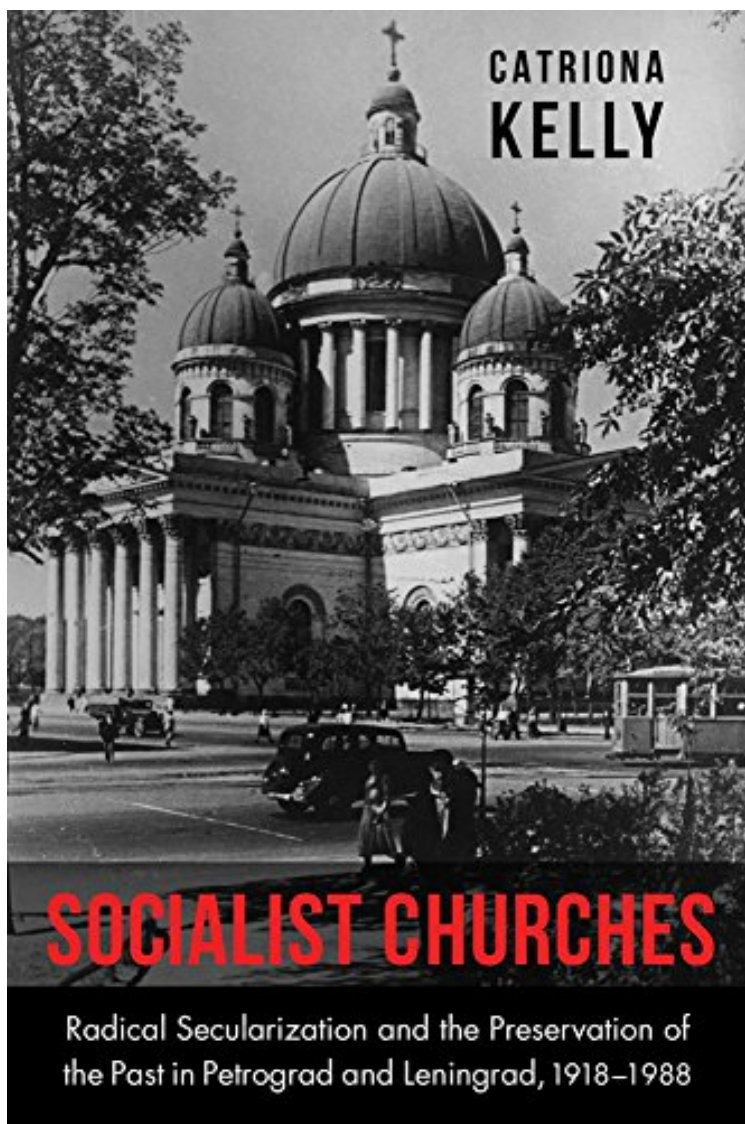


[PDF] Socialist Churches: Radical Secularization and the Preservation of the Past in Petrograd and Leningrad, 1918–1988

## Socialist Churches: Radical Secularization and the Preservation of the Past in Petrograd and Leningrad, 1918–1988

*Catriona Kelly*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3016996 in Books 2016-11-01 Original language: English 9.00 x 1.50 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0875807437440 pages | File size: 60.Mb

**Catriona Kelly : Socialist Churches: Radical Secularization and the Preservation of the Past in Petrograd and Leningrad, 1918–1988** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Socialist Churches: Radical Secularization and the Preservation of the Past in Petrograd and Leningrad,

1918–1988:

In Russia, legislation on the separation of church and state in early 1918 marginalized religious faith and raised pressing questions about what was to be done with church buildings. While associated with suspect beliefs, they were also regarded as structures with potential practical uses, and some were considered works of art. This engaging study draws on religious anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, and history to explore the fate of these “socialist churches,” showing how attitudes and practices related to them were shaped both by laws on the preservation of monuments and anti-religious measures. Advocates of preservation, while sincere in their desire to save the buildings, were indifferent, if not hostile, to their religious purpose. Believers, on the other hand, regarded preservation laws as irritants, except when they provided leverage for use of the buildings by church communities. The situation was eased by the growing rapprochement of the Orthodox Church and Soviet state organizations after 1943, but not fully resolved until the Soviet Union fell apart. Based on abundant archival documentation, Catriona Kelly’s powerful narrative portrays the human tragedies and compromises, but also the remarkable achievements, of those who fought to preserve these important buildings over the course of seven decades of state atheism. Socialist Churches will appeal to specialists, students, and general readers interested in church history, the history of architecture, and Russian art, history, and cultural studies.

“This is a major contribution to the field; there is no similar work. It opens a new lens for us to understand the Soviet Union and also complements work on church history, historic preservation, and city planning. Kelly engages extensively with the literature in all of those fields and manages to pack an incredible amount of detail into a highly readable and engaging text.” —Karl Qualls, author of *From Ruins to Reconstruction: Urban Identity in Soviet Sevastopol after World War II* “This manuscript offers a richly detailed study of churches in St. Petersburg-Leningrad over some eight decades, with the focus on policy and its implementation with respect to Russian Orthodox Churches. The work draws on an impressive source base—oral history as well as an array of archival and printed sources, much of it local. The account offered here adds a valuable new perspective on the battle between partocrats and preservationists, with fascinating material on the resistance by clergy and lay believers such policies as the confiscation of church valuables and closing of parish churches.” —Gregory Freeze, Brandeis University “Kelly clearly outlines the balancing act that officials undertook between state atheism and religious freedom, including employing inaction that achieved secularist goals through lack of financial support for repair. The work effectively challenges the assumption that Soviet Russia was entirely hostile to religious belief and practice.” —Publishers Weekly