Russia on the Eve of Modernity is a pioneering exploration of a world that has been largely destroyed by revolutionary upheavals and obscured in historical memory by scholarly focus on elites. Drawing on traditional religious texts, ethnographic materials, and contemporary accounts, this book brings to light the ideas and perceptions of the ordinary Russian people of the towns and countryside who continued to live in a pre-modern, non-Western culture that showed great resilience to the very end of the Romanov Empire. Leonid Heretz offers an overview of traditional Russian understandings of the world and its workings, and shows popular responses to events from the assassination of Alexander II to the First World War. This history of ordinary Russians illuminates key themes ranging from peasant monarchism to apocalyptic responses to intrusions from the modern world and will appeal to scholars of Russian history and the history of religion in modern Europe.

Leonid Heretz is Professor at the History Department, Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts.
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RUSSIA ON THE EVE OF MODERNITY

POPULAR RELIGION AND TRADITIONAL CULTURE UNDER THE LAST TSARS

LEONID HERETZ

Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts
To my mother, Natalia,
and the memory of my father, Rodion
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Acknowledgments

This book would not have been written or published without the kind help and advice of many people. Limitations of time and space prevent me from thanking them as fully as they deserve, but I would like to assure each of them that their help is gratefully remembered.

Richard Pipes guided the doctoral studies on which this book is based, and continues to serve as a model of scholarly breadth and prose mastery. I was introduced to various aspects of the world of ideas explored in the present study by Peter Baldwin, Steven Epstein, Vladimir Gitin, David Herlihy, Patricia Herlihy, Edward Keenan, Omeljan Pritsak, Frank Sysyn and Boris Uspensky. Alexander Strakhov, with his unique expertise in the field of Slavic folk culture, was especially helpful.

In the formulation of the topic, in conducting research and in producing the original text I benefited from the advice and support of Philip Bean, Anya Geifman, Andrei Harasymiak, Holly Heretz, Roman Koropeckyj, Meir Litvak, Steven Marks, Francis McDonnell, Robert McGahan, Roy Robson, Aviel Roshwald and Dariusz Toczyk. The manuscript was read in its entirety or in part by Michael Ierardi, Peter Karavites, Ihor Ševčenko, Olga Strakhova, Alexander Szejman, Roman Szporluk, and Mark Von Hagen, and is much the better for their critical insights. Andrew Holman and Yaroslav Hrytsak played a decisive role in bringing the manuscript to the point of submission for publication.

At Cambridge University Press, the text was in the able hands of Michael Watson, Helen Waterhouse, Elizabeth Davey and Lesley Atkin and I thank them for their attention and guidance in the publication process. The insightful and detailed critiques offered by two outside reviewers resulted in substantial revisions that I hope they will see as improvements. Olga Melko met the challenge of creating an index for the final text, which did not lend itself readily to that procedure.
Acknowledgments

Finally, I express my gratitude to my family, especially to my brother Dennis and my sister Annette, and above all to my wife Sarah, my indispensable partner in all endeavors.