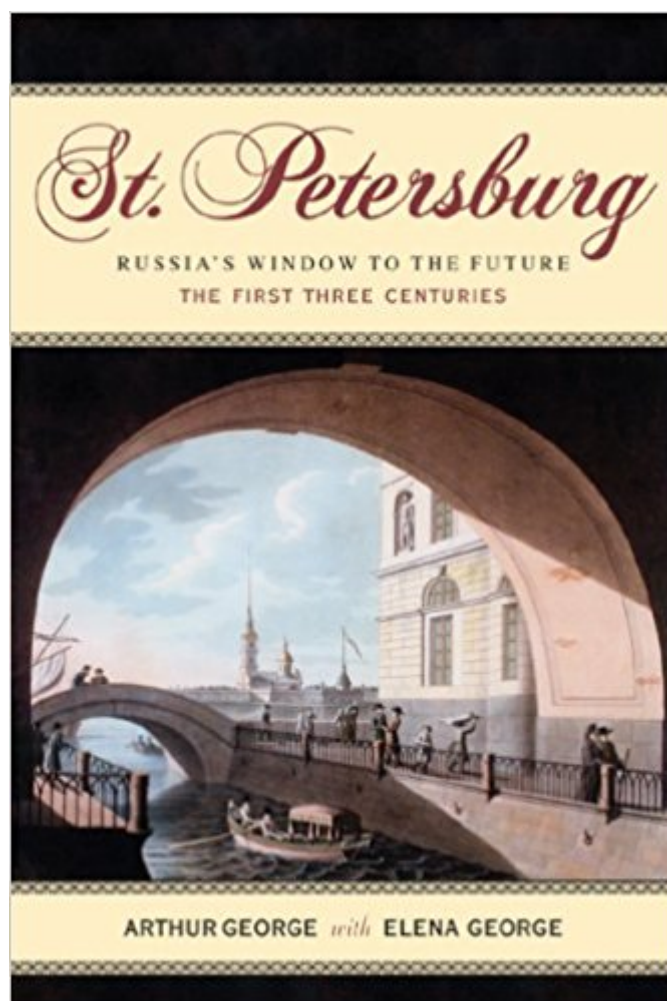


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St. Petersburg: Russia's Window To The Future, The First Three Centuries



Synopsis

Throughout its history, and particularly since the downfall of the USSR, St. Petersburg has held a unique fascination both within and outside of Russia. One of the world's most vibrant and storied metropolises, St. Petersburg celebrates its 300th anniversary in 2003. This full-length narrative history chronicles the distinctively beautiful city from its founding by Peter the Great in 1703 through its modern renaissance in the era of Vladimir Putin. St. Petersburg covers the city's political and social history, as well as its infinite contributions to scholarship, culture, and world politics. Particular attention is paid to St. Petersburg's frequent role as Russia's key link to the West and modernism, and the relevance of this to present-day Russia as it endeavors to become a civil society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

St. Petersburg was commanded into existence by Peter the Great, and its inherent artifice has made it one of the world's most storied cities, the stage for political and artistic dreamers. In this comprehensive chronicle, the authors introduce these figures, who were dissatisfied in some way with Russian traditions. Throughout, the Georges devote attention to St. Petersburg's beguiling physical appearance--canals, bridges, promenades, and palaces--but their most lively writing hones in on the interplay between power and intellect, reaction and reform. Presenting capsule biographies of each type in each era (such as Czar Nicholas I and poet Alexander Pushkin), they tend to describe more than analyze, which is the right tack to reach their readers: those interested in St. Petersburg but not yet steeped in its tumult of war, revolution, and aesthetics. The late historian W. Bruce Lincoln (*Sunlight at Midnight: St. Petersburg and the Rise of Modern Russia*, 2001) owned

this audience; the popularity of his many works augurs well for the Georges' solid survey. Gilbert Taylor
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George's book is the first to cover St. Petersburg's history from its founding to the present. George thoroughly discusses St. Petersburg's palaces and buildings, political history, and the private lives of Russia's rulers. His narrative is excellent and often picturesque, especially on court life and pageantry. Should appeal to educated readers. (History Review Of New Books)

A great reference for the researchers interested with political and cultural influence of the city of St Petersburg in Russian political history.

The book is in great condition!

I just finished reading this terrific history tonite, and agree completely with the 5-star ratings of the earlier reviews. I am planning my first visit to Russia this summer---a week in St. Petersburg---and this history proved to be a truly engrossing and informative read in preparation for my visit. Like the first reviewer, I too was sad to reach the end of the book; reading the last 20 years covered (which spans my adult lifetime) was like reading a page-turner, particularly as the collapse of Soviet Russia reached Palace Square. I closed the book cheering for St. Petersburgers, and eager to know how the successive 6~7 years since publication would be summarized by this talented author. The depth of information and scope of topics presented in the book, spanning the three hundred years of St. Petersburg (ie, general history of the city, as well as the nobility, industry, architecture, citizenry, all forms of arts, political developments, etc.) really helped me feel immersed in the "idea" of St. Petersburg; I have a far deeper appreciation and respect, before I even set foot in the city, for what I will be touring and experiencing.

I lived in St. Petersburg for seven years, and of all the books I have read about the City and Russia, this is the most fascinating and thorough. Arthur George is very smart; well educated in many areas: culture, history, law, politics, and philosophy; and has an excellent research colleague in Elena George. Because I lived there, I especially appreciate his historical descriptions of the city, often followed by subsequent and current names of places. I highly recommend this book for anyone who has visited the city, either once or frequently; and it would be a brilliant introduction to anyone planning to go to St. Petersburg for any reason. I definitely appreciate his placing of St. Petersburg

into the history of Russia, and his hope that the current Russian Federation administration under Vladimir V. Putin--coming as it does largely from St. Petersburg--will lead Russia away from the two horrible eras dominated by Moscow. My only disappointment is that the book finally ended, although for anyone who has ever visited St. Petersburg there is hope that they will return and be part of its history again.

I was born and lived in St.Petersburg for 23 years. I am and will always be in love with this strikingly beautiful, cultural capital of Russia. Arthur George's book is the best book about St.Petersburg I have ever read. The author shows a thorough knowledge of the Russian history, literature and politics, the history of the city and the most famous St.Petersburgers: writers and poets, musicians and artists, politicians.Thank you, Arthur and Elena George. Vivat, St.Petersburg!!

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