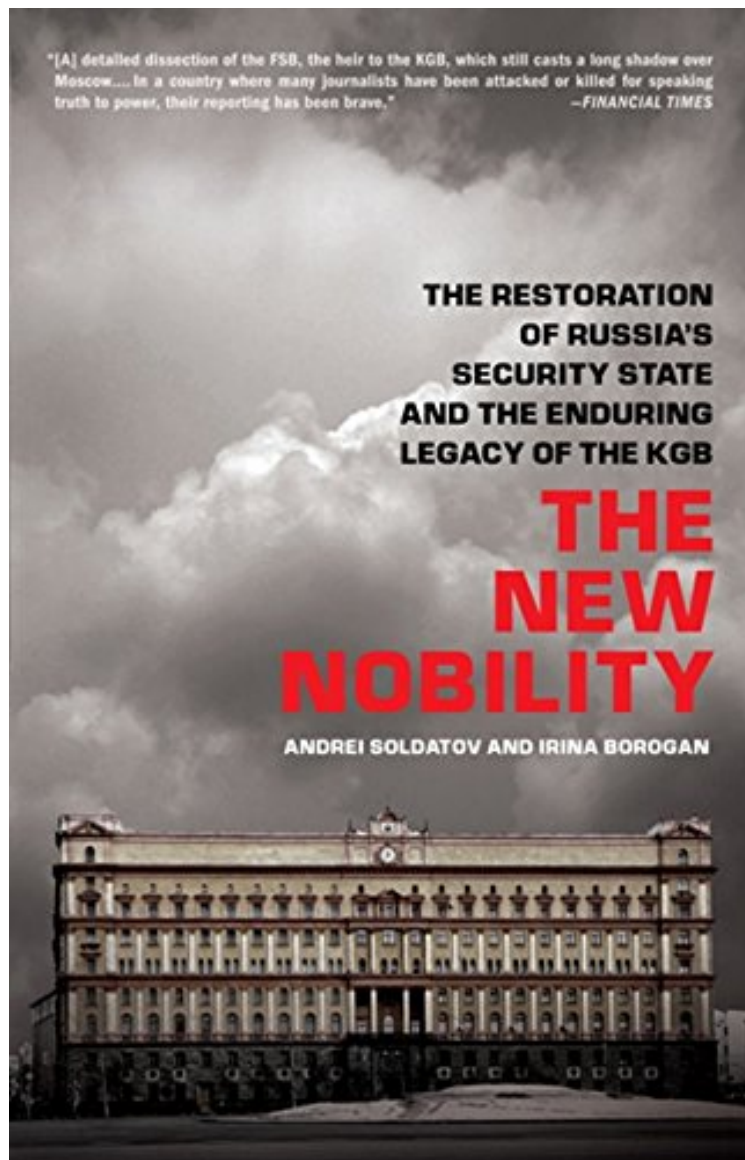


(Mobile ebook) The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB

The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB

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Andrei Soldatov, Irina Borogan : The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia's Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Story of the Current ThreatBy David SouthworthWith the late 1999 rise of Vladimir Putin to first Premier, then later president, of the Russian Federation, a new class of leadership took over the levers of power in Russia. What they faced was a country in chaos, reeling from a currency crisis, a long war in the Caucasus, and general malaise in the country. Putin and his siloviki ended the war in Chechnya, started reforming the military, and gave a much different public perception of Russian leadership than the drunken and overwhelmed Yeltsin. What he also brought was a state run to the benefit of his former KGB colleagues. He enriched his friends and destroyed anyone who challenged politically. He also took a much darker view of world politics and relations with the west, especially the United States. Russian security services took to challenging Westerners operating in Russia, and there was probably a similar increase in Russian operations overseas. Russian journalists Soldatov and Borogan are brave to chronicle these topics and much more in this engrossing book. It will do wonders to fill in the picture of how Russian leadership views ongoing issues with the West over Ukraine, the expansion of NATO, and the need to make Russia appear at least to be among the world's great powers.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The cold war is not over, just downsized and more intenseBy JohnAn excellent book if one is interested in modern Russian (Federation) history. I was amazed at similarities between the old KGB and the new FSB.How it managed to survive, then come back stronger, more powerful and more repressive than ever.This is not an easy read, it is quite involved and complex, like Russia herself.I suggest that people read appendix 1 and 2 first, it helps outline the events timeline.Then refer back to it as you progress through the chapters to keep from getting lost.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. How to elect the weirdest nobility possibleBy RostislavNot a slightest doubt: it is an extremely scary book, on the level with any well-detailed research about Inquisition, Gestapo, GULAG or StaSi. Paging through the horrors of the past, we always enjoy a happy soothing thought: thanks God for our lives in the present-day lawful democracies with no omnipotent henchmen around us! This book, however, denies us this enjoyment - its pages prove that even now, in our most democratic XXI century, we have no grounds for any soothing thoughts. In 2014, the Russian FSB is much more far from accountability than its KGB predecessor ever was. In fact, it owns the country entirely, ruling the Russian economy, industry, trade, banking, foreign relations, education - well, everything. The book shows, that, unlike KGB (which was driven by the Communist ideology, being accountable before the Party Politburo), the FSB is driven only by its own lust for unaccountable power and money, thus corrupting the nation with a speed of uncontrolled cancer, which devours greedily all the healthy cells of a human body. To judge from the book, actions of FSB (that is, of Service for Federal SECURITY) may be called "professional" only in the same sense as cancerous activities are professional in safeguarding the tumor's further growth. The activists of this cancerous progress were rewarded with a proud name of "The New Nobility". Just how could it happen in the democratic country, protected by the diligent copy of the U.S. Constitution, first, and by the common knowledge about millions of the old State Security's innocent victims, second?! Some two hundred years earlier Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his introduction to "Democracy in America" that "In the eleventh century, nobility is beyond all price; in the thirteenth, it might be purchased". It seems that in our century the nobility may be elected - and in the most democratic manner at that, without any machine-guns behind. The new nobility gives birth to a million-lives question: what kind of voters would voluntarily say "Yes!" to the representatives of the worst division in the totalitarian bureaucracy - the old State Security, whose iron "cadres" had proved long ago both their total amorality and their total absence of skills in anything but destruction? The authors give no answer, but readers are hardly expected to say the usual "Ah, those Russians!" Because approximately the same picture (of course, to the smaller extent, for the present) of careless voting for all clones of dangerous cancers is becoming more and more typical for many Western countries too. Numerous gifted authors analyze the weird phenomena of voters' nonchalance in the most convincingly documented studies of their countries' decline (like the American "Obama Zombies", the British "Not With a Bang", etc) - but, nevertheless, omnipresent cancers just continue their merry democratic growth, decline or not. "The New Nobility" supplies us with the timely warning about quite real chances for the ultimate decline: from the initial bright hopes of freedom and prosperity into a hopeless realm of totalitarian dictatorship. I believe, the book is an excellent food for our thoughts, - and, unfortunately, not about my Russia only. Rostislav, Saint-Petersburg.

The security services have played a central—and often mysterious—role at key turning points in Russia during the tumultuous years following the Soviet collapse: from the Moscow apartment house bombings and theater siege, to the war in Chechnya and the Beslan school massacre. In this riveting investigation, two intrepid journalists penetrate the secret world of the FSB and illustrate how the security services have evolved into a ruthless, violently powerful force that is inextricably woven into modern Russia's fundamental makeup, and has become more shadowy than its predecessor, the Soviet KGB.

The Guardian, October 3, 2010 "If all of this still feels too frivolous, turn to *The New Nobility*, an inside look at the KGB by a pair of fearless Russian journalists, Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan. Charting the organisation's heyday, decline and creeping return to power, it promises to raise the hairs on your neck as effectively as Ackroyd's ghost

stories.”