

Highly innovative and theoretically incisive, *Two Lenins* is the first book-length anthropological examination of how social reality can be organized around different yet concurrent ideas of time. Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov grounds his theoretical exploration in fascinating ethnographic and historical material on two Lenins: the first is the famed Soviet leader of the early twentieth century, and the second is a Siberian Evenki hunter—nicknamed “Lenin”—who experienced the collapse of the USSR during the 1990s. Through their intertwined stories, Ssorin-Chaikov unveils new dimensions of ethnographic reality by multiplying our notions of time.

Ssorin-Chaikov examines Vladimir Lenin at the height of his reign in 1920s Soviet Russia, focusing especially on his relationship with American businessperson Armand Hammer. He casts this scene against the second Lenin—the hunter on the far end of the country, in Siberia, at the far end of the century, the 1990s, who is tasked with improvising postsocialism in the economic and political uncertainties of post-Soviet transition. Moving from Moscow to Siberia to New York, and traveling from the 1920s to the 1960s to the 1990s, Ssorin-Chaikov takes readers beyond a simple global history or cross-temporal comparison, instead using these two figures to enact an ethnographic study of the very category of time that we use to bridge different historical contexts.

What time is it? Many. In this incandescent book, we learn that time is always composite, a relation among things, made of conflicting simultaneities, teleologies, and eternities. Ssorin-Chaikov delivers a dazzling brief for how exchanges among market, gift, and state time have made modernity itself.

STEFAN HELMREICH (MIT), author of *Sounding the limits of life: Essays in the anthropology of biology and beyond*

Two Lenins is an ethnographically rich work on comparative exchange and temporalities, an exemplary analysis towards the development of a comparative anthropology of the realm of bureaucracy in its historical and local agency.

JANE GUYER (Johns Hopkins University), author of *Legacies, logics, logistics: Essays in the anthropology of the platform economy*

Ssorin-Chaikov brilliantly updates an old set of anthropological topics, the multiplicity of social times and the moral economy of exchange. From the chronotopes of high Soviet modernity to the everyday lives of Evenki hunters (and their ethnographers) in its aftermath, the author provides a nuanced perspective on the politics of time, and the deep imbrication of gift, credit and theft in the making and unmaking of socialist worlds.

STEPHAN PALMIÉ (University of Chicago), author of *The cooking of history: How not to study Afro-Cuban religion*

This is a highly original book with an engaging plot made of three different events, places and times: the mid-1990s, with the story an Evenki hunter curiously nicknamed Lenin; the early 1920s, through encounter of the Lenin the Soviet leader with an American businessman; the author's own fieldwork. The three events are skillfully woven together, and discussed within a strong theoretical argument. A great achievement.

CARLOS FAUSTO (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), author of *Warfare and shamanism in Amazonia*

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