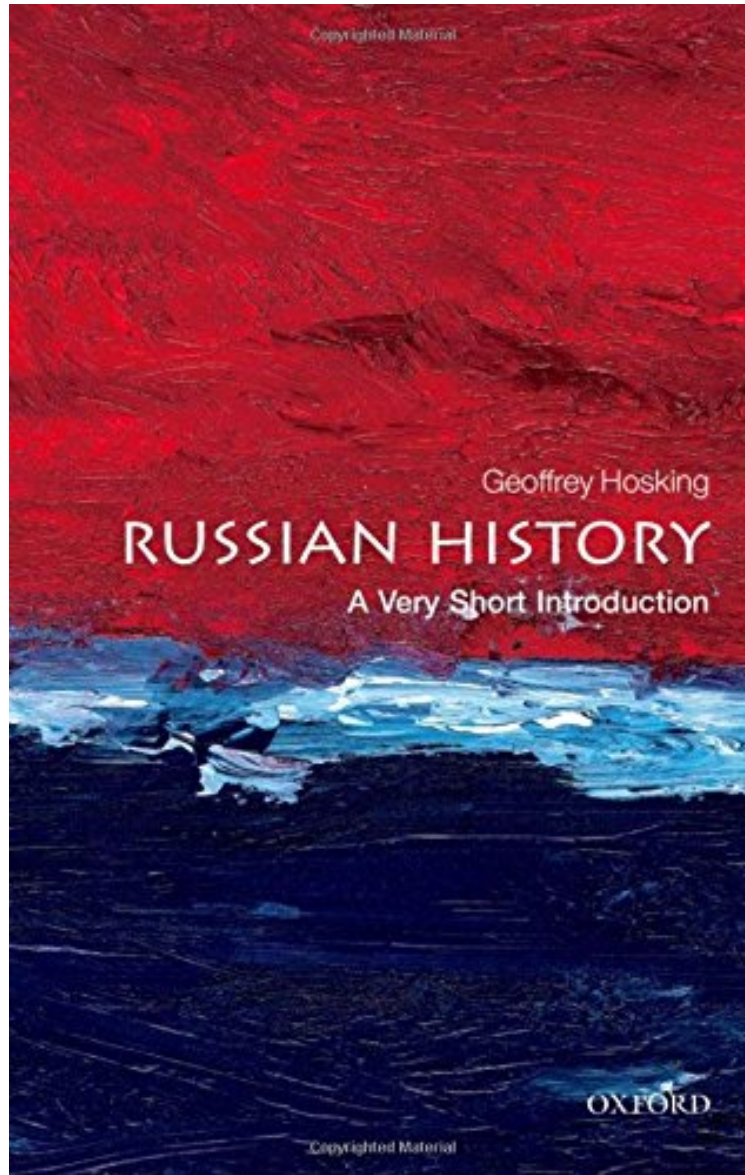


[Free pdf] Russian History: A Very Short Introduction

Russian History: A Very Short Introduction

Geoffrey Hosking

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Geoffrey Hosking : Russian History: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russian History: A Very Short Introduction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. then I would highly recommend picking up his workBy SamIf you consider yourself to be unfamiliar with early Russian history, as I did before reading Hosking's book, then I would highly recommend picking up his work. This introductory piece travels across nearly 800 years of Russian history,

outlining important dates, people, and other events that all culminated into the nation that Russia is today. A primary aspect of Hosking's writing that made it both an effective and thought-provoking introduction was his attempt to weave an understanding of the Russian people's mentality into his accounts of the historical events that made up Russia's rise as an empire. As early as the 13th century he recounts of a Mongol horde that became just the earliest example of assailants that would attempt to take the country by force. He revisits this idealistic viewpoint through Alexander's abandonment of Moscow during the invasion of Napoleon's "Grande Armée" in the early 19th century (Pages 50-51). Many various events are replayed throughout that involve the Russian people striving to endure from one enemy or another, which Hosking masterfully frames as being integral to the Russian lifestyle. Hosking was additionally able to project these ideals of strength and durability onto the leaders of the Russian Empire with some success throughout this brief introductory piece. He contextualizes that because this nation had faced struggles throughout its entire existence, the Tsars were given the dual role of ensuring security for the Russian people, as well as continuing to advance the country to the forefront of the countries in Europe. Peter the Great, Tsar from 1682 to 1725, had the foresight see that Russia needed to be a part of Europe to ensure its presence on the world stage as a power, and that serfs could be swayed to join the military by simply giving them a higher pay than they earned in their serfdom. This second point is outlined on page 38, stating that "[w]hen peasants joined the army, their lives were transformed...[t]hey ceased to be serfs and gained a few modest rights – a uniform, [and] regular pay." Peter was essentially greatly rewarding them for their willingness to fight and die for the Russian Empire. My only critique of Hosking's work is that which he could not control, which was the brevity of the work itself. Obviously the intention of the piece was to be concise, yet this route leads to a skimming over of many major people and events that otherwise would have required in-depth explanations for readers to fully comprehend. However, that point aside, Geoffrey Hosking is successful in compressing the events of nearly 800 years of Russian history into just 154 short pages. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **SHORT BUT INFORMATIVE** By Sid Harris A Short but easy to read history of Russia. It can not possibly cover the complexity of all Russian history. A good introduction. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. **Russian History In A Nutshell** By Robert W. Harris Very concise, very short complete history of Russia, the Russians and other Slavic people, and the Soviet Union. I studied the larger book by Mr. Hosking.

Russia's sheer size has made it difficult to mobilize resources and to govern effectively, especially given its harsh climate, vast and vulnerable borders, and the diversity of its people. In this Very Short Introduction, Geoffrey Hosking discusses all aspects of Russian history, from the struggle by the state to control society to the transformation of the nation into a multi-ethnic empire, Russia's relations with the West, and the post-Soviet era. Hosking, a leading international authority, examines Russian history in an impartial way, arguing that "Good Russia" and "Bad Russia" are one and the same. He also evaluates important individuals in Russian history, from Peter the Great and Catherine II to Lenin and Stalin.

recommend[ed] to everyone who is eager to get an insight view into Russian, Soviet and post-Soviet history of the (until now) biggest country in Eurasia. * Zaur Gasimov, *Jahrbucher fur Geschichte Osteuropas* * A beautifully written volume ... Hosking gives us significant details and real insight * *Spectator* * Hosking is a master storyteller * *The Week* * About the Author Geoffrey Hosking is Emeritus Professor of Russian History at University College London.