
About the Book and Author

The dramatic revelations of environmental catastrophe in the Soviet Union made during the late 1980s and early 1990s were a driving force behind reform in, and later the demise of the communist party-state. But while the Union no longer exists, the independent republics confront the same dilemmas that plagued the Soviet state: Will the goal of economic growth continue to take priority over that of environmental quality?

Making good use of personal contacts and the latest official as well as unofficial data to compellingly illustrate the challenges posed in people's daily lives by contaminated food, drinking water, and air, the book also explores developments in environmental policy and politics in recent years and assesses the likely long-term effects of the dramatic economic and political trends in the post-Soviet era. Parallel data on environmental conditions in other regions around the world will assist the student and generalist to view developments in the states of the former Soviet Union in a broader, comparative perspective. The result is a well-balanced, accessible, and engrossing account.

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