



Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition

By Christoph Neidhart

Download now

Read Online 

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart

This colorfully drawn and acutely observed book explores Russia by engaging all our senses. Today's Russia smells different from the Soviet Union. The country looks and sounds different, its touch is different and its food tastes different. Thus, Christoph Neidhart argues, Russia is truly a changed country from the Soviet Union it was, little more than a decade ago. Russian society is rapidly urbanizing and modernizing, as can be perceived by all senses, including the awareness of space and the conception of time. After almost a century, space can be privately owned and freely traded; time too has become commodified. New role models and new ways to express social status are emerging. Russia has become a 'monetized' economy as the old Soviet practice of provision by networking has grown obsolete. Russia thus readies itself gradually to grow into a Western-style, middle-class society with a free market and democratic polity. The author assesses these rapid changes using the evocative metaphor of the carnival to understand the chaotic inversion of the Communist structure of society. He explores the transition's traps and shortcomings?such as the privatization of politics and the looting of the state's assets?and compares this process to the modernization Western society underwent a century earlier.

 [Download Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and So ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and ...pdf](#)

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition

By Christoph Neidhart

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart

This colorfully drawn and acutely observed book explores Russia by engaging all our senses. Today's Russia smells different from the Soviet Union. The country looks and sounds different, its touch is different and its food tastes different. Thus, Christoph Neidhart argues, Russia is truly a changed country from the Soviet Union it was, little more than a decade ago. Russian society is rapidly urbanizing and modernizing, as can be perceived by all senses, including the awareness of space and the conception of time. After almost a century, space can be privately owned and freely traded; time too has become commodified. New role models and new ways to express social status are emerging. Russia has become a 'monetized' economy as the old Soviet practice of provision by networking has grown obsolete. Russia thus readies itself gradually to grow into a Western-style, middle-class society with a free market and democratic polity. The author assesses these rapid changes using the evocative metaphor of the carnival to understand the chaotic inversion of the Communist structure of society. He explores the transition's traps and shortcomings?such as the privatization of politics and the looting of the state's assets?and compares this process to the modernization Western society underwent a century earlier.

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart Bibliography

- Rank: #291549 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Rowman n Littlefield Publishers
- Published on: 2002-11-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .55" w x 5.82" l, .76 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

 [Download Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and So ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition** By **Christoph Neidhart**

Editorial Review

Review

Set against a grey and rigid Soviet past, this book provides a rich picture of people rapidly adapting to a market economy and to intensified exposure to Western culture. (*The Russian Review*)

A colorful tapestry of observations. (*Slavic Review*)

This lively and entertaining book represents a highly original contribution to the growing literature on post-Soviet Russia. The author takes us on a richly sensual tour of the country in which he lived and worked as a journalist for almost ten years. Not surprisingly perhaps, he maintains that today's Russia is a fundamentally different place from the Socialist state which it replaced barely more than a decade ago. The book's distinctiveness comes not so much from this assertion, however, as from the evidence that Neidhart advances in order to support his thesis. This is a remarkable book, not least for the way in which Neidhart manages to write with both the freshness and immediacy of a journalist and the conceptual sophistication of a cultural anthropologist. As a result his book will appeal to readers in a broad range of disciplines, including sociology, economics, history, and politics. (*Slavonica*)

Christopher Neidhart has written an innovative and provocative book detailing the unprecedented changes experienced by the people of Russia. Using the carnival metaphor of the Russian writer and philosopher, Mikhail Bakhtin, Neidhart chronicles the everyday transformations and adaptations of a people and society as they attempt to cope with the many uncertainties of life in post-soviet Russia?. Unlike many first-hand accounts of Russia, which are often based on insufficient background information and little in-country experience, Neidhart's work is the result of many years of living in Russia. But it is much more than that; it is the intellectual culmination of a serious attempt to understand and experience for himself the nearly incomprehensible changes in the daily lives of average citizens?. *Russia's Carnival* is a well-researched work that combines theoretical sophistication with penetrating insight. Neidhart has done a considerable amount of research on semiotics as well as urban and cultural studies in order to contextualize Russia's experience. His ability to make Russia's unique experience with transition accessible and comprehensible to a broad audience serves as a reminder that academic works can be first-rate without being opaque and inaccessible (Robert Owen Krikorian *Journal Of Cold War Studies, Summer 2005 Issue 7:3*)

Russia's Carnival is a very informative resource for any who wants to know what really goes on in Eastern Europe. Even those who have their own first hand "sensory experiences" are reminded of how drastically Russia has changed since the collapse of the USSR. And no one has reported on them as systematically and with such keenness before as Neidhart. (Jukka Gronow *Senses & Society*)

Christoph Neidhart has written a fascinating account of the most important historical phenomenon of the late twentieth century: the transition from communism, the process of transformation by which the Soviet Union became, and is still becoming, the new Russia. Neidhart goes far beyond politics to offer a concrete anthropology of the sights, sounds, and smells of transition, which he brilliantly describes as a kind of carnival, the communist world turned upside down. The transformation was not just about freedom as an abstract condition, as Neidhart shows, but about fashion, food, and furniture. At the same time, the Russians discovered whole new ways of thinking about time, space, and money. *Russia's Carnival* will be essential reading for anyone interested in Russia, the Soviet Union, and the end of communism, a book comparable in insight to the important works of David Remnick, Ryszard Kapuscinski, and Svetlana Boym. Neidhart

invites his readers to 'stroll' with him through the streets of Russia in transition, and shows himself to be not only a supremely subtle guide, but also the consummate post-Soviet flaneur in his sensitivity to the signs and meanings of contemporary Russian society and culture. (Larry Wolff)

Christopher Neidhart has written an innovative and provocative book detailing the unprecedented changes experienced by the people of Russia. Using the carnival metaphor of the Russian writer and philosopher, Mikhail Bakhtin, Neidhart chronicles the everyday transformations and adaptations of a people and society as they attempt to cope with the many uncertainties of life in post-soviet Russia....Unlike many first-hand accounts of Russia, which are often based on insufficient background information and little in-country experience, Neidhart's work is the result of many years of living in Russia. But it is much more than that; it is the intellectual culmination of a serious attempt to understand and experience for himself the nearly incomprehensible changes in the daily lives of average citizens....*Russia's Carnival* is a well-researched work that combines theoretical sophistication with penetrating insight. Neidhart has done a considerable amount of research on semiotics as well as urban and cultural studies in order to contextualize Russia's experience. His ability to make Russia's unique experience with transition accessible and comprehensible to a broad audience serves as a reminder that academic works can be first-rate without being opaque and inaccessible to non-specialists....We are fortunate to have *Russia's Carnival* as a guide to what may lie ahead. (Robert Owen Krikorian *Journal Of Cold War Studies, Summer 2005 Issue 7:3*)

About the Author

Christoph Neidhart is a senior columnist for Die Weltwoche, Switzerland's leading newsmagazine. As its correspondent, he lived in Russia for almost ten years. He wrote *Russia's Carnival* as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Davis Center, and is also the author of the book *Nach dem Kollaps* [After the Collapse], describing the transition of the former Soviet republics into emerging states.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Antione Wilson:

Here thing why this kind of *Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition* are different and reputable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it depends in the content than it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. *Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition* giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no publication that similar with *Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition*. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your means home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of *Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition* in e-book can be your alternative.

Ricardo Hamilton:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a e-book. The book *Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people

were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can more very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

Susan Tarin:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book compared to can satisfy your short space of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be study. Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short time problems.

Michelle Jarvis:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our understanding for everything. By a book we can know everything we wish. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This book Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition was filled about science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book you wanted.

Download and Read Online Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart #WVA139TZ7LN

Read Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart for online ebook

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart books to read online.

Online Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart ebook PDF download

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart Doc

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart Mobipocket

Russia's Carnival: The Smells, Sights, and Sounds of Transition By Christoph Neidhart EPub