



# Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy

*Douglas Smith*

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*Douglas Smith*

**Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy** Douglas Smith

**The riveting and harrowing story of the Russian nobility caught in the upheaval of the Revolution**

**Winner of the Pushkin House Russian Book Prize**

**Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Kansas City Star* and *Salon***

Epic in scope, precise in detail, and heartbreaking in its human drama, *Former People* is the first book to recount the history of the aristocracy caught up in the maelstrom of the Bolshevik Revolution and the creation of Stalin's Russia. It is the story of how a centuries-old elite, famous for its glittering wealth, its service to the tsar and empire, and its promotion of the arts and culture, was dispossessed and destroyed along with the rest of old Russia. Chronicling the fate of two great aristocratic families—the Sheremetevs and the Golitsyns—it reveals how even in the darkest depths of the terror, daily life went on.

Told with sensitivity and nuance by acclaimed historian Douglas Smith, *Former People* is the dramatic portrait of two of Russia's most powerful aristocratic families and a sweeping account of their homeland in violent transition.

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