



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

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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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## **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*

“The Russia surveyed here is one that reveals the complex layers of history that have accumulated over time and the voices that Barker and Grant marshal in telling Russia’s history are engaging and innovative ones. . . . *The Russia Reader* should interest any . . . traveler looking for a rich introduction into the history, culture, and politics of Russia.” - Stephen M. Norris, *Anthropology of East Europe Review*

“*The Russia Reader* is excellent. It is a tremendous introduction for the newcomer to Russian history and culture, and even the well-versed reader should find fascinating new material amongst the rich variety collected here.” - Mary Bailes, *Scotland-Russia Review*

“This volume represents, in the truest sense of the phrase, a Herculean effort. . . . In compiling an eclectic mixture of stand-alone articles and excerpts from existing and newly commissioned translations. . . . Adele Barker and Bruce Grant seek to provide a one-stop source for students and travelers. For the most part, they have succeeded admirably.” - Kathleen Parthé, *Slavic and East European Journal*

“*The Russia Reader* provides a wonderful overview of Russian life and culture across the centuries, from the emergence of Muscovy and Russian Orthodoxy to the present day. The editors have done a remarkable job in selecting a range of texts that offer a sweeping overview of the complexity and passion of Russian life, and their brief introductions helpfully situate the texts. Whether readers follow the fate of Russia chronologically or use the book as a kaleidoscope to explore different facets of Russian life and culture, they will find a treasure trove of beautiful, dramatic, and tragic readings for exploring Russian history and culture across the ages.”—Peter Holquist, University of Pennsylvania

“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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From the Back Cover

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## **Users Review**

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A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book *The Russia Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The World Readers)* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

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