

[PDF] Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent: Faith and Power in the New Russia

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John Garrard, Carol Garrard : Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent: Faith and Power in the New Russia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent: Faith and Power in the New Russia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY RESURGENT : FAITH AND POWER IN THE NEW RUSSIA By ALBERTO NAVARRO IN THE WEST THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THOUGHTS OF HOW THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS COMMUNIST SYSTEM FELL DOWN; THE CONSERVATIVES SAID

THAT IT WAS THE REAGAN POLICY THAT BROKE DOWN THE SOVIET UNION, WHILE THE LIBERALS SAID IT WAS THE REFORMS MADE BY GORBACHOV, HOWEVER BOTH OF THEM MISSED THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THE MORAL AUTHORITY OF THE MILLENNARIAN RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH THAT DATES BACK TO 987 WHEN PRINCE VLADIMIR THE GREAT CONVERTED THE PEOPLE OF RUS TO THE BYZANTINE BRANCH OF CHRISTIANITY; THIS BOOK FILLS THAT GAP, IT STARTS WITH THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE PATRIARCH ALEKSY II (A FORMER KGB AGENT) IN DEFEATING THE NEO-STALINIST COUP OF AUGUST 1991. AFTER SEVENTY YEARS OF COMMUNISM, THE MOST CRIMINAL AND PERVERSE TYRANNY THAT HUMANKIND HAS EVER HAD THAT IMPOSED ATHEISM, THERE WAS A REBIRTH OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH; THE AUTHORS EXPLAINED THE WORK DONE BY THE PATRIARCH IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCHES WHICH WERE DESTROYED AND DESECRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. THE PATRIARCH TRIED TO CONCILIATE THE OFFICIAL CHURCH WITH THE FREE ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD, IN THE END HE WAS SUCCESSFUL, HE HAS A LOT OF CREDIT IN AVERTING THE BLOODSHED THAT PLAGUED FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. WHEN VLADIMIR PUTIN CAME TO POWER ORTHODOXY BECAME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW RUSSIA, MAINTAINING A DUE TOLERANCE AND FREEDOM TO THE OTHER RELIGIONS. AS IT EXPECTED THE WEST STARTED TO ANTAGONIZE THE NEW RUSSIA, THE LIBERALS BECAUSE OF THE MORAL FORCE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN DEFENCE OF THE TRADITIONAL VALUES LIKE ITS OPPOSITION TO HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE NEOCONSERVATIVES BECAUSE THE NEW RUSSIA HAS BEEN A BARRIER TO THEIR IMPERIALISTIC AMBITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THEIR UNBRIDLED FREE MARKET POLICIES. THE AUTHORS ARE RIGHT WHEN THEY SAID THAT RUSSIA WILL NEVER BE LIKE THE WEST AND WHY IT HAS TO BE?, TO BE NON-WESTERN DOES NOT MEAN TO BE ANTI-WESTERN IN FACT IT COULD BE PRO-WESTERN, BUT THE WEST NEEDS TO MOVE ON AND SHED ALL THIS HOLLOW RETHORIC OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREE MARKETS AND ACCEPT NOT ONLY RUSSIA BUT THE WHOLE NON-WESTERN WORLD (LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST) AS IT IS.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Penetrate Russian Mentality and Cultural Heritage By Claude W. Jeanneret Profoundly researched but thematically very specialized. A pleasure to read if one wants to get to the roots of the subject. Also very informative for readers who finally want to understand better about the Russian mentality and culture - highly recommended! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Russophobia By Michelle Michael This would have been a really wonderful and inspiring book being that it tells a lot of history of how Patriarch Alexei was able to help turn the Russian people back toward spirituality... unfortunately, this author is coming from a narrow minded Western viewpoint making it sound like it's a bad thing that the Russian nation is flowering in their embrace of Christianity. He harps on how the military is embracing Christianity. Really... is that such a bad thing? I would rather the armed forces of the world be stopping to pray asking God to help them make the right choice before rushing headstrong into a war making all their very critical life-and-death decisions. Has it just ever occurred to people criticizing Russia, that maybe the reason we are NOT yet at war with Russia is BECAUSE Russia is embracing spiritual principles? I also need to point out too.... the author seems to indicate that any of us who have a connection to Tsar Nikolai II and the Holy Royal Martyrs.... have some hidden anti-Semitic agenda. This is SOOOOO NOT true. People who honor Tsar Nikolai II as a Saint are NOT ALL anti-Semitic. I know this for a fact. Our Russian Orthodox Parish... the only one in the USA that is named after Tsar Nikolai II, is very welcoming of all kinds of people. When we had our Russian Orthodox Church Autumn festival and the balalaika orchestra performed Hava Nagila, that song got more applause than all the other songs played. We also featured as one of our main musicians a harpist from Israel. Many of our Parish members love to travel to Jerusalem and have great respect for the people there. The authors unfortunately also tried to make it sound like Patriarch Alexei had some dark, hidden agenda.... even though he was working his hardest doing everything to bring faith and inspiration back to the people after so many years under Communism. Scholars need to stop judging Russia through an atheistic perspective. Scholars and Western Media are standing outside trying to understand Russia through intellectualism and they will never understand it that way. The authors were very critical that the Russian military has an Orthodox support community and a support community for the religions of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism etc. but not support communities for the other Christian religions like for example Baptist or Methodist. Russian Christianity is primarily Orthodox, that is why.... It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out. The author is stating the idea that Russia is purposely excluding other Christian sects in the military. That is like criticizing the American military for not having an official Ancient Egyptian or a Celtic Pagan support community... Yes, there ARE a few people in USA who follow those religions... but if only a tiny number people follow a certain religion and not the masses, obviously the military is not going to invest in having a support group for that group of people. It has nothing to do with any sinister agenda. The Christian religion that is most widely practiced in Russia is Orthodoxy so absolutely of COURSE that is naturally what they are going to emphasize when reaching out to the Christian communities in Russia. I would like to tell the authors that no one is out to get you. You would have had a wonderful book with many stories and inspiration... if only you did

not cloud it with your fears and Russophobia.

Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent is the first book to fully explore the expansive and ill-understood role that Russia's ancient Christian faith has played in the fall of Soviet Communism and in the rise of Russian nationalism today. John and Carol Garrard tell the story of how the Orthodox Church's moral weight helped defeat the 1991 coup against Gorbachev launched by Communist Party hardliners. The Soviet Union disintegrated, leaving Russians searching for a usable past. The Garrards reveal how Patriarch Aleksy II--a former KGB officer and the man behind the church's successful defeat of the coup--is reconstituting a new national idea in the church's own image. In the new Russia, the former KGB who run the country--Vladimir Putin among them--proclaim the cross, not the hammer and sickle. Meanwhile, a majority of Russians now embrace the Orthodox faith with unprecedented fervor. The Garrards trace how Aleksy orchestrated this transformation, positioning his church to inherit power once held by the Communist Party and to become the dominant ethos of the military and government. They show how the revived church under Aleksy prevented mass violence during the post-Soviet turmoil, and how Aleksy astutely linked the church with the army and melded Russian patriotism and faith. Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent argues that the West must come to grips with this complex and contradictory resurgence of the Orthodox faith, because it is the hidden force behind Russia's domestic and foreign policies today.

From BooklistSavagely persecuted throughout the existence of the Soviet Union, the Russian Orthodox Church has experienced a remarkable revival in the past two decades. Led by its patriarch, Aleksy II, the renaissance has not been, however, as simple as picking up where 1917 left off; the historical Church was too intimately connected with czarist autocracy for that. Examining the restoration process, the Garrards touch on certain reconnections with the pre-revolutionary Church in consecrations conducted in the beautiful Orthodox liturgy of church buildings and monasteries returned to it by post-Communist Russian governments. But they also focus on Aleksy II's agenda both to reroot Russian Orthodoxy to its claim as the true apostolic succession in Christendom (a challenge to Roman Catholicism's rival claim) and to reidentify it with Russian nationalism. The former claim lies in New Testament texts the Garrards clearly explain, while their discussion of Aleksy II's activities in the latter realm display the authors' supple understanding of Russian patriotism and its religio-military heroes going back to Alexander Nevsky. An important work for students of contemporary Russia. --Gilbert Taylor "At the heart of the book is a masterful biography of Alexy himself. . . . An important and meticulously researched book."--Thomas de Waal, Times Literary Supplement "[The Garrards] focus on Aleksy II's agenda both to reroot Russian Orthodoxy to its claim as the true apostolic succession in Christendom (a challenge to Roman Catholicism's rival claim) and to reidentify it with Russian nationalism. The former claim lies in New Testament texts the Garrards clearly explain, while their discussion of Aleksy II's activities in the latter realm display the authors' supple understanding of Russian patriotism and its religio-military heroes going back to Alexander Nevsky. An important work for students of contemporary Russia."--Gilbert Taylor, Booklist "After the long dark eclipse of the Soviet period, the Russian Orthodox Church is again central to an understanding of contemporary Russia, and this book provides a fine starting point."--Robert Levgold, Foreign Affairs "J. Garrard and C. Garrard provide an important portrait of the Russian Church and its role in the establishment of the 'new' Russia. . . . Based on an abundance of contemporary sources, the Garrards tell a fascinating story."--G.P. Cox, Choice "The Garrards (he a lapsed Anglican, she a practising Lutheran) write evocatively about the history, in elegiac style about the beauty of the architecture, iconography and liturgy, and clear-headedly about nasty aspects such as the church's severe anti-Semitism."--Miriam Cosic, The Australian "Even though the book's style appeals to a popular readership, scholars will want to study the Garrards' work. Their personal contacts with many Russians active in church life have awarded them priceless insights, within the reach of very few Westerners, and many of the important events they witnessed have not been well covered by news outlets."--John D. Basil, Church History "This book combines empathy and detailed scholarship, shedding light on the intricacies of church-state relations in the new Russia."--Iannis Carras, opendemocracy.net "[T]he book is a lively written impressionist report by engaged observers with an abundance of information."--Wil van den Bercken, Journal of Eastern Christian Studies "[T]his is an engaging study of a fascinating subject that is essential to our understanding of the new Russia."--Ruth Coates, European Legacy "The Garrards' monograph is an accessible survey of many aspects of Russian Orthodox history and culture and can serve as a valuable introduction to these topics."--Katja Richters, Journal of Contemporary History From the Back Cover "In this rewarding book, the Garrards humanize and deliver with great learning the epic story of the revival of the Russian Orthodox Church. They illuminate a lost experience by studying the church through the prism of its spectacular civic rebirth. The Garrards give a meticulously detailed account of the rise of Patriarch Aleksy and his successful use of the faith to implant the church and its teachings once again deep into the hearts of Russian people."--Richard Stites, Georgetown University "This book contains much rich information, colorful detail, and valuable insights. The Garrards know the Russian background intimately. They are dedicated, scrupulous, and immensely hardworking scholars. It is worth reading this book for the footnotes alone."--Rodric Braithwaite, author of Moscow 1941 "A splendid book--scholarly, deeply researched but with the tone of a personal memoir, delivered in a

riveting style, and original in its contribution to our reconstruction of Russia's transition out of Communism. The Garrards are marvelous storytellers. Their story will frighten some and reassure others--but either way, this is a book for our times."--Caryl Emerson, Princeton University