

The Private World of Soviet Scientists from Stalin to Gorbachev

The Private World of Soviet Scientists from Stalin to Gorbachev sheds new light on the complex transition of Soviet society from Stalinism into the post-Stalin era. Using the case study of Chernogolovka, one of dozens of scientific towns built in the USSR under Khrushchev, Rogacheva explains what motivated the scientific intelligentsia to participate in the late Soviet project and what it contributed to the stability of the USSR. Rogacheva traces the history of this scientific community from its creation in 1956 through the early Gorbachev period to paint a nuanced portrait of the living conditions, political outlook, and mentality of the local scientific intelligentsia. Utilizing new archival materials and an extensive oral history project, she argues that Soviet scientists were not merely bought off by the Soviet state, but that they bought *into* the idealism and social optimism of the post-Stalin regime. Many shared the regime's belief in the progressive development of Soviet society on a scientific basis, and embraced their increased autonomy and privileged status.

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To my Parents, with much love

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