



The News under Russia's Old Regime: The Development of a Mass-Circulation Press (Princeton Legacy Library)

By Louise McReynolds

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In this lively account of the rise of a commercial newspaper industry in imperial Russia, Louise McReynolds explores how the mass-circulation press created a forum for popular opinion advocating political change. From the Great Reforms of Tsar Alexander II in 1855 to the Bolsheviks' shut-down of the newspapers in 1917, she chronicles the exploits of publishers and editors, writers and readers. Arguing that this prosperous industry both expressed and shaped the development of ideas among new social groups, McReynolds provides insight into the growth in Russia of a fragile pluralism characteristic of modern societies. Her discussion of the relationship between communications and politics, which draws especially on Jurgen Habermas, combines a variety of interrelated ingredients: institutional histories of major newspapers, biographical sketches of journalists, the intellectual impact of the new language of newspaper journalism, the political ramifications of public opinion under the auspices of an autocratic government. Comparing the Russian press with independent commercial newspaper industries in the United States, England, and France, McReynolds examines the extent to which Russia was evolving according to Western political and socioeconomic patterns before the Bolshevik Revolution.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Louise McReynolds is Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Russia at Play: Leisure Activities at the End of the Tsarist Era*, *Murder Most Russian: True Crime and Punishment in Late Imperial Russia*, and *The News under Russia's Old Regime*.

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