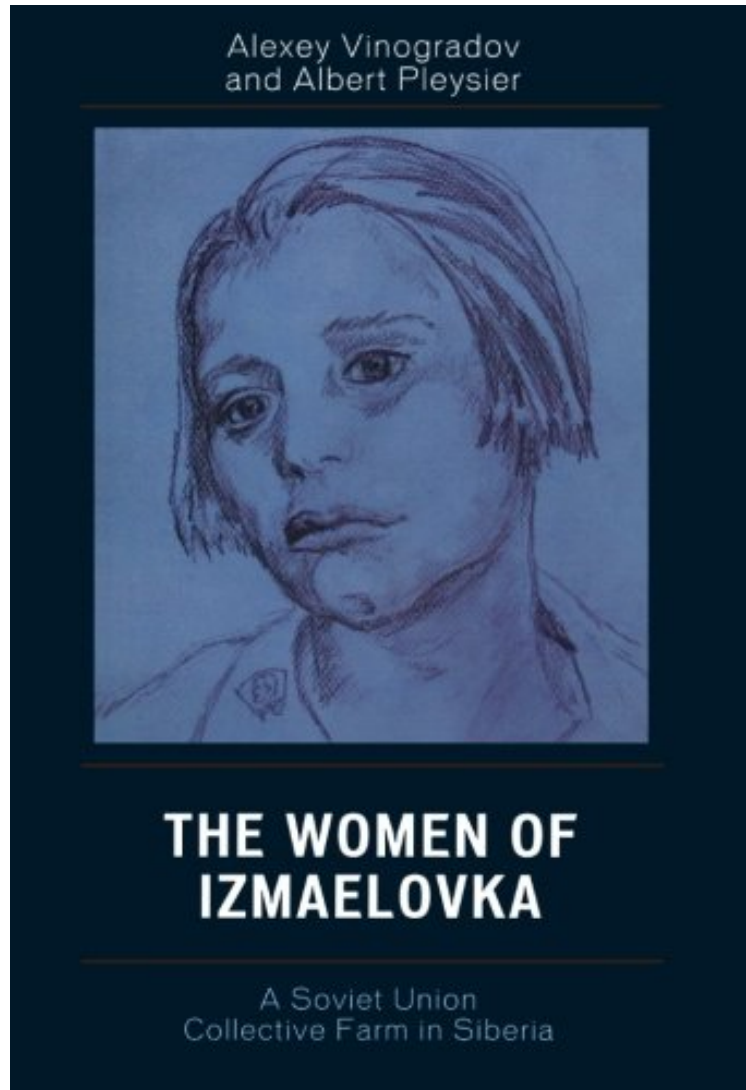


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## The Women of Izmaelovka: A Soviet Union Collective Farm in Siberia

Alexey Vinogradov, Albert Pleysier  
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**Alexey Vinogradov, Albert Pleysier : The Women of Izmaelovka: A Soviet Union Collective Farm in Siberia**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Women of  
Izmaelovka: A Soviet Union Collective Farm in Siberia:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The "Women" their storiesBy Taecey CowartAs a former history  
student of Dr Pleysier, I heard for many years the bits and pieces of his travels and research for this book so I was  
especially anxious to get the completed work. The hardships and sacrifices of these 7 women stand as a beacon for the

millions that suffered during this time in our earth's history. These strong, resilient women had to give up all control of their lives to the 'greater cause' and yet as hard as that was, they did. It is unimaginable to most of us today. Within the covers of this book you will lose yourself with the lives of Maria "Milk Maid" and her turbulent home life as a young child and Klavdia "Tractor Driver" who hails from hardy Cossack stock. Each and every woman has her own story but yet they are all linked throughout history. The story of these ladies, probably so hard for them to bring forth today, truly brings the past to life so that we, as human-kind, may not repeat the mistakes made in history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Women of Izmaelovka By Linda This book was fascinating! I enjoyed reading about these seven women and their experiences on the collective farm in Siberia. The hardships they endured to literally keep the "bread on the table" while the men went off to war was heartwrenching to say the least. The authors make it easy for the reader to become emotionally involved during the trials and tribulations of these women as well as being informative about the various political environments of the time. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in how the political culture of the Soviet Union impacted its people.

The Women of Izmaelovka documents the lives of seven women who are residents of a Siberian village located on the steppes of the Ural region. The village was turned into a collective farm in 1929. As the women reflect on their lives, they discuss significant events such as collectivization, Joseph Stalin's acts of repression, the Great Patriotic War, de-Stalinization, Nikita Khrushchev's agricultural programs, the Brezhnev years and the fall of the Communist Party. Various stages of the women's lives are explored, including the years of educational experiences, marriage, motherhood, and assigned work. The daily routines of domestic duties, activities in the Village Club, and village traditions are also discussed. Having little control of their destinies and sacrificing much in order to survive, the women endured long hours of tedious labor under difficult situations. They detail having worked as milkmaids, pig herders, tractor drivers, combine operators, nurses, librarians, and Village Club coordinators. The women describe the ideological influence that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union brought into Izmaelovka through socialist competitions, propaganda, and youth organizations. Arguing that this rigid indoctrination taught them to believe that honesty, hard work, and Communism would achieve a better life and society, the study examines the effects of the Communist ideology on the women who sacrificed everything for it.

About the Author Alexey Vinogradov, Ph.D. is Dean of Research at the Center for Archaeology, Historical Sociology and Cultural Heritage at St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Albert Pleysier is Professor of History at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia. Dr. Vinogradov and Professor Pleysier have published several scholarly articles and books including *The Battle for Leningrad: Memories of its Citizens and People in the Occupied Surrounding Areas*.