



Our Daily Bread: Socialist Distribution and the Art of Survival in Stalin's Russia, 1927-1941 (New Russian History)

By Kate Transchel, Elena Osokina

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Drawing on newly available archival materials including official documents, reports, and personal accounts, this remarkable study presents a detailed picture of the living standards of various social groups in prewar Soviet Russia, and the role of state-controlled distribution of food and goods as a tool of the Stalinist dictatorship. The study offers a new perspective not only on the period of collectivization, industrialization, and terror but also on the regime's most rudimentary method of controlling human behavior and reshaping the social order. In her conclusion the author analyzes the long-term impacts of the Stalinist "dictatorship of distribution", from bureaucratization to rural depopulation to the emergence of a distinctive type of black-market economy.

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GRETA BUCHER is Professor of History at the United States Military Academy. Her research interests include Russian, Soviet and East European history; Women's history; and early modern European history. She is author of *Women, the Bureaucracy and Daily Life in Postwar Moscow, 1945-1953* (2006) and has written and edited several chapters, articles and translated works.

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