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Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times - Soviet Russia in the 1930s

By Sheila Fitzpatrick

Oxford University Press Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times - Soviet Russia in the 1930s, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Here is a pioneering account of everyday life under Stalin, written by one of our foremost authorities on modern Russian history. Focusing on urban areas in the 1930's, Sheila Fitzpatrick shows that with the adoption of collectivisation and the first Five Year Plan, everyday life was utterly transformed. With the abolition of the market, shortages of food, clothing, and all kinds of consumer goods became endemic. As peasants fled the collectivised villages, major cities were soon in the grip of a major housing crisis, with families jammed for decades into tiny single rooms in communal apartments, counting living space in square metres. It was a world of overcrowding, privation, endless queues, and broken families, in which the regime's promise of future socialist abundance rang hollowly. We read of a government bureaucracy that often turned everyday life into a nightmare, and of the ways that ordinary citizens tried to circumvent it, primarily by patronage and the ubiquitous system of personal connections known as "blat". And we read of the police surveillance that was endemic to this...



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