

# Selling Russia's Treasures Soviet Nationalized

Selling Russia's Treasures Art Treasures in Soviet Russia Soviet Russia Pictorial Slavonic fairy tales, collected and tr. from the Russian, Polish, Servian and Bohemian, by J.T. Naaké Treasures of Russian Art in the 11th-16th Centuries (painting) The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review The Soviet Union The Current Digest of the Post-Soviet Press The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History Religion in Soviet Russia Treasure of Russian Shells Soviet Russia The Troubled Birth of Russian Democracy Russian Prose Writers After World War II Russian Life Political History of Russia Slavic and Russian Books and Libraries Dictionary Catalog of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, 1911-1971 Holocaust-era Assets Impressions of Soviet Russia N. I. U. Semenova Sir William Martin Conway John Theophilus Naaké Mikhail Vladimirovich Alpatov Aron Katsenelinboigen Joseph L. Wieczynski William Chauncey Emhardt K. S. Hirlekar Michael McFaul Christine Rydel Edward Kasinec New York Public Library. Research Libraries United States. National Archives and Records Administration Charles Sarolea

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Selling Russia's Treasures documents one of the great cultural dramas of the twentieth century: the sale by a cash-hungry Soviet government of the artistic treasures accumulated by the Russian aristocracy over the centuries and nationalized after the October 1917 revolution. An astonishing variety of objects from icons and illuminated manuscripts to Fabergé eggs and old master paintings entered the collections of wealthy westerners like Andrew Mellon and Armand Hammer in the 1920s and 30s, written by the leading experts in

the field and long regarded as the definitive book on the subject the original russian edition of selling russia s treasures is sought after scholars and laymen alike now for the first time it is made available in english in a revised and expanded edition that includes a new chapter on the secret files of the hermitage previously considered lost as well as new research on the sale of religious art and of twentieth century french masterworks from the museum of new western art numerous color plates reunite long dispersed works in a virtual museum that illustrates the powerful blow inflicted on russia s cultural heritage by these secretive sales and rare photographs and archival documents help bring this buried history to light

political change in the soviet union never seemed more likely than in the period of glasnost and perestroika the soviet union 1917 1991 examines some of the less well explored areas of soviet political and economic life to develop a feasible set of alternatives for future soviet development and to establish which ones the system is predisposed to select katsenelinboigen takes on these difficult questions is it wise to develop glasnost in ways that allow masses to participate in the solution of strategic national problems can soviet military expenses be reduced only to direct ones or is the whole soviet economy military oriented what explains widespread corruption among soviet officials can market institutions be introduced into the soviet economy and if so how is this best accomplished rather than focusing on a single dimension such as authoritarianism versus democracy his analysis incorporates multidimensional perspectives among them pluralism division of powers and openness participation of competent and responsible people in decision making which permit a more precise understanding of the limits of present options and allow him to develop new policy prospects although this book is about the soviet union the approaches katsenelinboigen uses have application in other contexts his discussion of inflation for example and why it is found in planned as well as market economies has important implications for many developing countries it will be of interest to those who seek a new perspective on events in the soviet union as well as specialists in international relations political science and economics

the demise of communism in the soviet union could not have occurred without the activism of dissident anticomunist leaders who created and nourished a climate in which ordinary russians gained the courage to stand up to and defeat communist control but with communism ousted what new form of government and what new leaders will emerge in russia a society that has never known democracy michael mcfaul a research associate at stanford university s center for international security and arms control and sergei markov an assistant professor at moscow state university interviewed anti communist leaders and collected the documents of anticomunist parties in the months preceding and immediately following the august 1991 attempted coup d etat to examine the range of the political spectrum in russia they also talked to procommunist leaders who emerged to oppose mikhail gorbachev s reforms nationalist and anti semitic leaders of movements such as pamyat labor unions christian movements and organizations opposed to the

division of the soviet union what emerges is a kaleidoscope of leaders with distinct ideas on key issues facing russia how to reform the economy what role the market should play in a new economic system how to respond to growing demands from non russian republics for independence what leaders can be trusted what russia s relations with the west should be and what form of government would be best for russia gathered here are essays offering historical background on the parties selected interviews with prominent members of these groups and important party documents whether democracy will flourish in russia remains in question the parties profiled here actively involved in the debate over russia s future offer readers an insider s look into contemporary russian politics

whether the writers in this period described the war the great terror the gulag experience exile repression or simply everyday life in the city or in the country they generally turned to a major theme of russian literature since the revolution the fate of the individual human being in a mass state in the literature often the state won due to its power at other times individuals triumphed because of their moral convictions the same can be said of these writers

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