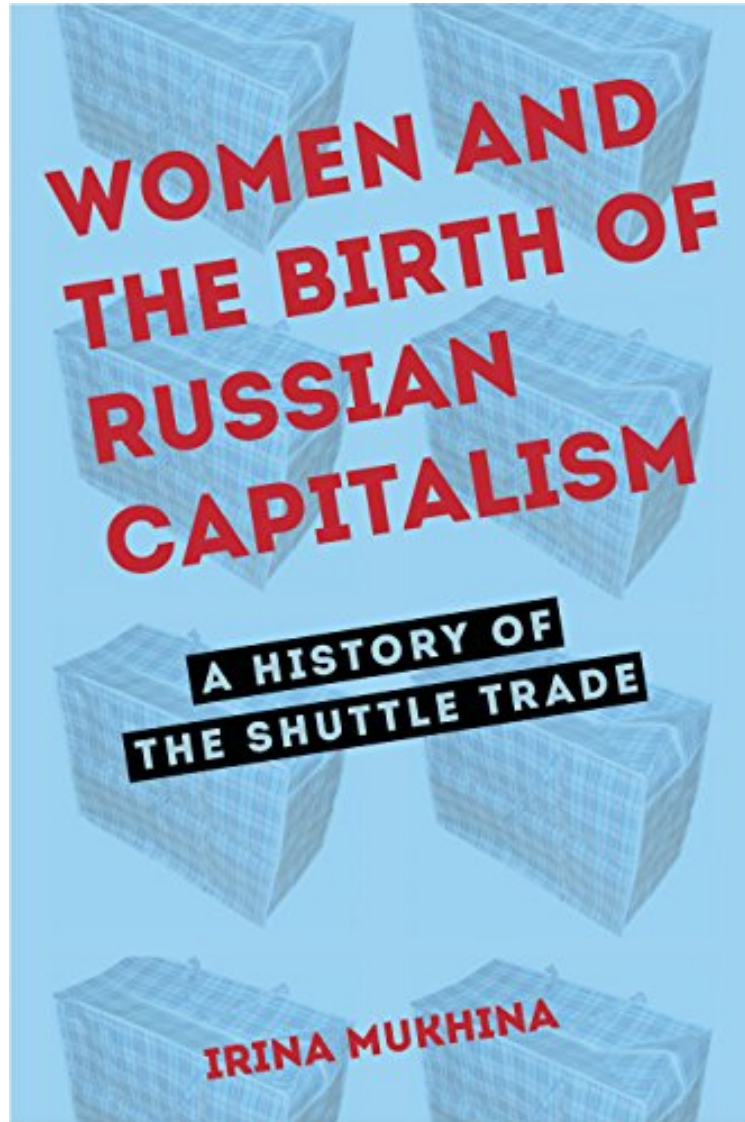


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Women and the Birth of Russian Capitalism: A History of the Shuttle Trade

Irina Mukhina

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Irina Mukhina : Women and the Birth of Russian Capitalism: A History of the Shuttle Trade before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women and the Birth of Russian Capitalism: A History of the Shuttle Trade:

Little has been known, acknowledged, or studied about the shuttle trade, one of the major manifestations of new

Russian life of the 1990s. The term itself seems to suggest something of a rather small scale. Indeed, the amount of each transaction in this trade was miniscule. Individual peddlers traveled to near-abroad with their bulging bags and brought back home for resale only as many goods as they could personally carry in their enormous suitcases. The phenomenon hidden behind the term "shuttle trader" was by no means insignificant or small in scale. By the mid-1990s, it constituted the backbone of Russian consumer trade and was a substantial source of revenue.

Mukhina provides a succinct, perceptive history that adds depth to a growing appreciation of how economic and political change can affect the lives of ordinary people—particularly Russian women—in the post-Soviet era.

CHOICE "The book was thoroughly researched and well written and it would be of interest to historians as well as scholars interested in the economic and political transition, migration, and gender." *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*

This volume is an important addition to student reading lists on socioeconomic and political change of the 1980s and 1990s, and on gender studies. It is a most rewarding read.

The Russian This book is a valuable work in the field and fills an existing scientific void on the subject. . . The author artfully connects international and national contexts and assesses the links between an economic transformation and a social shift. The book is also a meaningful testimony of an important period of Russian history.

Europe-Asia Studies Irina Mukhina's study significantly enhances our understanding of how the shuttle trade, and especially women's participation in it, shaped emerging markets in Russia as communism was collapsing. It also illuminates how the traders themselves experienced this transitory period. The most important contribution this book makes is telling the story of the women involved in the shuttle trade.

Kate Transchel, California State University, Chico