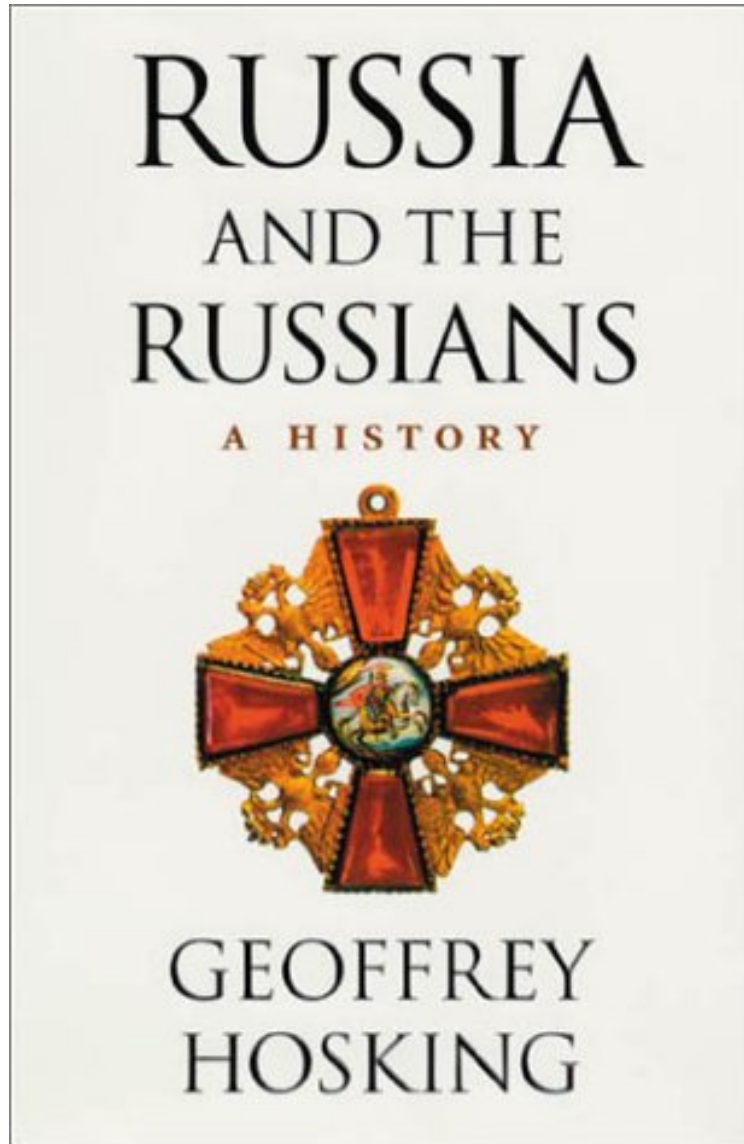


(Free) Russia and the Russians: A History

Russia and the Russians: A History

Geoffrey Hosking

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Geoffrey Hosking : Russia and the Russians: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russia and the Russians: A History:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Complete history from pre-imperial Rus to Putin's Russian Federation By William A. Heidecker One of the best written books I've read and I'm an avid reader as well as someone who has always had an interest in Russia. The book is a joy to read. It is lengthy (622 pages plus notes and index). At this particular time (summer 2014), understanding Russian history and culture makes it easier to understand the basis

for the Russian government's actions and this book certainly does that. My only criticism is that Hosking uses Russian words (e.g., *artel*), which he defines once, but then re-uses the words. I understand the author's desire to use Russian words, some of which don't always clearly translate into English, but a vocabulary appendix would help. I found it useful to build my own with the help of a Russian dictionary. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and detailed. By Veronica The book ranges from every peice of history from Russia reaching from their farthest beginnings of Russia to the outcomes on the fall of the Soviet Union. In the very beginning it also describes Russia's geographical/agricultural status and then moves on to their steady development. I would highly recommend this book to anyone; whether you are doing research or just interested in history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Everything I Never even Knew I wanted to Know about Russia and the Soviet Union. By Robert W. Harris This is a very readable and enjoyable book about every aspect of Russian History from the beginning of time through the collapse of the Soviet Union. This book explains the if-then phenomena of Russian and Slavic history.

From the Carpathians in the west to the Greater Khingan range in the east, a huge, flat expanse dominates the Eurasian continent. Here, over more than a thousand years, the history and destiny of Russia have unfolded. In a sweeping narrative, one of the English-speaking world's leading historians of Russia follows this story from the first emergence of the Slavs in the historical record in the sixth century C.E. to the Russians' persistent appearances in today's headlines. Hosking's is a monumental story of competing legacies, of an enormous power uneasily balanced between the ideas and realities of Asian empire, European culture, and Byzantine religion; of a constantly shifting identity, from Kievan Rus to Muscovy to Russian Empire to Soviet Union to Russian Federation, and of Tsars and leaders struggling to articulate that identity over the centuries. With particular attention to non-Russian regions and ethnic groups and to Russia's relations with neighboring polities, Hosking lays out the links between political, economic, social, and cultural phenomena that have made Russia what it is--a world at once familiar and mysterious to Western observers. In a clear and engaging style, he conducts us through the Mongol invasions, the rise of autocracy, the reigns of Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, the battle against Napoleon, the emancipation of the serfs, the Crimean War, the Bolshevik Revolution, Stalin's reign of terror, the two World Wars, the end of the USSR, to today's war against Chechnya. Hosking's history is shot through with the understanding that becoming an empire has prevented Russia from becoming a nation and has perpetuated archaic personal forms of power. This book is the most penetrating and comprehensive account yet of what such a legacy has meant--to Russia, and to the world.

From Publishers Weekly To demonstrate that Russia's recent political and socioeconomic problems do not mean that she "need no longer be taken seriously... as threat or as potential ally," Hosking ambitiously and diligently explores the nation's cycles of reform, censorship and expansion from A.D. 626 through the 2000 election of Prime Minister Putin. Hosking (*The Awakening of the Soviet Union*), professor of Russian history at the University of London, contends that resources stretched thin over a vast, disparate empire have prevented Russia from developing into a cohesive nation. A helpful introduction to Russia's topography and ecology, followed by chronological chapters such as "Kievan Rus, the Mongols, and the Rise of Muscovy" and "Soviet Society Takes Shape," with special attention to popular culture, academic trends and influential nonconformist thinkers, afford both survey and specifics. Some readers will find points of contention, as when Hosking reduces the profound impact of agricultural collectivization. For instance, he attributes the great Ukrainian famines of the 1930s, which many historians believe were purposefully exacerbated by the Soviet government, to "a dry summer" that yielded "an exceptionally poor grain harvest," without due analysis of other causes. Additionally, Hosking attributes the sharp increase of orphans during the 1930s primarily to civil war, collectivization and urbanization, noting, "clearly it was also linked to the legislative weakening of the family" (i.e., the legalization of abortion, civil marriage, divorce and equal property rights between men and women), without providing concrete evidence for this causality. But Hosking's immense knowledge and clear, concise analyses provide ample grist for university students and amateur historians. Illus., maps and tables not seen by PW. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Hosking (Russian history, Univ. of London) offers a comprehensive survey from the beginnings of Kievan Rus through Russia's recent independence, emphasizing the impact of relations between Russians and non-Russians. When Russia was "the largest empire on earth" in the mid-17th century, the imperial Rossiiskii and the ethnic Russkii held unresolved and conflicting ideals. No less fundamental were conflicts between Russia's peasant society and its industrialization, the "sacralizing of the monarchy," and the power of the Russian Orthodox Church. This cogent pre-Revolutionary interpretation nicely complements recent archival revelations from the Soviet era (e.g., census data showing that between 1939 and 1946 Russia's "global losses" amounted to some 47 million persons). Hosking claims that Gorbachev's "fundamental dilemma" was his dependence on implementing reforms of the very "patron-client network" he was hoping to replace. Although the author's earlier work, *The First Socialist Society*, is more focused, this book's strength lies in its revealing Russia's enduring continuities. The result compares favorably with some of the best Russian histories of recent decades while also consolidating new scholarship. Highly recommended for academic and public libraries. Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist For

the thousand years of its recorded existence, Russia's history has been as dramatic, tragic, and inspiring as that of any nation, exerting a perennial attraction that cries for the one-volume introduction Hosking is well equipped to provide. His book is especially welcome because he links the Communist era, now that it is over, to the enduring themes of the Russian experience. Two factors have influenced the Russian past: climate and geography. The former shaped the character of its peoples; the latter, the nature of its state. Without natural barriers to reinforce them, Russia's borders have always been fluid, contracting during invasions and internal crises, expanding in times of conquest. These realities have promoted in every age, from the forced conversion to Christianity to Peter the Great's reforms to the recentralizing impetus of post-Soviet governments, a powerful state with autocratic impulses. Hosking relates that tendency to the imperial character of Russian expansion and the conflicting notions of Russian identity engendered by imperialism. This is a high-quality overview, suitable for all libraries. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved