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# Siberia: A Cultural History

By A. J. Haywood

Oxford University Press, USA. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 320 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.3in. x 1.1in. 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 Stalins 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,...



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