

historical periods in the Soviet Union and Russia. Increasingly complex markets re"ect structural change in both the economy and society at large (36). Associated with Gorbachev's administration, these changes emanated from perestroika and glasnost. While Gurova shares with her reader a mainly positive interpretation of these changes, she nonetheless criticizes the less than positive effects of these changes, which are dubbed with labels like those used by the sociologist George Ritzer, "McDonaldization" and the associated "disenchantment." This trend of McDonaldization brings about depersonalization and standardization (46).

While overall patterns of consumption speak for themselves, different types of consumers and consumptive activities emerge. Actual typologies generated by Gurova's research represent stages in economic and personal development. Identified in the book, for example, are the following types: advanced consumer, squanderer, Socialist consumer, alternative/creative consumer, and convenience consumer (49). The advanced consumer engages multiple retail formats, traditional and new. The squanderer exploits the symbolic worth of goods and is more calculating about choosing where to shop (51). Alternative or creative consumers remain open to shopping second-hand while convenience consumers tend to choose venues similar to the one-stop markets familiar to American consumers.

Types of consumption identified include permanent consumption, transitional consumption, fast consumption, and slow consumption (136). The "permanent consumption" of the Soviet repair-oriented past gave way to the consumption of the transitional economy which maintained

Published by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, *Ties of Kinship* employs the transliteration preferences of that organization, but also uses forms that are closest to those found in primary source material (e.g., Volodimer, and not Vladimir). The book is divided into two parts. Part I provides narrative that describes the nature of the dynastic marriages, organized into “ve generations beginning with Volodimer, presenting research from primary and secondary sources. Part II contains two hundred pages of tables (i.e., to the layperson, family trees) with accompanying lists of the individuals in the tables that provide the dates of birth and death, titles (e.g., Knjaz' of Novgorod, Kniaginja of Minsk), and relationships and/or marriages. The second part of the book also provides tables that organize marriages by nation or country, including Byzantine, German, and Hungarian dynastic marriages, among others. The list of works cited is approximately twelve pages long and is neatly divided into primary and secondary sources. The index consists entirely of names, given the volume's subject matter. Conveniently, through partnership with the Ukrainian Institute, the geographical mapping of the marriages discussed in the volume can be found online. The searchable website is a valuable tool that is not exclusively for use with *Ties of Kinship* but it certainly can be used to map the people and places detailed in the book.

The undertaking of historical and genealogical research that seeks to definitively present dates, names, and relationships is not without complications. Raffensperger navigates these difficulties gracefully in the volume, both by clarifying in the introductory material what these problems are and throughout the book by simply noting when information is not discernible. One of the strengths of *Ties of Kinship* is that, because of the author's extensive research, the reader does not doubt that dates or names, when unknown, are truly unknown. The book simplifies many things for anyone who has been dazed by the many names, dates, and multiple marriages and children mentioned in the chronicles themselves. *Ties of Kinship* has resolved a long-standing problem of accessibility for those with interests in medieval Russian history by providing a complete and user-friendly presentation of the families of Kyivan dynastic royalty and entirely in English.

Because of the details within the volume, *Ties of Kinship* contains many “ne observations that contribute significantly to our existing understanding of marriage and dynastic power, particularly regarding the way in which the two intersect throughout this period of history. As the author writes, “[D]ynastic marriages have many purposes, but the main one is securing an alliance” (26). This is certainly the case in Volodimer's own marriage to the Byzantine princess Anna Porphyrogenita, as Raffensperger confirms: “While both [the Ottonian and Capetian royal houses] may have had greater prestige than the Volodimerovi i, only Rus' offered what Basil II needed, when he needed it: troops, especially troops that would come and serve and then go home, with little, if any, chance of turning into an occupying force” (17). In situations like these mutual co-operation often led to binding agreements that might include marriage. For Volodimer, the outcomes of his alliance with Basil II landed him Anna, “the most eligible marital partner in the medieval Christian world” (17). Raffensperger suggests that this event has been misinterpreted by historians and scholars as an obvious unification of Rus' with Byzantium. Instead, he says that “the marriage brought Rus' into the family of Christian kingdoms in which Byzantium played a major role as the last remnant of the Christian Roman Empire” (17...18), but it did not signify a special relationship between Byzantium and Rus'. He is correct and quick to point out that because women rarely have starring roles in any medieval

and in the presentation of a fuller picture of Kyivan Rus' in the context of medieval European powers.

Ties of Kinship belongs on the bookshelf of anyone who conducts research about Kyivan