

All The Empty Palaces The Merchant Patrons Of Modern Art In Pre Revolutionary Russia

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in this magisterial and exciting book ulam offers a brilliant history of russian political and intellectual life in those critical years from 1855 to 1884 and describes the

successive conspiracies that shook the edifice of tsarist autocracy

the russian revolution of 1917 has often been presented as a complete break with the past with everything which had gone before swept away and all aspects of politics economy and society reformed and made new recently however historians have increasingly come to question this view discovering that tsarist russia was much more entangled in the processes of modernisation and that the new regime contained much more continuity than has previously been acknowledged this book presents new research findings on a range of different aspects of russian society both showing how there was much change before 1917 and much continuity afterwards and also going beyond this to show that the new soviet regime established in the 1920s with its vision of the new soviet person was in fact based on a complicated mixture of new soviet thinking and ideas developed before 1917 by a variety of non bolshevik movements

this short and updated introduction by one of europe s leading specialists in russian and soviet history presents a broad survey combined with a penetrating analysis of the key issues of the russian revolution such as the nature of pre revolutionary society and politics the many links between war and revolution e g the effects of the war on the bolshevik theory of revolution the possibilities open to the provisional government political alternatives to bolshevism and the place of the revolution in contemporary intellectual debate in the west the particular originality of this volume lies in the fact that the author also examines the way in which these issues were viewed both at the time and later he looks at contemporary 1917 assumptions at the validity of questions traditionally asked about the revolution and concerns himself with the degree of hindsight and ideological basis contained both in the questions themselves and in the answers usually given to them the author s knowledge of works in russian as well as in german english and french add to the indispensability of this book

my interest in the topic of this book traces back over more than ten years to my interest in the history of political parties in pre revolutionary russia to my late tutor professor reinhard wittram who guided me during my undergraduate and post graduate days as a student at the university of gottingen i owe a special gratitude for giving my interest its special focus i am indebted to him for my academic training more than this book may indicate he did not see the results of his influence but he followed my preparatory work with both sympathy and critical attention my thanks are due equally to professors hans roos bochum and rudolf vierhaus gbttingen whose constant advice and help meant continued encouragement i am further obliged to professors dietrich geyer tiibingen and hans kaiset oldenburg and their critical reading of the 1973 draft of my book in 1977 78 during my revision of the manuscript and its preparation for publication the most important suggestions came to me from many discussions deep into the night with my friend jurgen jahnke to the many others whose names do not appear here i owe my thanks for their help and encouragement

nineteenth century russian intellectuals were faced with a dilemma they had to choose between modernizing their country thus imitating the west or reaffirming what was perceived as their country's own values and thereby risk remaining socially underdeveloped and unable to compete with western powers scholars have argued that this led to the emergence of an anti western anti modern ethnic nationalism in this innovative book susanna rabow edling shows that there was another solution to the conflicting agendas of modernization and cultural authenticity a russian liberal nationalism this nationalism took various forms during the long nineteenth century but aimed to promote reforms through a combination of liberalism nationalism and imperialism

the status of women in russia shifted dramatically only twice in its history up to the 1917 revolution the initial change came with muscovite rule in the fourteenth century during the tatar yoke the orthodox church influenced society greatly women were portrayed in the church as simultaneously being pious mother or vindictive temptress subjection to this order lasted in rural culture through the next dramatic shift for women in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries peter the great's many westernizing reforms in the eighteenth century began to open the russian empire up to different european ideas in turn these european influences would open many opportunities for russian women from page 1

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