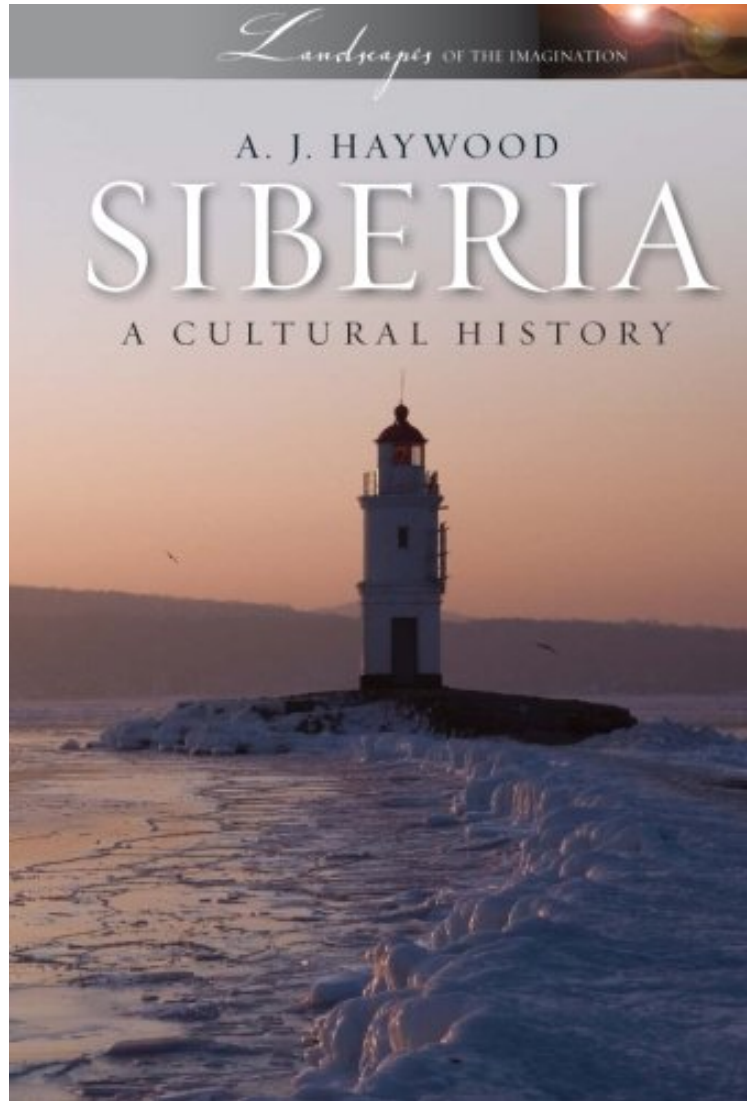


[PDF] Siberia: A Cultural History (Landscapes of the Imagination)

## Siberia: A Cultural History (Landscapes of the Imagination)

*A.J. Haywood*

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#626505 in Books Haywood A J 2010-10-25 2010-10-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.40 x .90 x 8.10l, .79 #File Name: 0199754187320 pagesSiberia A Cultural History | File size: 57.Mb

**A.J. Haywood : Siberia: A Cultural History (Landscapes of the Imagination)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Siberia: A Cultural History (Landscapes of the Imagination):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. nice informationBy Theofrastus NihilusThis is an interesting book with the rare topic. What interesting could be in Siberia, only huge areas of tundra and taiga, a couple of mines and small villages and of course, prison camps? A lot more, we can say if we read this book. Personally I would have liked more the older history, book concentrates to the 18th-20th century.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A

very bleak look at this mysterious area of the ...By Alma Jeanne CarmanA very bleak look at this mysterious area of the world, It helps explain some of the esoteric nature of Russia. I just wish there were more maps and photos and in color.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction and guide to western SiberiaBy BWLHaywood's book is a good introduction to western Siberia and its history. Although its a bit disjointed to have a history book that also serves as a Micheline guide, the author successfully combines the two very different genres. Haywood knows Siberia well and has made an extensive study of the English literature on the area. I was especially pleased with his use of early travelers' accounts, as was also done by Harmon Tupper's 1965 classic, "To The Great Ocean, The Taming of Siberia and the Building of the Trans-Siberian Railway," and Bijan Omrani's outstanding new Odyssey Guide, "Asia Overland: Tales of Travel on the Trans-Siberian and Silk Road."The only criticism I have of the book is its title, as the author only covers the western half of Siberia, and the fact that Tomsk, one of Siberia's most beautiful and historically important cities, was inexplicably left out. However, the work is still very much worth the purchase price, especially for first time travelers headed to the area.

Before Russians crossed the Urals Mountains in the sixteenth century to settle their "colony" in North Asia, they heard rumors about bountiful fur, of bizarre people without eyes who ate by shrugging their shoulders and of a land where trees exploded from cold. This region of frozen tundra, endless forest, and humming steppe between the Urals and the Pacific Ocean was a vast, strange, and frightening paradise. It was Siberia.Siberia is a cradle of civilizations, the birthplace of ancient Turkic empires and home to the cultures of indigenes, including peoples whose ancestors migrated to the Americas. It was a promised land to which bonded peasants could flee their cruel masters, yet also a snow-covered "white hell" across which exiles shuffled in felt shoes and chains. In Stalin's era, Siberia became synonymous with the gulag; today, it is a vast region of bustling metropolises and magnificent landscapes: a place where the humdrum, the beautiful, and the bizarre ignite the imagination. Tracing the historical contours of Siberia, A. J. Haywood offers a detailed account of the architectural and cultural landmarks of cities such as Irkutsk, Tobolsk, Barnaul, and Novosibirsk.MAGNIFICENT RIVERS AND LAKES: Lake Baikal, the Ob, Irtysh, Yenisey, Angara, Lena and Amur rivers. Writer Anton Chekhov described some, polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen and the eccentric British merchant captain Joseph Wiggins navigated others.THE CITIES AND THE RAILWAY: High fashion and low life, traffic-choked streets, and chimney stacks. Siberia's cities bring a madding crowd far into the remote taiga-linked by the Trans-Siberian Railway, the nineteenth-century "camel track."MYSTICS, MOUNTAINS AND ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONSNikolay Rerikh sought the mystical kingdom of Shambhala here, Russian writer Valentin Rasputin was confused by its beauty, while local Altaians themselves see their republic of mountains and steppe as a Central Asian heaven on earth.

About the AuthorAnthony Haywood is a writer, editor and translator whose published works includes guidebooks and articles on Russia, Austria, and Germany, as well as short stories and translations. His book "Siberia, A Cultural History", published by Oxford University Press/Signal Books in 2010/11, explores the cultural contours of Siberia from early civilizations to the present day.