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0521566215 - Between the Fields and the City: Women, Work, and Family in Russia, 1861-1914 - Barbara Alpern Engel

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In the period following the emancipation of the serfs in 1861, Russia began to industrialize, and peasants, especially peasants of the Central Industrial Region around Moscow, increasingly began to interact with a market economy. In response to a growing need for cash and declining opportunities to earn it at home, thousands of peasant men and women left their villages to earn wages elsewhere, many in the cities of Moscow or St. Petersburg.

The significance and consequences of peasant women's migration is the subject of this book. Drawing on a wealth of new archival data, which contains first person-accounts of peasant women's experiences, the book provides the reader with a detailed account of the move from the village to the city. Unlike previous studies this one looks at the impact of migration on the peasantry, and at the experience of peasant workers in nearby factories, as well as in distant cities. Case studies explore the effects of industrialization and urbanization on the relationship of the migrant to the peasant household, and on family life and personal relations. They demonstrate the ambiguous consequences of change for women: While some found new and better opportunities, many more experienced increased hardship and risk. By illuminating the personal dimensions of economic and social change, this book provides a fresh perspective on the social history of late Imperial Russia.

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Women, work, and family in Russia, 1861–1914

BARBARA ALPERN ENGEL

University of Colorado



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Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1996

First published 1995

Reprinted 1996

First paperback edition 1996

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 0-521-44236-2 hardback

ISBN 0-521-56621-5 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

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Acknowledgments

For their contribution to the research and writing of this book, I am grateful to many institutions and individuals.

I would like to thank the W. Averell Harriman Institute for the Advanced Study of the Soviet Union, Columbia University, for a senior fellowship that supported my work in its early stages. A grant-in-aid from the Kennan Institute allowed me to explore the relationship between peasant parents and their children. Grants-in-aid from the Committee on Research and Creative Work of the University of Colorado facilitated research in Finland. Research in Russian archives and libraries was supported by grants from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), with funds provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the United States Information Agency, as well as a grant from the Committee on Fulbright-Hays Fellowships. A fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Center enabled me to complete the manuscript of this book. I owe a special thanks to the Wilson Center staff for doing everything they could to make my residence at the Center pleasant as well as productive.

Librarians at the following institutions facilitated my research: Butler Library of Columbia University; the Library of Congress; the National Institute of Health Library; the library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; the Lenin Library and the Institute for Scientific Information in the Social Sciences under the Academy of Sciences (INION) in Moscow; the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library and the Library of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. I am particularly indebted to the staff of the Slavic Library in Helsinki, who cheerfully helped me to track down even the most elusive of references. My archival research in the former Soviet Union was assisted by the staffs of the following archives: the Central State Historical Archive of the City of Moscow (TsGIAgM); the Central State Archive of the October Revolution (TsGAOR SSSR); the Central State Historical Archive of Leningrad (TsGIAL); the Central State Historical Archive (TsGIA SSSR); and the Tenishev Archive of the State Museum of Ethnography of

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the Peoples of the USSR. I owe special thanks to Evdokiia L. Timofeeva for facilitating my research in the Tenishev Archive and making it so enjoyable; to Galina A. Ippolitova for her willingness to provide the endless piles of *dela* that work on this project demanded; to Gita M. Lipson for sharing with me her knowledge of archival resources; and to Valerii M. Shishkin for providing access to materials I needed for the final stage of my research.

In the course of a decade researching and writing this book, I have benefited from the encouragement and assistance of many friends and colleagues. Joseph Bradley, Daniel Brower, Gregory Freeze, Heather Hogan, Robert Johnson, Adele Lindenmeyr, Jonathan Sanders, William Wagner, Reginald Zelnik, and, especially, Timothy Mixer helped me to find my way when I was still new to the field. V.A. Fedorov provided guidance when I was a *stazher* in Moscow in 1985; and Grigorii A. Tishkin did everything in his power to make my research visit to Leningrad in 1991 both productive and pleasant. Ellen Ross and Wendy Goldman provided stimulating conversation and challenging questions. The book has benefited immeasurably from critical readings by Joseph Bradley, Laura Engelstein, Karen Fields, Wendy Goldman, Heather Hogan, David Ransel, William Wagner, Elizabeth Waters, and Christine Worobec. They have helped me to hone my arguments and to correct errors of fact and interpretation; and they have stimulated me to rethink, although not always to revise, my analyses. The shortcomings that remain are entirely my responsibility.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Pat Murphy of the history department of the University of Colorado, for resolving my computer problems more often than I like to remember and assisting in the production of the tables; and to Gladys Bloedow for negotiating bureaucracies with inventiveness and good will. Caroline Hinkley prepared several of the photographs for publication. Sarah Despres, my research assistant at the Woodrow Wilson Center, greatly facilitated my writing and made my tenure at the Center a lot more fun.

Finally, for sustaining me during the long years I worked on this book, I am more grateful than words can say to my families: in Moscow, S. and E.C., and Zh., in St. Petersburg, S.B. and I.R., E.T.; and S.M.L.; and here at home, Minette and William Alpern; and most of all, LeRoy Moore.

Parts of this book have appeared in print elsewhere in a somewhat different form. Chapter 2 appeared as "The Woman's Side: Male Out-Migration and the Family Economy in Kostroma Province," *Slavic Review* 45, n. 2 (Summer 1986): 257-71; Chapter 4 appeared as "Between Field and Factory: Women,

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Work and Family in the Factories of Rural Russia in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *Russian History* 16, n. 2–4 (1989): 223–37; and Chapter 6 as “St. Petersburg Prostitutes in the Late Nineteenth Century: A Personal and Social Profile,” *Russian Review* 48, n. 1 (1989): 21–44. My thanks to the editors for their cooperation in the republication of these materials.

All dates in this book are given according to the Julian Calendar, unless otherwise indicated. The Julian Calendar was twelve days behind the Gregorian in the nineteenth century, and thirteen days behind in the twentieth. I have transliterated the Russian according to the Library of Congress system, with a few exceptions. When giving the first names of individuals, I have omitted diacritical signs (Avdotiia instead of Avdot’iia) and I have transliterated “e” as “yo” (Fyodor instead of Fedor). I have anglicized the plurals of Russian measurements and of well-known terms like *artel*; I have also used the anglicized versions of well-known names and places.