

Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State



Russia is famous for its vodka, and its culture of extreme intoxication. But just as vodka is central to the lives of many Russians, it is also central to understanding Russian history and politics. In *Vodka Politics*, Mark Lawrence Schrad argues that debilitating societal alcoholism is not hard-wired into Russians genetic code, but rather their autocratic political system, which has long wielded vodka as a tool of statecraft. Through a series of historical investigations stretching from Ivan the Terrible through Vladimir Putin, *Vodka Politics* presents the secret history of the Russian state itself - a history that is drenched in liquor. Scrutinizing (rather than dismissing) the role of alcohol in Russian politics yields a more nuanced understanding of Russian history itself: from palace intrigues under the tsars to the drunken antics of Soviet and post-Soviet leadership, vodka is there in abundance. Beyond vivid anecdotes, Schrad scours original documents and archival evidence to answer provocative historical questions. How have Russias rulers used alcohol to solidify their autocratic rule? What role did alcohol play in tsarist coups? Was Nicholas IIs ill-fated prohibition a catalyst for the Bolshevik Revolution? Could the Soviet Union have become a world power without liquor? How did vodka politics contribute to the collapse of both communism and public health in the 1990s? How can the Kremlin overcome vodkas hurdles to produce greater social well-being, prosperity, and democracy into the future? Viewing Russian history through the bottom of the vodka bottle helps us to understand why the liquor question remains important to Russian high politics even today - almost a century after the issue had been put to bed in most every other modern state. Indeed, recognizing and confronting vodkas devastating political legacies may be the greatest political challenge for this generation of

Russias leadership, as well as the next.

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Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the : Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State (9780199755592) by Mark Lawrence Schrad and a great **Book Review: Vodka Politics - Diplomatic Courier** Review: Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the From the earliest years of the Russian state, alcohol has been the friend of the **Vodka Politics - Paperback - Mark Lawrence Schrad - Oxford** Sep 4, 2015 Schrad, Mark Lawrence Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the He argues that, in Russia, vodka and autocracy are intimately rest on a foundation of alcoholin particular, the state monopoly on vodka sales. Thus, Schrad shows how Russias long history of drunken, abusive **Bottoms Up, or Race to the Bottom? Origins: Current Events in** Feb 11, 2014 author of Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State. We discuss why Russians have such a fondness for **Book review of Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret** Sep 3, 2014 Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State. Oxford: Oxford University Press. \$35.00. pp 492. Hardback. **Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the** Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State eBook: Mark Lawrence Schrad: : Kindle Store. **Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the** Mark Lawrence - Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian State jetzt kaufen. ISBN: 9780199755592, Fremdsprachige Bucher **Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret - Goodreads** Aug 18, 2014 Vodka Politics: Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the a key to state finance, and a source of Russian societys backwardness. **Vodka Politics - Hardcover - Mark Lawrence Schrad - Oxford** In Vodka Politics, Mark Lawrence Schrad argues that debilitating societal alcoholism is not Alcohol, Autocracy, and the Secret History of the Russian

