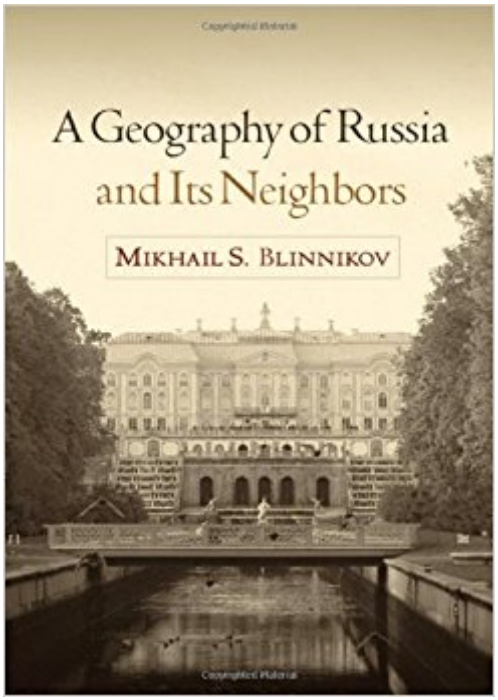
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A Geography Of Russia And Its Neighbors (Texts In Regional Geography)



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Synopsis

Comprehensive and authoritative, this text offers an accessible introduction to post-Soviet Eurasia. Students get a solid grounding in the physical, cultural, political, and economic geography of this rapidly changing region. Core thematic chapters focus primarily on Russia but also incorporate relevant information on the other 14 former Soviet republics. Regional chapters provide concise discussions of each republic and of Russia's main regions. Student-friendly features include engaging vignettes, review questions, exercises, recommendations for further reading, and Internet resources. The volume's over 200 original maps, photographs, and other figures are also available as PowerPoint slides at the companion website. Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

"Finally, a geography of Russia written by a Russian geographer for a Western audience. This book is filled with mesmerizing details of Soviet and post-Soviet everyday life, as well as unique photographs. It captures the richness of Russian society and reflects its contradictions. This is an invaluable, accessible text for all levels, and will be great for stimulating classroom discussion."--Marianna Pavlovskaya, Department of Geography, Hunter College, City University of New York"A timely, insightful, well-written, and engaging volume on contemporary Russia's economies, recent history, environmental settings, and enduring legacies. Personal reflections and observations add to the book's strengths. I will definitely use this text the next time I teach a class

on the former Soviet Union. It is far ahead of any previous book on the region. It also will have broad appeal outside geography and should be required reading for business people and professionals in all fields who are working in the region."--Stanley D. Brunn, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky"This text offers a comprehensive, accessible introduction to the physical, cultural, social, economic and political geography of the region. The book goes well beyond the bounds of a general geography text, giving students the historical and political context that will help them engage more thoughtfully with the material. The author doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t shy away from interjecting his own insights about the personalities that have shaped contemporary Russia. For the student, this brings to life some of the major actors whose names would otherwise get lost on the page. Each chapter is followed by review questions and exercises that will prepare both instructors and students for class discussion, making the book useful for both lecture courses and seminars."--Melinda Herrold-Menzies, Intercollegiate Environmental Analysis Program, The Claremont Colleges

Mikhail S. Blinnikov is Professor of Geography and Graduate Coordinator at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He is a native of Moscow, Russia, and has traveled widely and conducted extensive fieldwork in the former Soviet Union. Dr. BlinnikovÃ¢â ¬â„¢s research and publications focus on the late Pleistocene biogeography of grasslands; phytolith analysis; remote sensing/geographic information systems; protected natural areas and green spaces in and near cities; young-naturalist movements and nongovernmental organizations; and Orthodox religious landscapes.

Recently, I’ve read eight geographies about Asia, Central Asia, China, and Russia. The publication dates range from four years ago to almost seventy years ago. No two of the books were written in the same format. All the books differed significantly in the material they covered to such an extent that I’m not at all sure what should or should not be in a geography book. All, however, were full of useful information and I learned a great deal from them. For me, though, this book, A Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors, is in a class by itself. It’s very well written. The author, Mikhail Blinnikov, has produced a splendid text that includes Review Questions, Exercises, and Further Reading. The sources for his facts are scrupulously noted. And while he now teaches in the United States, he grew up in and was educated in the Soviet Union and lived through the transition to the current Russia. He understands modern Russia as only a Russian can. He covers everything from geology, history, and society to industry, life in the cities, life in the villages, and the role of the Military. He discusses Russian Literature and Russian Art, both traditional and under the Soviet Union. There

are special sections called "Vignettes" which highlight particular aspects of Russian culture, life, history, geography, etc. They are very instructive and fun to read. I could go on, but I could never do justice to the remarkable amount of information that Professor Blinnikov has found room for in the approximately 440 pages of text in his book. He even finds space to tell us what to visit in Russia and why. By now I hope I've made it clear that this is more than a geography book. This book is also about culture, economics,ecology,education,history, social criticism, and much more. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and while I did, I developed a healthy respect for the character and integrity of the man that I believe comes through in his writing. It's clear that there was much that he disliked about Russia's former Communist government and there is much that he dislikes about the governments that have succeeded that one. But he is not blind to the achievements of the Soviet Union, nor is he afraid to point them out. He is a Russian who is proud of his land and his people and he explains very well, at least to me, why this is so.

This is reference source which you would consult again and again (as different questions arose in your mind) rather than book that you would read, then shelve and let gather dust. Its real very interesting and fascinating - Russia is such a vast land-mass and is populated by such a variety of different ethnic groups with their different languages and customs. The geographical variations alone would make the book interesting and useful. Its a book which would interest the curious and who would want to 'broaden' their horizon.

This is, for now :-), the definitive book on Russia, for westerners.If you think you'd like to know more about any aspect of Russia, or any part of it, you should pick up this book and you'll find what you need. This is not a tourist guide, though. This is a book for people who want to learn about Russia, away from the media garbage. Well worth it's fairly high price. Coverage of "ÃƒÆ'Ã Â t's neighbors" is a bit thin, though.

This book is interesting to read not only as a text-book. I have learned a lot about my home country from it.It is very well illustrated (although only in b/w, it would be nice to have some pictures in color). Statistical data are presented in nice diagrams which are easy to understand with references to reliable sources.

The book gives a really fine review of the geography of the past USSR but it includes also a historical review which, except some stereotypes, is really good. I'll keep it jealously!

its ok...

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