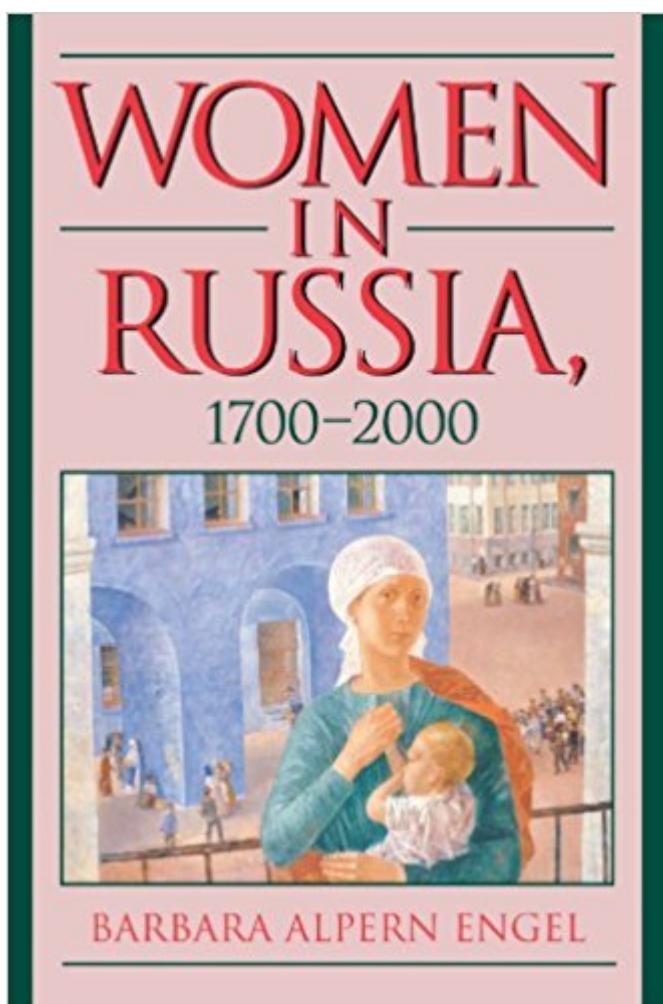


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# **Women In Russia, 1700–2000 (Advance Praise For Women In Russia, 1700–2000)**



## **Synopsis**

This narrative of women's experiences from the seventeenth century to the present evokes the voices of individuals to enhance Barbara Alpern Engel's account of how women of various social strata were affected by, and in turn affected, historical change. The study's use of the female perspective provides an original way of interpreting Russia's past and important insights into the impact of gender on the ways that Russians defined themselves and others, as well as political change.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"This lively, rich, and intelligent history of women in Russia will be of great interest to both students and teachers of Russian and Soviet society." Slavic Review "In richly textured and graceful prose, the premier historian of Russian women, Barbara Engel, has given us the story of the burdens and conflicts, triumphs and defeats of women in tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union. Bringing in both elite and ordinary women, Russians and the non-Russian peoples, their everyday lives as well as political achievements, she tells a tale, not of steady progress, but of constant struggle against traditional patriarchy, unfulfilled promises of reformers and revolutionaries, and great and small victories always vulnerable to reversal. Here Russia's history is rounded out by the voices of those too often left silent." Professor Ronald Grigor Suny, University of Chicago "Many thanks to Barbara Engel for the book we have been waiting for--the first comprehensive history of Russian women... Engel moves expertly from Imperial to Soviet to post-Soviet Russia. A splendid read from start to

finish, *Women in Russia, 1700-2000*, is learned, vivid, and utterly absorbing. Engel, the top scholar in the field of Russian women's history, is also a skilled storyteller who gives us exactly the right balance of Russian historical context, general narrative, brilliant analysis, and spirited accounts of individual women's lives. *Women in Russia* is for everyone-- students, scholars, and any reader who appreciates fascinating and vital history at its very best." Nina Tumarkin, Professor of History, Wellesley College, author of *Lenin Lives! The Lenin Cult in Soviet Russia* (1983) and *The Living and the Dead: The Rise and Fall of the Cult of World War II in Russia* (1994)"Ranging from Peter the Great to the present, from tsarina to peasant, and from village to city, Barbara Engel's sweeping synthesis presents, for the very first time, the full panorama of Russian women's history. Her stories of women and their struggles through the centuries will prove essential to every student and teacher of Russian history." Wendy Z. Goldman, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University"This extraordinary survey combines astute synthesis and telling, sometimes searing detail. The clear and thoughtful narrative carries the reader through three centuries of riveting history, including the critical events of the past fifteen years. Engel is at the top of her form and has written another top-notch book." Bonnie G. Smith, Rutgers University, author of *Changing Lives: Women in European History since 1700* (1989)."...Engel's book is a success." Christine Ruane, University of Texas, *Russian Review*"Engel's text is essential for Russian historians and for Slavists with an interest in women's studies." *Slavic and East European Journal*,/i> Erin Collopy, Texas Tech University"After thirty-five years of scholarly research on women in Russian history, enough work has appeared to justify a preliminary survey of the topic. Even so, it takes courage to accept the assignment. Despite the many excellent studies now available, large gaps in knowledge remain. Barbara Alpern Engel is to be congratulated for taking on the difficult task of surveying the field and giving an assessment of what we currently know about women in the Russian past. And, indeed, no one is better able to do this, as Engel is herself a pioneer who has contributed much to our knowledge." - Julie Hessler, University of Oregon

*Women in Russia, 1700-2000* is the first book to provide a lively and compelling chronological narrative of women's experiences from the 17th century to the present. Synthesizing recent scholarship with her own work in primary and archival sources, Barbara Alpern Engel skillfully evokes the voices of individuals to enliven the account, detailing how women of various social strata were affected by and shaped historical change. Adopting the perspective of women provides fresh interpretations of Russia's past and important insights into the impact of gender on the ways that Russians defined themselves and others, and imagined political change.

A priceless resource for students of Russian Studies. This is my go to for Russian women as Engel does a masterful job of combining primary sources along with important historical context essential for the success of any student. You don't even need to be a student, it's just so fascinating..and she really makes history come alive :)

This book will give the reader a look at women and their role in Russian history.

Engel tackles a vast subject. It sprawls across three centuries of turmoil and revolution. Plus it spans a vast geographic area and a multitude of ethnicities and religions. The care she has taken with this book starts in the very title, "Women in Russia". It does not say "Russian Women", for that can be taken to connote ethnic (Christian) Russian. Whereas she includes in her study Muslim women, Jewish women, the women of the Volga Germans, and Finnish women. Probably out of practicality, she omits discussion of the Russian Far East (Siberia), which has enclaves of Korean, Mongolian, Japanese and Chinese. The later chapters that deal with Communist rule may owe much of their detail to the fall of Communism, and the subsequent accessibility of many documents. This may have been further eased by these documents undoubtedly being seen as having no military value. Unlike say a history of Soviet rocketry or microbiology. I found the most interesting sections to be on the Communist period. They did put the first female astronaut (V. Tereshkova) into orbit, and proudly trumpeted this. But, as Engel makes clear, inside the Soviet Union, women were commonly relegated to traditional family rearing roles, not so different from the US at the time. A very commendable survey by Engel. One that an interested reader might then wish for her to write more detailed analyses of the various aspects she discusses here.

Engel's history of women in Russia is a fascinating glimpse at an otherwise overlooked part of Russian history. It is a great addition to any personal library.

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