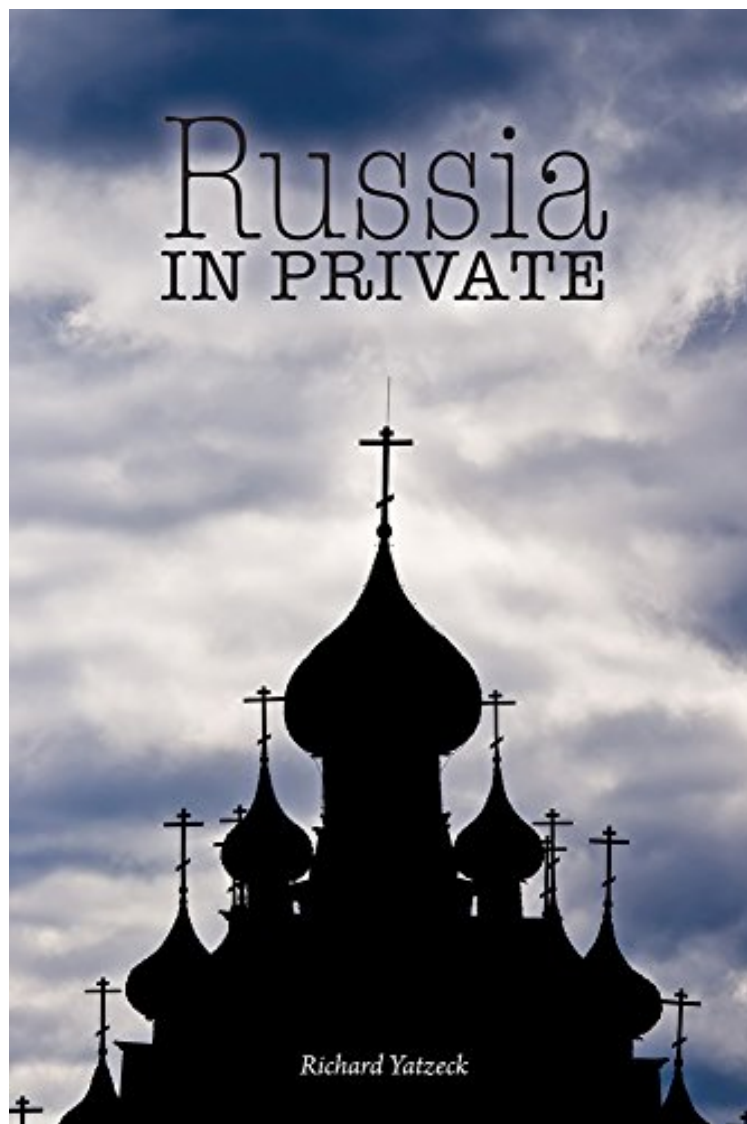


(Ebook pdf) Russia in Private

Russia in Private

Richard Yatzeck

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Richard Yatzeck : Russia in Private before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russia in Private:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. appealed to my love of the great outdoors and huntingBy N. JacobsBeing a former student of Professor Yatzeck, and a resident of Saint Petersburg, Russia, I just had to check out this book. His previous book, Hunting the Edges, appealed to my love of the great outdoors and hunting, so when I saw that he had put out a book about the legendary "field trips" to the Soviet Union, I just had to check it out.Russia In

Private is a carefully written travelogue and meditation on the state of Russia, both where it's been, and where it's going. While there is certainly enough serious, academic thought put into the book, there are enough anecdotes about the perils of traveling around Russia that are (perhaps sadly) still relevant today which had me rolling around on the public bus with laughter. One scene in particular, which involves a bout with amoebic dysentery and state nurses who are less useless than a group of manatees, is worth the price alone. Richard Yatzeck has combined a lifetime love of quality prose, academic research, and experience most of us will never know into this little book, and is probably the closest you will get to Russia unless you physically go there. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful book covering 40 years that ushers readers into the ...By htloA wonderful book covering 40 years that ushers readers into the apartments, campgrounds, restaurants and opera houses that ordinary Russians go to each day. Prof Yatzeck's random encounters with regular Russian people over those 40 years gives a lingering glimpse into a world of personal loyalty, decency, problem-solving and self-reliance, with scattered tales of cynicism and harshness from the coin's other side. Westerners continue to mistrust the Russian people long after the cold war and the capitalism v. communism debate ended. Do we need a new cold war? Read this book to see why we don't. Prof Yatzeck's recounting of his (and his students') meetings with ordinary Russian people, nearly all of them strangers met on road trips spread over 30 years, shows why we should work harder, a lot harder, to get past the old cold war and avoid starting a new one. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Russia in Private By Victoria KI'm totally convinced had RUSSIA IN PRIVATE by Prof. Yatzeck been written and made available to the American public during the Nuclear Freeze Movement (spearheaded by the late Randall Forsberg and in which I was a passionate activist), the dreaded Cold War would probably have ended overnight. We would have seen Russian people as ordinary people like ourselves, but unlike ourselves, experiencing brutal hunger and untold suffering, rather than perceiving Russia as a geo-political entity, cold and abstract--the enemy with our biases, fears, and prejudices that are common with such a perception. How could one not have compassion for the Russian mother whose three children died of starvation and were buried at night "so that they would not be eaten"! The priceless contribution the book makes is the humanity it contains--the Russian humanity which is lost sight of when a government undertakes to make an enemy of another government. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Prof. Yatzeck has provided us with genuine insights into the Russian soul not unlike Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy. Yet, with all the pathos, there is humor interwoven in the many anecdotes vividly described as Prof. Yatzeck and his group of college students travel from city to city in the then Soviet Union. If I could enact curriculum supervision, RUSSIA IN PRIVATE would be required reading for every high school student throughout the land! Russia in Private

From the very beginning of Russia's history, discord has been prevalent thanks to the ruinous jealousy of the nobles, the Pecheneg and Tatar invasions, and lost wars (or brutally costly victories, as in 1812 or 1945). Autocratic government with serfdom, famine, and gangsterism have been the Russian lot. Two questions: "Who is to blame?" and "What is to be done?", have plagued life in that one-sixth of the world's land surface since its conception, roughly 988 AD. During ten tours of Russia, between 1961 and 1997 (nearly thirty years in all), Richard Yatzeck was generously included in the political, kitchen table conversations concerning these very questions. Public discussion of such matters has never been safe. Russia in Private is an attempt to plumb the abyss between Russian and Western life, and explain how Russians understand and bear their history.

AS intimate and almost voyeuristic glimpse into the Russian soul told through first person stories. Well written. -- Diana Belchase, NetGallery About the Author In 1961 and 1962, Richard Yatzeck spent a year in Moscow as a graduate student, working on his dissertation. Beginning in 1966, he taught courses on 19th and 20th-century Russian literature and Russian literary traditions at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. In 1991 and 1997, he directed semester programs for the Associated Colleges of Midwest-Great Lakes College Association in Krasnodar, Russia. An avid outdoorsman, he is also the author of "Hunting the Edges".