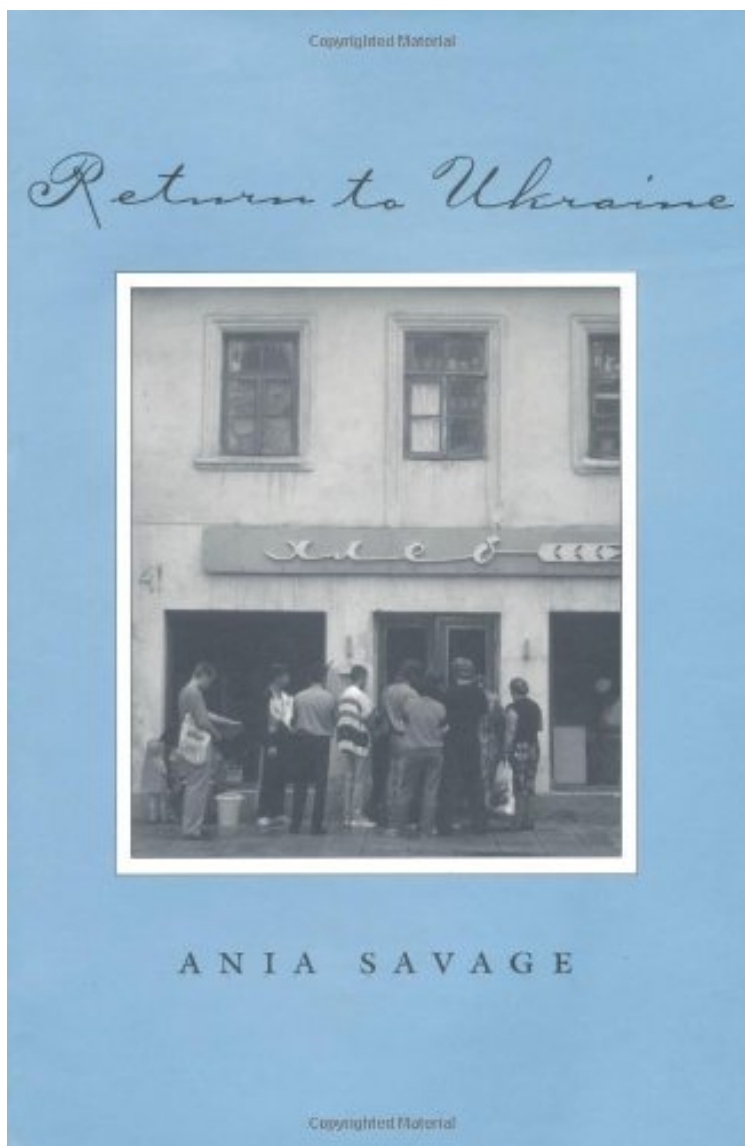


[Ebook pdf] Return to Ukraine (Texas AM University Press, College Station, Tex.)

Return to Ukraine (Texas AM University Press, College Station, Tex.)

Ania Savage

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#2390845 in Books Texas AnM University Press 2000-01-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.55 x .95 x 6.43l, 1.37 #File Name: 0890969167272 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Ania Savage : Return to Ukraine (Texas AM University Press, College Station, Tex.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Return to Ukraine (Texas AM University Press, College Station, Tex.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent account of the Ukraine's early days of nationhood and a

personal narrative
By Sycamore Calvert
This book is excellent in that it provides insights into life in the post communist Ukraine. The author's family saga is very interesting and a good piece of history to be shared.
10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reminiscences of a fascinating journey
By A Customer
Savage's book taps into the nature of our roots and the unique troubles facing the former Soviet Union as it deals with its own sordid history. The style is conversational without being light, and I was shocked (and taught) by some of the experiences the author had while traveling to and in the Ukraine.
23 of 23 people found the following review helpful.
American journalist finds roots in Ukraine
By Martha Bohachevsky- Chomiak
Three books are enfolded into this elegant and readable volume. One is a first hand account of the very first months of Ukraine's existence as a separate state upon the collapse of the USSR. The other is an amusing travelogue through Crimea and the Caucasian coast of the Black Sea. The third is the personal story of daughter-mother relationship, made all the more poignant by the onset of the mother's Alzheimer disease. Savage, an American journalist born during the Second World War in Ukraine which her parents flee before the Soviets, is invited by the still existing Soviet Ukrainian government to teach a course on American journalism. She arrives in Ukraine two days after the aborted putsch put an end to the existence of the USSR. Aware of her mother's illness, she brings her to Ukraine for a short visit, which coincides with the exhumation of the skeletons on the Ukrainian Partisan Army soldiers who between 1941 and 1952 fought both the Nazi Germans and Soviet Russians. Figurative skeletons are skillfully woven into the account, as Savage deftly weaves history, politics, and personal observations into a fascinating tale of the slow disintegration of a totalitarian regime, and an equally slow birth of a new democratic Ukraine. This is much more than a travel book and it covers more than just the Ukrainian experience. Savage gives us a readable introduction to the painful story of how a totalitarian regime could destroy even those who fled it, while at the same time providing us with graphic vignettes of how individuals cope in conditions not of their own making. Savage is able to capture real people on paper, even though she does make a few factual mistakes. But why quibble with a spot, when the overall picture is so good?
Martha Bohachevsky
Washington DC

Nearly fifty years after fleeing Ukraine during World War II, Ania Savage returned with her mother and aunt—their first trip back to their homeland. In this riveting account of the journey, she records both the changes they found in Ukraine in the early days of postSoviet existence and the memories they had gone to seek. Savage, a journalist traveling to teach at Kyiv State University, records in vivid detail her experiences in her homeland, including the political turmoil that gripped Ukraine as it struggled to establish a democracy. In a moving subtext, Savage also describes the intense emotions she felt traveling with her mother, who at age seventyfour was suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Savage skillfully threads these personal themes into narratives of Ukraine's larger history, events that include stumbling upon the excavation of a mass grave from the Stalinist era. She moves through the discoveries of her trip with an honest and passionate voice as she witnesses the rebirth of a nation and as she and her family reconnect with their past. Savage also describes the experience of working in Kyiv and speculates on how her Ukrainian heritage and American youth and education combine to shape her view of the people and places she encounters in Ukraine. This story will prove fascinating to historians, sociologists, and general readers alike, especially those with an interest in the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe, life in those troubled countries, or personal struggles with memory and its loss. In addition, Ukrainian immigrants and those of Ukrainian heritage will find *Return to Ukraine* a moving account of their homeland and what it has become. The cemetery is a desolate, forgotten place. My mother's face has turned white. She clutches at her purse and is whispering to herself. "This is not the cemetery," my mother says. "We had a beautiful cemetery." "Of course this is the cemetery," Katia cries. "No one moves cemeteries, not even Communists." I'm the one who finds the double grave of my grandparents near the center of the cemetery. A rough concrete cross rises above the graves, paid for with money my mother and Katia had sent to the village a few years into Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost. A metal plaque bearing my grandparents' names hangs from the cross. We place the gladioli we have brought with us at the foot of the cross and bend our heads in prayer. Our tears mingle with the raindrops falling on the graves.—from the book

From Publishers Weekly
Savage, a Ukrainian-born journalist, was invited in 1991 to teach a course on Western media at Kyiv State University, in the Ukrainian capital, and to serve as a guest editor for the Communist government-affiliated *Ukraina's Society's* English-language newspaper. Eager to see her birthplace again, Savage (who fled during WWII) returned to Ukraine with her mother (who was suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's) and her aunt. As she recounts the emotional story of their travels, Savage writes of her ambivalent feelings about her country of birth. She writes of her trip to Babi Yar, where Jews were slaughtered during the Holocaust; of her encounters with Ukrainian censorship and surveillance (Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union during her stay there); and of how years of Soviet oppression have left Ukrainians poorly housed, fed and educated. But she also recounts the warm welcome locals extended to her mother, her aunt and herself; the friendships she formed with several Ukrainians; and her affection for the suffering people and her hope for a better future for them after Communism. Part memoir and part history, this is a detailed and thoughtful look at a part of the world that until the 1990s was not easily

accessible to Westerners. Bw photos. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This book is an account of the American author's quest for the "hidden bonds" of kinship in her native Ukraine. It is also a perceptive description of a country rediscovering its identity in the last tumultuous days of the Soviet Union. Savage takes us from the excavation of a mass grave for victims of Stalin's terror through the affirmation of Uniate Christianity in Lvov and the country's first independent parliament in Kiev. While the description is more anecdotal than analytical, the personal discovery is reassuring and redemptive. Savage begins in a sort of emigr? netherworld marked by her and her hosts' ambivalence; but from a "hodgepodge" of values and knowledge, she finds herself on the path of an aspiring pilgrim who is both American and Ukrainian. It is ultimately a spirit of humanity and a persistence for the truth that give such a personal testimony so universal a theme. While the book's subject may limit its appeal, readers will not be disappointed. Recommended for larger public and academic libraries. -Zachary, T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. ". . . an engrossing, can'tputitdown, personal narrative . . ."--Myron B. Kuropas, Northern Illinois University