

Muscovy and the Mongols: Cross-Cultural Influences on the Steppe Frontier, 1304-1589

By Donald Ostrowski



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In this innovative and challenging study, Donald Ostrowski adds fresh and important insights to a pivotally important yet poorly understood subject--Mongol influence on Muscovy. Ostrowski considers here the outside origins and influences, as well as the indigenous origins and development, and shows that during the early period of Muscovy the dominant outside influences came through both Byzantium and the Qipchaq Khanate with its capital at Sarai. In considering these outside influences, Ostrowski has set out to study Muscovy as an integral and important part of world history.



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Muscovy and the Mongols: Cross-Cultural Influences on the Steppe Frontier, 1304-1589 By Donald Ostrowski Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #3117025 in Books

• Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press

Published on: 2002-06-20Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.98" h x .79" w x 5.98" l, 1.15 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 348 pages

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"...this a very well organized book.... This reinterpretive monoggraph is clearly intended for the serious historian." Choice

"Donald Ostrowski's bold, wide-ranging, argumentative book examines the competing influences that shaped Muscovy in its formative centuries and how Muscovites reconciled, incorporated, or adapted those influences and made them their own. ...the book is...an extraordinary feat, daring in its scope, its ambitions, and its successes." Valerie A. Kivelson, American Historical Review

"Doubtless, the book moves the study of the Mongols in Russia to a much higher plane. Ostrowski has succeeded in refashioning the terms in which the Mongol-Russian interaction will be studied for decades to come." The Russian Review

"Ostrowski is to be congratulated for offering a book that is both erudite and readable. He has taken on a well-worn topic and succeeded in delivering a fresh and insightful new treatment." Russell E. Martin, H-Net Reviews

"This is an engaging and wide-ranging book, based on an impressive scope of reading and research. It will interest not only historians of premodern Russia and the Mongol (or Tatar) Empire but also historians of the medieval Islamic world and the Byzantine Empire. In addition, social scientists and historians studying cultural interaction and influence should find it of much value." Speculum

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