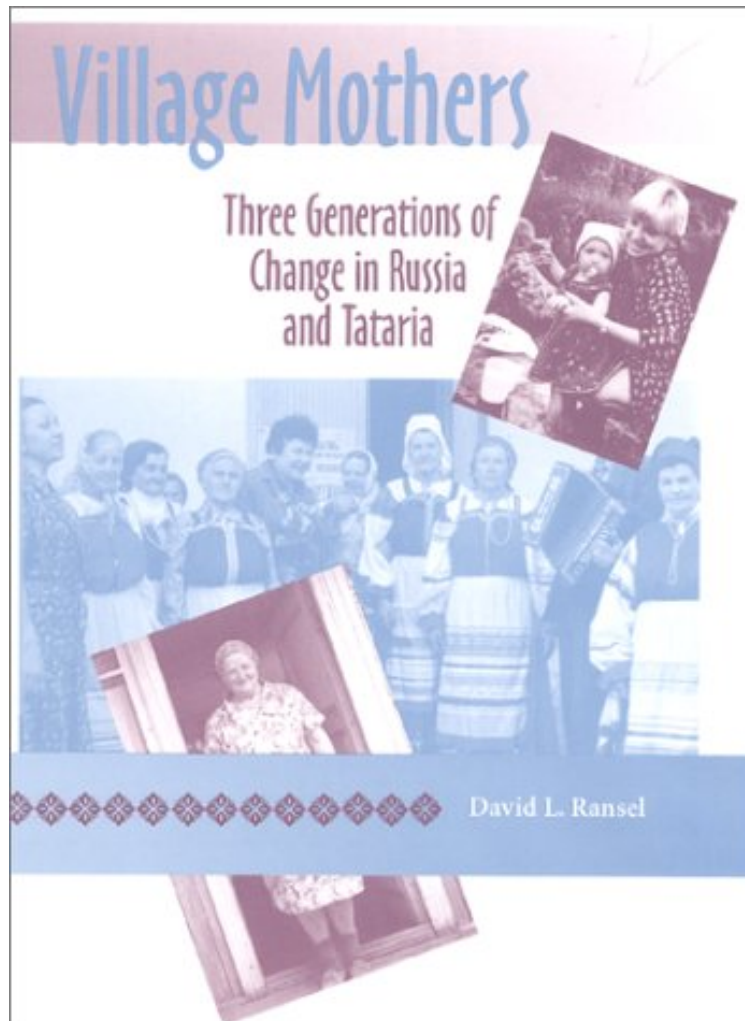


[FREE] Village Mothers: Three Generations of Change in Russia and Tataria (Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian East European Studies)

Village Mothers: Three Generations of Change in Russia and Tataria (Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian East European Studies)

David L Ransel

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David L Ransel : Village Mothers: Three Generations of Change in Russia and Tataria (Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian East European Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Village Mothers: Three Generations of Change in Russia and Tataria (Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian East European Studies):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A book that reflects the true nature of RussiaBy Jens

Stoltenberg Most people outside Russia perceive it as a Slavic, Christian nation. That is a wrong way of looking at it. Russia is a symbiosis of Slavic/Christian and Turkic/Muslim elements. David L. Ransel's fascinating book reflects this dual nature of Russia and gives an insight into its complex inner soul. A wealth of details and astute observations make this book a pleasure to read. Most recent books about Russia concentrate on its urban aspects or on its general political or economic aspects. Unlike them, *Village Mothers* presents a picture of its rural life. Russia has been a largely rural, agricultural country for many centuries. Its industrialization started only a few decades ago. That's why it is important to understand the village life in Russia. David Ransel's book helps to do just that.

Village Mothers describes the reception of modern medical ideas and practices by three generations of Russian and Tatar village women in the 20th century. It first traces the entry of Western medical discourse on reproduction into Russia and its extension to the countryside during the Soviet period. Using the village mothers' own words, as captured in 100 oral interviews collected by the author and his collaborators in the early 1990s, David L. Ransel shows how the women mediated the inherited beliefs of their families and communities, the claims of the state to control reproduction, and their personal desires for a better life. The interviews tell of willing acceptance of some changes and selective acceptance of or outright resistance to others. The women interviewed were subject to powerful forces beyond their control, ranging from patriarchal tyranny to civil war, governmental coercion and violence, famine, and world war. Their testimonies, however, reveal the strategies by which they maintained a measure of personal control and choice that enabled them to build a sense of independence, endure hardship, and give meaning to their lives.

"As much of this study is based on oral histories from a spread of villages across central European Russia it provides fascinating insights into shifts in women's perceptions and behaviors spanning much of the twentieth century. It is the scope of these personal histories and the detail they have generated which make this book particularly impressive... a very accessible and colorful text." --Susan Bridger

About the Author David L. Ransel is Professor of History and Director of the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University, Bloomington. He has served as editor of *Slavic and American Historical*. He is author of *The Politics of Catherinian Russia: The Panin Party and Mothers of Misery: Child Abandonment in Russia*. He is also editor of *The Family in Imperial Russia: New Lines of Historical Research*, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* (Indiana University Press), and co-editor (with Jane Burbank) of *Imperial Russia: New Histories for the Empire* (Indiana University Press).