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**Review: Roger Reese, ed., *The Russian Imperial Army, 1796-1917*,  
Ashgate: Aldershot, 2006; 458 pp.; 9780754625650, £115.00 (hbk)**

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plunder of Milošević's cohorts by Maja Miljković and Marko Attila Hoare – to Eric Gordy's article on the difficulties of confronting the past and the obstructive role played by large parts of the political elite. The psychological impact of war and nationalism on Serbian society is discussed in an interesting chapter by Sabrina Ramet, followed by a related chapter on social decay (including a somewhat disjointed discussion of Srđjan Dragojević's movies) by James Gow and Milena Michalski. Finally, a chapter on the Milošević trail by Kari Osland concludes this part. The following two chapters in Part 3, on culture and values, look at the Serbian Orthodox Church (Ramet) and the role of women (Bijana Bijelić), both discussing the tensions arising from the attempted re-traditionalization of society. Particularly interesting is the discussion of the impact of the Milošević era on Vojvodina, the Albanians of Kosovo and the Roma, all subjects which have received relatively little discussion in most studies on Serbia in the 1990s. While Kerenji's text on Vojvodina and Trix on Kosovo's Albanians succeed in filling this gap, the article by Reinhartz, while interesting, offers only little detail on the Roma in Serbia and the attempts by the Milošević regime to instrumentalize the Roma in Kosovo in particular.

Inevitably, as with all edited volumes, the quality of the chapters varies. However, most are well written and make for an interesting read. The book takes a broad look at Serbian society, even if not all relevant aspects (i.e. popular culture, media, the international and regional context) are discussed. Nevertheless, as a book which offers a broad overview of Serbia since 1989, it would have benefited from more documentary material, such as key election results, maps and a bibliography. In addition, the glossary contains numerous mistakes and is not very systematic. Ramet in her conclusions points out that the authors do not paint a unified picture of Serbia. Some of the controversies she highlights indicate areas for further research, such as the question of whether the NATO bombing in 1999 weakened or strengthened Milošević. Despite these differences, there is a central message to this book: namely, that the legacy of Slobodan Milošević's misrule has left a lasting imprint on Serbia, even after his fall (and death). While this might seem like a statement of the obvious since the assassination of Djindjić, the success of the Serb Radical Party and the intransigent policy towards Kosovo followed by prime minister Vojislav Koštunica, when the chapters were written, this sobering view of Serbian reality was yet to become commonplace. Altogether, therefore, this book is a key collection in the study of Serbia and succeeds in discussing topics which have been neglected by many other texts.

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Roger Reese, ed., *The Russian Imperial Army, 1796–1917*, Ashgate: Aldershot, 2006; 458 pp.; 9780754625650, £115.00 (hbk)

The volume under review is part of a new series, 'The International Library of Essays on Military History', edited by Jeremy Black. As the series preface explains, each volume is to be edited by an 'expert in the field', cover 'crucial time periods and geographical areas', include 'the most seminal recent essays', and reflect the shift of military history toward a more 'cultural turn' (ix). This is a most worthwhile enterprise, as it brings together the most important recent journal articles (in English) in a given field in one volume. Despite the steep price, the series looks to be a valuable addition to college and university reference collections.

Within a series of this type, however, this volume will stand out for its difference. Of the four attributes listed above, three are missing. In the first place, the choice of Roger Reese as editor is a curious one. While an accomplished military historian whose research has focused on the social history of the Red Army and on the development of the Soviet officer corps, Reese has not done much work in the pre-revolutionary era and this rather shows in his introduction. Here, he claims that the 'two-year-long pursuit of Napoleon's armies across Europe to Paris' was led by 'famed generals Suvorov, Kutuzov, and Bagration' (xii), yet Suvorov died in 1800 and Bagration perished in September, 1812, when Russian troops were still in retreat; even Kutuzov (d. 1813) passed away well before his soldiers neared the French capital. At the same time, Reese's interest in social history appears to have informed his selection of articles, for there is very little that might represent the 'cultural turn' in military history. Nor are there very many 'recent essays': only two of the 23 included in this volume were published in the past 20 years. Ironically, the most 'cultural' of these essays is also the oldest (Richard Pipes's 1950 essay on Arakcheev's notorious military colonies). These observations are not meant to suggest that the articles in this volume are somehow inferior, simply that its goals and those of the series do not match up.

That said, it is in many ways instructive to have this collection of essays gathered in one volume. In the first place, one is struck by how gracefully many of these articles have aged. Early work by doyens of the field like Allan Wildman, whose 1970 article on the February Revolution's impact on the army is included, still seems fresh and convincing. There are, in addition, several insightful essays that I at least missed along the way somehow, like David Jones's detailed examination, written in 1969, of officer attrition in a single unit during World War I. Special note should be made of the work of John Bushnell, who is honoured by having three of his articles anthologized here. Bushnell's articles are marked by their clarity and wit, and his picture of a Russian army filled with enlisted men who were little more than 'peasants in uniform' and officers who were closer in type to 'fraternity brothers' than professionals (157) is a vivid and memorable one. The volume is also useful in reminding us how deeply critical the social historians of the Russian Army have been over the years. No one who has studied the Russian Army with any depth or vigour would deny that many figures within it, both prominent and not, were prone to eat and drink first and ask questions later. But this is really only half of the story. The other half is a story of significant military success. The Russians fought their way far enough around the Black Sea to threaten Istanbul, deep enough into Central Asia to worry both the British and the Chinese, and well enough to frighten Moltke to the point where he was convinced by 1914 that Russia would be almost unbeatable by the end of the decade. Any study of the late imperial army has to account both for its signal failures (especially the strategic ones) and its substantive victories.

It is precisely this question that recent historians of the Russian military have been endeavouring to answer in a variety of ways, and unwary readers of this volume might not be aware of much of this new literature. In fairness to Reese, much of this work has been published in monograph form or as chapters in edited books, and was therefore presumably unavailable for inclusion in this volume. Still, readers should have been informed that there is a lot of good work on imperial Russian military history being written by scholars such as Bruce Menning, Dominic Lieven, John Steinberg, David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, and many others whose work is not included in this text. Despite these caveats, this was a very pleasurable

volume to read, as it situated old standards in a new framework and unearthed several essays that deserve careful reading.

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Diana Robin, *Publishing Women. Salons, The Presses, and the Counter-Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Italy*, University of Chicago Press: Chicago, IL, 2007; 416pp., 11 illus.; 9780226721569, \$45.00 (hbk)

Diana Robin has written a valuable work on the networks of connections among women, between women and men, and between publishing and political or religious events in mid sixteenth-century Italy. Her aim is to consider the conditions that made those decades in Italy so propitious for the entry of women into 'the very public world of the mass produced book' (204). Thus, she seeks to intertwine the often separate fields of women's history, publishing history, and the conflicts of Reformation and Counter-Reformation. This interconnected web creates an organizational challenge, to which Robin has found a good solution. She starts with a chapter on the salon of Costanza d'Avalos and Vittoria Colonna in Ischia during the 1530s–1540s. This salon, as she shows, became the 'matrix' from which a number of other salons formed in cities across Italy as travelling men of letters, preachers and elite women followed each other and regrouped in various combinations. Each of the subsequent chapters focuses on a particular city and the leading women of its cultural gatherings. The cities include Naples, Rome, Siena and Florence, while Robin also details the relationship of these cities' salons and the texts they produced to the publishing business in Venice.

The elite women who figure so importantly were interconnected by ties of blood, marriage, or friendship; but even the bourgeois women of Siena, never directly in contact with these noblewomen, shared their links to the same handful of men active in the publishing business (Dolce, Domenichi, Betussi, Varchi, Piccolomini) and in religious reform (Valdés, Ochino). Robin traces the personal relationships which led to the publication of women's writings, both in volumes of their own and in the many anthologies of poetry, culminating in the anthology of female poets edited by Domenichi and published in Lucca in 1559. She argues that this volume, despite its Lucca publication, is actually part of the series of anthologies associated with the Giolito press and perhaps intended as its missing eighth volume. Contrasting the classlessness of the Domenichi anthology, in which the poems of noblewomen, middle-class women, and courtesans appear side by side, with the strict class separations of real society, Robin suggests that the utopian idea of this social jumble comes from men who were classless themselves and associated easily with all types of literary women. Each chapter presents particular individuals and texts. Thus we find, among others, discussions of Vittoria Colonna, Giulia Gonzaga, Maria and Giovanna d'Aragona, Laodamia Forteguerra, Caterina Cibo, Isabella di Morra and Gaspara Stampa; dialogues by Gonzaga-Valdés, Ochino, Stampa, Betussi and Piccolomini; letters by Colonna, and poetry to or by other women. Placing specific publishing events in their historical moments, Robin indicates what she calls the 'war between the popes and the poets'; publications often seem to be a defiant response to acts of political or religious repression.

Robin is a classicist who has published studies and translations of several Italian humanist women, but in turning her attention to women who wrote in Italian rather than Latin, she