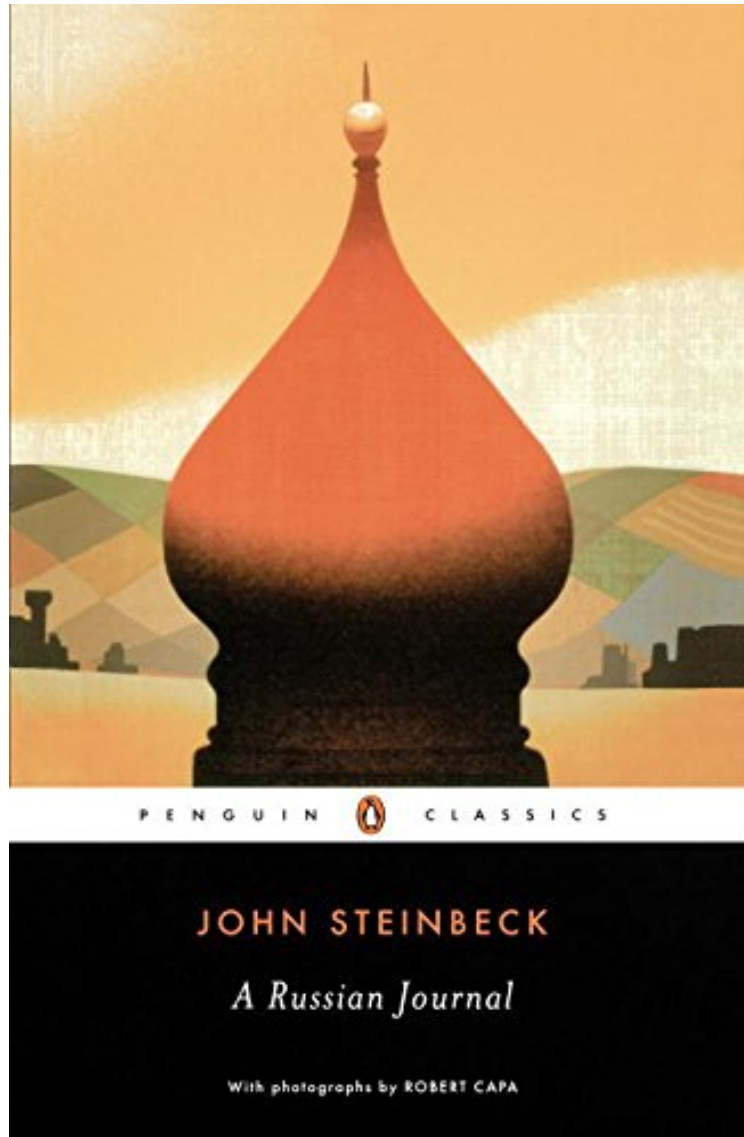


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## A Russian Journal (Classic, 20th-Century, Penguin)

*John Steinbeck*

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#314292 in Books Penguin Classics 1999-12-01 1999-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .60 x 5.10l, .37 #File Name: 0141180196240 pages Penguin Classics | File size: 15.Mb

**John Steinbeck : A Russian Journal (Classic, 20th-Century, Penguin)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Russian Journal (Classic, 20th-Century, Penguin):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Human Experience in Steinbeck Fashion By C. Bradley I read A Russian Journal upon returning home from a two-month stint of teaching in Moscow and was excited to dive into another Steinbeck. Not surprisingly, Steinbeck offers a truthful and compassionate portrayal of the human experience through eyes which seem to dissolve cultural barriers. Respectfully intruding into the lives of normal people during

post World War II Soviet Union, Steinbeck, accompanied by Robert Capa, documents the thoughts, work ethics, and questions of those who the rest of 1940s America failed to understand. Forging ahead behind the iron curtain, Steinbeck retells tales of normal, family-oriented, hard-working people found in the midst of his travels through the countryside who in many ways were no different than the Americans who feared and often disdained them. Most remarkably to me, Steinbeck tells of a Moscow that is relatively unchanged today. Incredibly, this slice of Russian culture has remained the same in many ways though it has experienced such a turbulent century. I would recommend *A Russian Journal* to anyone planning on visiting Russia soon (because it is still relevant) and also to anyone who enjoys Steinbeck. It is simple, heartfelt, and relatively unbiased in its attempts to portray normal life in another culture. Its style is easily comparable to *Travels With Charley*, although I believe because Steinbeck understands his own American culture so much more richly, he is able to portray connections and summations about what he experiences much more definitively in *Travels With Charley*. Regardless, *A Russian Journal* is certainly an interesting and enjoyable read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great piece of history By Juan C Merck Steinbeck is always Steinbeck! I bought the Kindle edition but was very disappointed with the resolution of the pictures and by that I mean the quality of the images of the pictures. It may sound strange to complain about "pictures" in a book written by Steinbeck but being Capa his travel companion and co-author I expected more. The journal is very descriptive and tries to portray the Soviet Union without any bias. I personally think that such thing as "un-biased" does not exist but at least Steinbeck was aware of that. On those days of the cold war, if you were not totally adverse to everything that was from the Soviet Union you were stigmatized as a pro-communist, in the best of the cases... I wish today a writer as talented as Steinbeck with comparable literary stature and as un-biased as he was, would write a: "Middle Eastern Journal"... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Read By Wendy B. Smith Sincere and honest, though a little naive, Steinbeck and photographer Capa tour the Soviet Union after WWII. The most interesting parts are about their visit to Georgia, specifically to Batumi on the Black Sea and the capital, Tiflis (Tbilisi). Through descriptions of overeating and overdrinking, we meet the good people of Russia, the bureaucracy, and the news people and foreign service people who live there. Steinbeck's writing makes the tour, including the waiting in airports, the drinking of endless cups of tea, and the incessant pouring of vodka come alive.

Steinbeck and Capa's account of their journey through Cold War Russia is a classic piece of reportage and travel writing. Just after the Iron Curtain fell on Eastern Europe, Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Steinbeck and acclaimed war photographer Robert Capa ventured into the Soviet Union to report for the *New York Herald Tribune*. This rare opportunity took the famous travelers not only to Moscow and Stalingrad now Volgograd but through the countryside of the Ukraine and the Caucasus. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "superb" when it first appeared in 1948, *A Russian Journal* is the distillation of their journey and remains a remarkable memoir and unique historical document. What they saw and movingly recorded in words and on film was what Steinbeck called "the great other side there the private life of the Russian people." Unlike other Western reporting about Russia at the time, *A Russian Journal* is free of ideological obsessions. Rather, Steinbeck and Capa recorded the grim realities of factory workers, government clerks, and peasants, as they emerged from the rubble of World War II represented here in Capa's stirring photographs alongside Steinbeck's masterful prose. Through it all, we are given intimate glimpses of two artists at the height of their powers, answering their need to document human struggle. This edition features an introduction by Steinbeck scholar Susan Shillinglaw. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

From *Library Journal* After the Iron Curtain was established following World War II, Steinbeck, along with photographer Bob Capa, ventured into the Soviet Union on behalf of the *New York Herald Tribune*. This 1948 volume collects the full run of his reports with numerous pictures. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Steinbeck and Capa's account of their journey through Cold War Russia is a classic piece of reportage and travel writing. Just after the Iron Curtain fell on Eastern Europe, Pulitzer Prize -- winning author John Steinbeck and acclaimed war photographer Robert Capa ventured into the Soviet Union to report for the *New York Herald Tribune*. This rare opportunity took the famous travelers not only to Moscow and Stalingrad -- now Volgograd -- but through the countryside of the Ukraine and the Caucasus. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "superb" when it first appeared in 1948, *A Russian Journal* is the distillation of their journey and remains a remarkable memoir and unique historical document. What they saw and movingly recorded in words and on film was what Steinbeck called "the great other side there ... [the] private life of the Russian people". Unlike other Western reporting about Russia at the time, *A Russian Journal* is free of ideological obsessions. Rather, Steinbeck and Capa recorded the grim realities of factory workers, government clerks, and peasants, as they emerged from the rubble of World War II. Through it all, we are given intimate glimpses of two artists at the height of their powers, answering their need to document human struggle. About

the Author John Steinbeck, born in Salinas, California, in 1902, grew up in a fertile agricultural valley, about twenty-five miles from the Pacific Coast. Both the valley and the coast would serve as settings for some of his best fiction. In 1919 he went to Stanford University, where he intermittently enrolled in literature and writing courses until he left in 1925 without taking a degree. During the next five years he supported himself as a laborer and journalist in New York City, all the time working on his first novel, *Cup of Gold* (1929). After marriage and a move to Pacific Grove, he published two California books, *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932) and *To a God Unknown* (1933), and worked on short stories later collected in *The Long Valley* (1938). Popular success and financial security came only with *Tortilla Flat* (1935), stories about Monterey's paisanos. A ceaseless experimenter throughout his career, Steinbeck changed courses regularly. Three powerful novels of the late 1930s focused on the California laboring class: *In Dubious Battle* (1936), *Of Mice and Men* (1937), and the book considered by many his finest, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). *The Grapes of Wrath* won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1939. Early in the 1940s, Steinbeck became a filmmaker with *The Forgotten Village* (1941) and a serious student of marine biology with *Sea of Cortez* (1941). He devoted his services to the war, writing *Bombs Away* (1942) and the controversial play-novelette *The Moon is Down* (1942). *Cannery Row* (1945), *The Wayward Bus* (1948), another experimental drama, *Burning Bright* (1950), and *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951) preceded publication of the monumental *East of Eden* (1952), an ambitious saga of the Salinas Valley and his own family's history. The last decades of his life were spent in New York City and Sag Harbor with his third wife, with whom he traveled widely. Later books include *Sweet Thursday* (1954), *The Short Reign of Pippin IV: A Fabrication* (1957), *Once There Was a War* (1958), *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), *Travels with Charley in Search of America* (1962), *America and Americans* (1966), and the posthumously published *Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters* (1969), *Viva Zapata!* (1975), *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights* (1976), and *Working Days: The Journals of The Grapes of Wrath* (1989). Steinbeck received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962, and, in 1964, he was presented with the United States Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Steinbeck died in New York in 1968. Today, more than thirty years after his death, he remains one of America's greatest writers and cultural figures. Susan Shillinglaw is a professor of English at San Jose State University. She is the author of *On Reading the Grapes of Wrath and Carol and John Steinbeck: Portrait of a Marriage*.