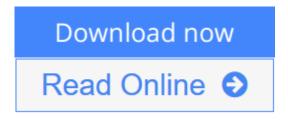


The Russia Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The World Readers)

From Duke University Press Books



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Letters recording the reactions of ordinary Russians to the Revolution as events unfolded in 1917, an account of the day-to-day scramble to make a living after the end of the Soviet Union, and excerpts from a sixteenth-century manual instructing elite Muscovites on proper household management—*The Russia Reader* brings these and many other selections together in this introduction to the history, culture, and politics of the world's largest country, from the earliest written accounts of the Russian people to today. Conveying the texture of everyday life alongside experiences of epic historical events, the book is filled with the voices of men and women, rulers and revolutionaries, peasants, soldiers, literary figures, émigrés, journalists, and scholars. Most of the selections are by Russians, and thirty are translated into English for the first time.

Illustrated with maps, paintings, photographs, posters, and cartoons, *The Russia Reader* incorporates song lyrics, jokes, anecdotes, and folktales, as well as poems, essays, and fiction by writers including Akhmatova, Dostoyevsky, Pushkin, and Tolstoi. Transcripts from the show trials of major Party figures and an account of how staff at the Lenin Library in Moscow were instructed to interact with foreigners are among the many selections based on personal memoirs and archival materials only recently made available to the public. From a tenth-century emissary's description of his encounters in Kyivan Rus', to a scientist's recollections of her life in a new research city built from scratch in Siberia during the 1950s, to a novelist's depiction of the decadence of the "New Russians" in the 2000s, *The Russia Reader* is an extraordinary introduction to a vast and varied country.



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Sales Rank: #573021 in BooksPublished on: 2010-07-12Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.30" h x 1.90" w x 6.10" l, 2.48 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 784 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"For the reader who desires to take a first dip into Russian history and culture but is overwhelmed by the vast amount of work available, *The Russia Reader* is the ideal starting point." - Viktoria Ivanyutina, *The Moscow Times*

"If you purchase just one non-fiction book on Russia this year, make it this one. An eclectic, rich compendium of readings that covers a very broad swath of Russian history and culture. . . . Surely to be a popular choice for college survey courses on Russian history, this volume offers a wealth of knowledge for anyone with an interest in things Russian. And it does not require systematic reading, front to back. In fact, it rewards the serendipitous reader: no matter where you dip into it, you are sure to be enthralled." - Paul E. Richardson, *Russian Life*

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"Adele Barker and Bruce Grant have selected a fascinating group of writings reflecting Russian reality, past and present, most by Russians themselves. The selections make absorbing reading and convey insights that penetrate the veil of mystery that has so long obscured the 'Russian soul.""—Jack F. Matlock Jr., United

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(Stephen M. Norris Anthropology of East Europe Review)

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From the Back Cover

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