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A History of Vodka

By William Pokhlebkin

Verso Books, United Kingdom, 1992. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 274 x 208 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Savoured by peasants and Tsars, condemned by clerics and the architects of perestroika - vodka has been the joy and scourge of the Russian nation for centuries. But what are the origins of the Russians favourite drink? Did vodka emerge as an authentic national discovery from the brewing-shops of the monasteries of medieval Russia, or was the secret of its preparation imported from elsewhere? When was it that people first experienced vodka s now famed property of knocking drinkers off their feet ? With formidable scholarship and considerable dry wit, William Pokhlebkin, one of Russia s best-known historians sets out on the detective trail. His aim: to reveal the strange truth about his country s most famous tittle. The result is a triumph of historical deduction. As he uncovers the social economic and technical background to the emergence of vodka, and indeed tells us how and with what the spirit should be drunk, the author creates and unconventional but true-to-life portrait of the society and society and social psychology that gave birth to today s Russia. He argues that those who...



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