How, and why, did human trafficking out of Russia escalate at the beginning of the twenty-first century? Why did some labour migrants from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan find happy work situations in Russia whereas others became trapped in forced labour? This book focusses on human trafficking out of the Russian Federation since the collapse of the Soviet state and on labour migration into it from Central Asia, and on some internal movement. It looks at the socio-economic reasons behind labour flows and examines key social, political, legislative and policy responses. Discussion includes how the Russian press covers these topics and what politicians, experts and the public think about them. Based on interviews, polls and focus groups in Russia, this book is rich in original research which highlights different Russian perspectives on exploitation in unfree labour. It gives examples of entrapment in prostitution, in construction work, on farms and in begging rings.

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The Politics of Unfree Labour in Russia

*Human Trafficking and Labour Migration*

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To all who kindly let me interview them
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Map 1 Map of the Russian Federation Situated Within the Commonwealth of Independent States and with Surrounding States and Borders. Drawn by David Cox.
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Note on Transliteration, Websites and Permissions

A word is in order about style. I have followed the Library of Congress transliteration system with the exception of names and words whose more customary English forms are now widely adopted. Thus, I use Yel’tsin rather than El’tsin, Dostoyevsky, not Dostoevskii, and Yaroslavl, not Jaroslavl. Words will include aia and iu rather than aya and yu. Some Russians in their publications in English or on their business cards also offer options different from conventional transliteration systems. In keeping with their preferences, where relevant I refer to Juliana rather than Iuliana and Julia rather than Iuliia. Variations in spellings across names will also be found for the same reason, so Sergei, Sergey, Aleksei, Alexey, Natalia, Natal’ia, Dmitrii and Dmitry can all be found. When a person’s surname has been presented in more than one way in English, I standardise it to the Library of Congress system, so I refer to Tiuriukanova rather than Tyuryukanova. Where professional preference is for an aya ending on a surname, I adhere to that, so refer to Pavlovskaya and not Pavlovskaiia, although most endings will be aia. As is customary, I have dropped soft signs from the end of some words in the text, so oblast’ is referred to as oblast. In the footnotes, however, all soft signs are present for accuracy in Russian. Articles whose final word ends with a soft sign and which happens to sit inside a quotation within a quotation will consequently have four closing apostrophes.

All websites cited here were checked again throughout February 2017 to confirm their continued availability on-line. The majority were still obtainable and so have no ‘accessed’ date after the citation and can be safely read as having been available on 1 February. The minority that have been removed and that cannot be traced elsewhere include a date when they were last accessed.

Permission has been granted by Taylor and Francis for reprinting selected data from my earlier article ‘Public opinion in Russia on the
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