Yeltsin tried to enter the capitalist world, he did so at breakneck speed with little information and knowledge about the direction and relied on Western advice, (This at the time of "Greed is Good" in western financial markets) but with the rapid easing of state control. Whereas China has been more successful because they have changed over a period of decades and have only very gradually loosened the grip of state control. Sixsmith also points out the Russian tradition of State before the individual people and the autocratic domination, passed down since the beginning of their times which is perhaps why, at deciding points in their history, from a Western viewpoint, the road less travelled has been taken. This book has made me think about Russia for weeks after, regrettably, coming to the end. Unlike some journalists in the ADHD world of modern journalism who rush to a spot, spend six weeks there and then write their opinions of it, Sixsmith has lived and researched his material and couched it in a very readable style. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great to understand present day Russia  
By Ian J Marshall  
Engagingly written. Having visited most of the places mentioned in the book I loved understanding the history of each place. I feel his premise that Russia is both East and West, together with the vastness of the borders and the various invasions from Swedes, Poles, Mongols, Islam, Ottoman, Nazi, etc helps a person from the west understand the Russian psyche - why an autocrat is a good thing in Russian eyes. The insights into Orthodoxy helps those from a Latin West (Roman Catholic and Evangelical) are good and helpful. Although written before the present troubles between Russian and Ukraine and the annexing of Crimea the book helps to understand the history why Russians respect Putin as a strong leader and why they don't like being boxed in by US imperialism in the guise of NATO.

Combining in-depth research with his personal experiences as the BBC Moscow correspondent for almost twenty years, Sixsmith tells Russia's full and fascinating story, from its foundation in the last years of the tenth century to the first years of the twenty-first, skillfully tracing the conundrums of modern Russia to their roots in its troubled past. Covering politics, music, literature and art, he explores the myths Russians have created from their history. Marking the twentieth anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the complex political landscape of Russia and its unique place in the modern world.

"Russia delivers a thoroughly satisfying history...a lively opinionated narrative." — Publishers Weekly  
"Russia, a 1,000 Year Chronicle of the Wild East has all the ingredients to become the leading popular history of Russia. Colloquial, personal and anecdotal in style . . . well researched and factually sound." — The Times Literary Supplement  
"Sixsmith immerses readers in the Russian landscape and peoples with descriptions of places he's visited and quotations of poetry . . . Sixsmith effectively updates the continuities of Russian history, motivating readers to check out such scholarly surveys as Russia and the Russians, by Geoffrey Hosking." — Booklist  
"Among the many contemporary books about Russia, general readers are likely to choose Sixsmith's 600-page tome for its comprehensiveness and air of authority. As popular history, it is enjoyable and engaging." — Reading Behind the Lines, Russia  
"This entertaining, informative book presents a sweeping portrait of the entirety of Russian history from the founding of the first state on Russian soil in the ninth century to the present." — --CHOICE  
About the Author  
Martin Sixsmith is the author of Moscow Coup: The Death of the Soviet System, The Litvinenko file: The True Story of a Death Foretold, and two novels. Educated at Harvard, Oxford, and the Sorbonne, he was the BBC Moscow correspondent for many years.