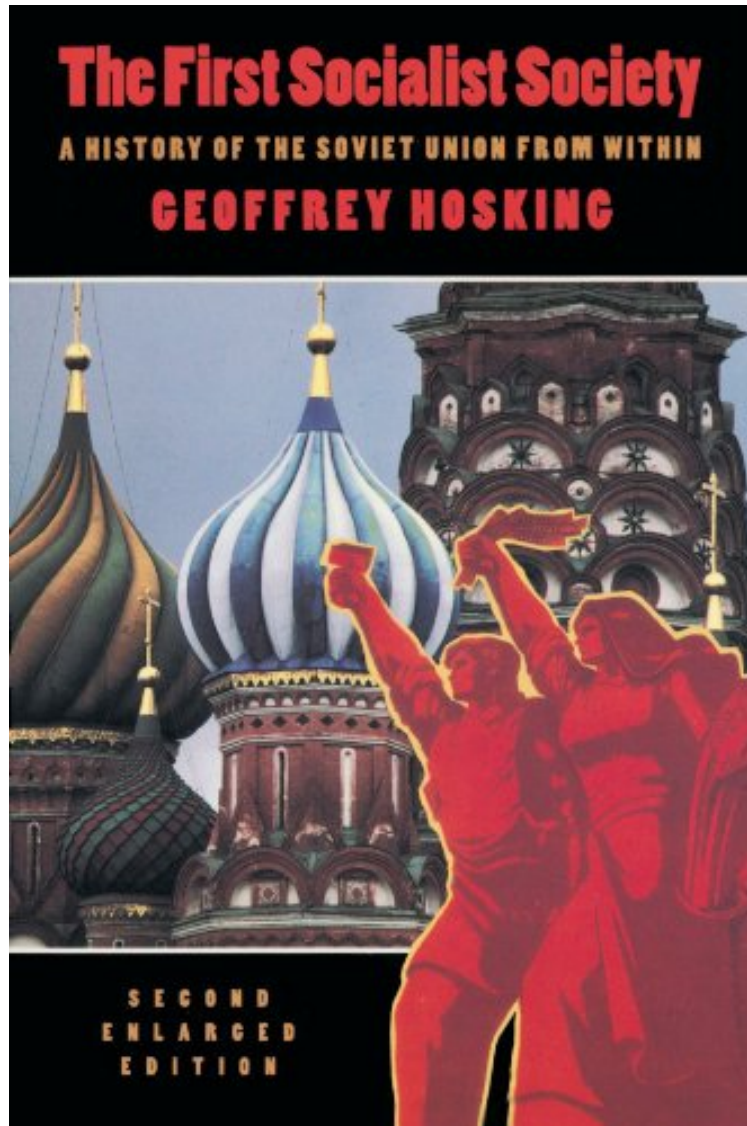


# The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within, Second Enlarged Edition

*Geoffrey Hosking*

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



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#396313 in Books Harvard University Press 1992-01-01 1997-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.45 x 6.13l, 1.80 #File Name: 0674304438570 pages | File size: 57.Mb

**Geoffrey Hosking : The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within, Second Enlarged Edition** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within, Second Enlarged Edition:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great source about the rise, development and collapse of the USSR By Armand M. Inezian A great source of information about the rise, development and collapse of the USSR

(1921-1991). I learned so much from reading this work and found Hosking's writing to be generally accessible, and it helps too that he doesn't write like a robot but rather like a human being. He does not shy from expressing sympathy for the victims of the USSR's million atrocities, violations, affronts, and indignities. Hosking does a nice job of smoothly moving us from the macro level to the macro in a few sentences. For example, he might start a paragraph by discussing the general state of Jewish life in Khrushchev's Russia, then discuss the Jews of "the Pale" (far Western Russia) specifically, and then write about the Russian prosecution of synagogues, and follow all that up with one specific bit of evidence maybe- for example- by citing a letter ordering the closing of a single synagogue in Kiev. I believe the book was written with college students in mind, but it's also very accessible- I would argue- to anyone who is interested in history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource on the Soviet period  
By John Desmond  
Very solid history and a good companion to Hosking's earlier work on Russia up to the Revolution. Maybe a tad apologetic about the regime and its leaders, but only a bit.  
14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Dense and well written  
By Quiet Wanderer  
This book is dense and incredibly well written. Anyone wanting to truly get insight into why the USSR came to being needs to read this. The First Socialist Society does not get mired in political pandering or revisionist history that all too often clouds the discussion of communism. The sheer complexity of the revolution and the very real toll it took on the founders of the revolutionist state during a time of war shed light on why the Soviet Union came to be such a brutal society. It also begins to expose why through human nature, greed, and incompetence, true socialism and communism will likely never thrive or be given another chance to even exist in the foreseeable future (and for good reason). A must read for anyone serious about understanding what lies to the East of most travelers destinations.

The First Socialist Society is the compelling and often tragic history of what Soviet citizens have lived through from 1917 to the present, told with great sympathy and perception. It ranges over the changing lives of peasants, urban workers, and professionals; the interaction of Soviet autocrats with the people; the character and role of religion, law, education, and literature within Soviet society; and the significance and fate of various national groups. As the story unfolds, we come to understand how the ideas of Marxism have been changed, taking on almost unrecognizable forms by unique political and economic circumstances. Hosking's analysis of this vast and complex country begins by asking how it was that the first socialist revolution took place in backward, autocratic Russia. Why were the Bolsheviks able to seize power and hold on to it? The core of the book lies in the years of Stalin's rule: how did he exercise such unlimited power, and how did the various strata of society survive and come to terms with his tyranny? The later chapters recount Khrushchev's efforts to reform the worst features of Stalinism, and the unpredictable effects of his attempts within the East European satellite countries, bringing out elements of socialism that had been obscured or overlaid in the Soviet Union itself. And in the aftermath of the long Brezhnev years of stagnation and corruption, the question is posed: can Soviet society find a way to modify the rigidities inherited from the Stalinist past?

The First Socialist Society...allows its readers to go far beyond Moscow and the Kremlin to take a closer look at Soviet life in historical perspective...Hosking offers a fresh--and refreshing--look at the Soviet Union in the 1980s that is both well-informed and provocative. (W. Bruce Lincoln Los Angeles Times) This is a first-rate introduction to Russian history since 1917...No one reading it can fail to be impressed by its sound sense, its mature weighing up of the issues and its considered judgments. It should certainly be in the hands of everyone wishing to be informed about present-day Russia. (Pierre Watter Times Educational Supplement) Professor Hosking's lively and well-informed history of the whole period from 1917 to 1984 covers not only politics and society but also religion and the nationalities, difficult subjects which are often neglected...The outstanding merit of Professor Hosking's book...is that the author knows and understands Russians, and brings this understanding to bear on his study of history. This stimulating study...will help students to think about the significance of the Soviet experience, and to begin to appreciate what it has been like to be a Russian in this terrible and glorious century. (R. W. Davies Times Higher Education Supplement) About the Author  
Geoffrey Hosking is Emeritus Professor of Russian History at University College London.