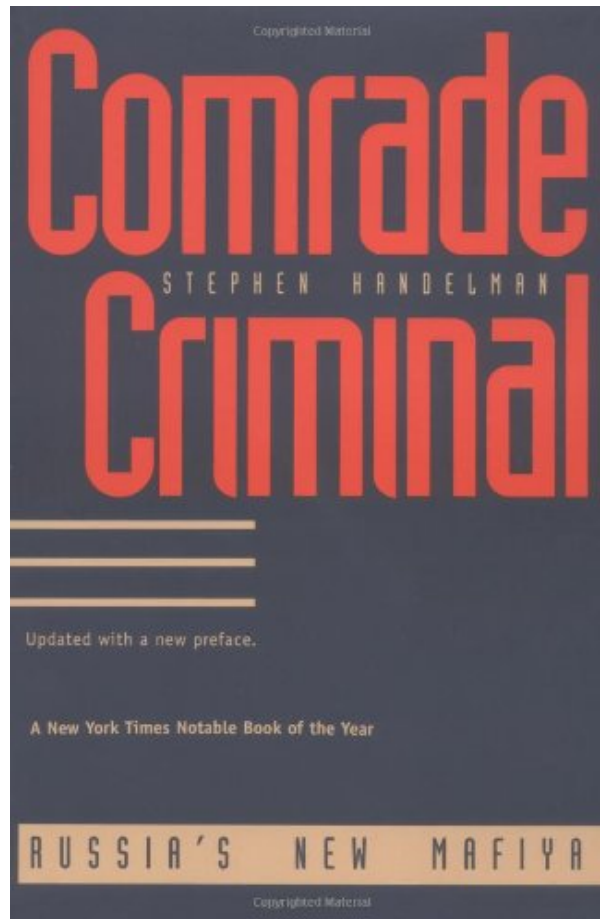
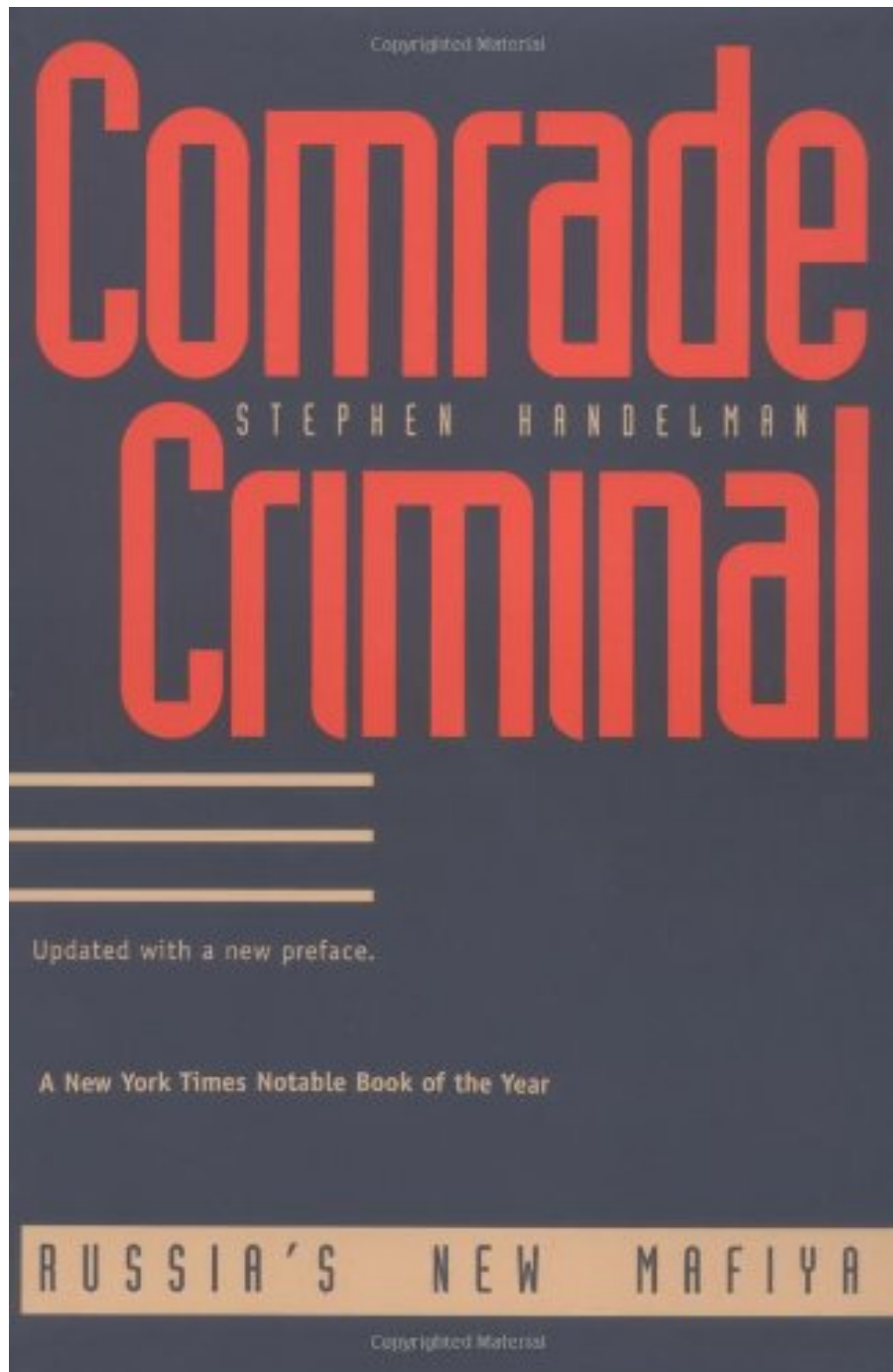


COMRADE CRIMINAL: RUSSIA'S NEW MAFIYA BY STEPHEN HANDELMAN



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From Scientific American

Gripping and lively, this is an account of Mafia machinations and the generally fruitless efforts of honest cops and outnumbered democratic politicians to thwart them.... One of the most comprehensive and convincing representations of what has happened in Russia since 1991.

About the Author

Ken Alibek was born in Kauchuk, Kazakhstan, in 1950. He graduated in 1975 from the military faculty of the Tomsk Medical Institute, where he majored in infectious diseases and epidemiology. He holds a Ph.D. in microbiology for research and development of plague and tularemia biological weapons and a doctorate of science in biotechnology for developing the technology to manufacture anthrax on an industrial scale. He joined Biopreparat in 1975 and was its first deputy chief from 1988 to 1992. Since his defection to the United States in 1992, he has briefed U.S. military intelligence on biological weapons. He is now working in biodefense.

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COMRADE CRIMINAL: RUSSIA'S NEW MAFIYA BY STEPHEN HANDELMAN PDF

This riveting book is the first comprehensive investigation into the organized crime and corruption that plague Russia today. Describing a society under the sway of gangster bosses, corrupt army generals, bank swindlers, drug dealers, and uranium thieves, the book shows how "mafiya" crime lords and still-powerful former Soviet bureaucrats-so-called "comrade criminals"-have sabotaged their country's attempt at revolution and reform. Stephen Handelman, Moscow bureau chief for The Toronto Star from 1987 to 1992, has based his book on interviews with more than 150 Russians-mobsters, police, political crusaders, former KGB agents, new millionaires, and ordinary citizens. Handelman traces the roots of the criminal underworld to elements of society that have existed on the margins of Russian life for centuries and that during the last twenty years of Soviet power became an essential arm of the black-market economy. He reveals how organized crime has flourished since the demise of totalitarianism, and how the Russian mafiya has begun to export to American cities not only guns and drugs but also its particular brand of mob violence. And he shows the detrimental effects crime has had-and will continue to have-on political and economic reform in the new states of the former Soviet Union.

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excuses for thugs.

By Tex

I don't like glamorizing or making excuses for thugs.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

La Plus Ca Change

By Daniel Harris

This is a very good book explaining the genesis of the Russian mafiya and its connections to big business and the government. As someone who has been involved with Russia for the last ten years, the most troubling aspect of this book is that I have seen very little to no change in the way things are done over there. For at least the last five years I have been convinced that Russia is decades away from having a true civil society and the sad thing is that my timeline for this occurring has not yet shortened. This book helps explain why.

7 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Communism to organized crime. Inevitable!

By Bryan

Handelman has done a wonderful job in showing the corruption of Communist society and how the greed and wish for prosperity inherent in humans all over the world has led to organized crime. It amazed me how connected to organized crime the Russian state was and still is. The sections on drugs, arms smuggling and nuclear weapons were very interesting. The book also shows how race based the crime gangs are, like they are in the United States and everywhere else. But Mr. Handelman, stop referring to them as "mafiya". Yeah, it sounds "Russian" or whatever, but it's annoying. Overall, I liked the book because it is very well researched and documented.

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