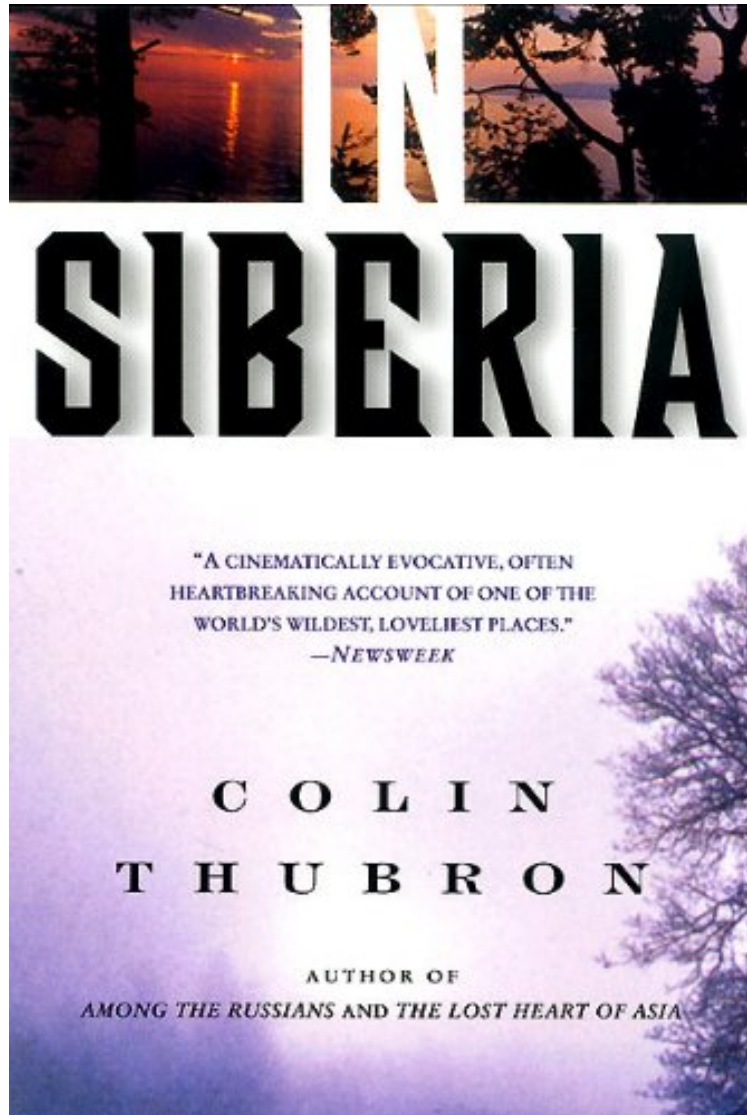


(Mobile pdf) In Siberia

## In Siberia

Von Colin Thubron

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**Von Colin Thubron : In Siberia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Siberia:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A mesmerizing, gripping bookVon Grady HarpRussia metamorphosed in the 20th century assuming and shedding identities as often as it did heads of state. Finding an examination of the history of these events that maintains some semblance of neutrality and pure observation seemed unlikely - until now. IN SIBERIA is a rare combination study of geography, economics, political science, sociology, and history in a format of conversations with the people who live

there. Author Thubron is a modern day Richard Halliburton (remember him?), a man brave enough to singly explore the vastness of Siberia in search of the identity of its people. What he gives us is a lushly detailed panorama of physical grandeur and a near clinical insight into the psyches of the people he meets along his journey. His characters are so well reported that they seem to inhabit a fine fiction/history novel. But the sweep of his conversations with these time worn people is so honestly presented that the reader feels privy to shrouded secrets of the past and intimations of the future of a much maligned and misunderstood country. Thubron seems intent on finding the sustaining spirit of his acquaintances; we encounter myriad variations of Russian Orthodox /Buddhist/atheist religion. We hear personal accounts of the labor camps of Stalin and Khrushchev that surpass even Solzhenitsyn's descriptions. But more important we are introduced to the ordinary people of this vast country and Thubron shares these characters with insight and intelligent reportage that makes us feel as though we journeyed with him. And this is supposed to be a Travel Book? I think not. This is a volume of first-hand information that leaves the reader enriched and empathetic.....an enormously fine read!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A riveting account of an unknown, tragic land

Von Buckeye This is one of the few books that I've wanted to read again the moment I finished it. It's like a cross between Conrad's Heart of Darkness and Kosinski's The Painted Bird with one crucial distinction - it's not fiction. The surreal and tragic effect of this book builds relentlessly as it goes along. By the end, I felt like I had a sense of a place that went well beyond a familiarity with appearance, to a much more important (and difficult for an author to convey) sense of what it feels like. The unspeakable tragedy of this land - centered around the hideous legacy of the Stalinist years - is conveyed in a thorough, convincing and compelling way. You cannot read this book and remain untouched by it - it is powerful stuff. A unique feature is the author's language and style, which is often very poetic. The juxtaposition of the fine writing with the often macabre and disturbing subject matter makes for a strong effect. I haven't read any other books by this author, but I will before long. This is an excellent, and highly memorable piece of work. Highly recommended.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein wunderbares Buch

Von michael.zinkler@interest.de Auch wer schon nichts mehr hren kann von den Problemen Russlands und dem Verfall des Landes, sollte dieses faszinierende Werk lesen. Gute Englisch-Kenntnisse sollten allerdings vorhanden sein. Der Autor Colin Thubron macht eine Reise durch Sibirien, von West nach Ost, und kommt dabei auch in Gegenden, die dem westlichen Menschen bisher vllig verschlossen waren. Aber es ist nicht einfach eine Reisebeschreibung, vielmehr spricht er auch mit den Menschen und erlutert immer wieder die Geschichte und die Katastrophen der Region und ganz Russlands. Allein schon z.B. der Besuch in Workuta und die Schilderungen der Straflager sind ein Wert fr sich. Absolut empfehlenswert!

Kurzbeschreibung As mysterious as its beautiful, as forbidding as it is populated with warm-hearted people, Syberia is a land few Westerners know, and even fewer will ever visit. Traveling alone, by train, boat, car, and on foot, Colin Thubron traversed this vast territory, talking to everyone he encountered about the state of the beauty, whose natural resources have been savagely exploited for decades; a terrain tainted by nuclear waste but filled with citizens who both welcomed him and fed him despite their own tragic poverty. From Mongolia to the Arctic Circle, from Rasputin's village in the west through tundra, taiga, mountains, lakes, rivers, and finally to a derelict Jewish community in the country's far eastern reaches, Colin Thubron penetrates a little-understood part of the world in a way that no writer ever has..

de In Siberia explores a region of astonishments, where "white cranes dance on the permafrost, where a great city floats lost among the ice floes, where mammoths sleep under glaciers." Colin Thubron's latest chronicle also delivers its subject from rumor into reality. An expanse larger than the entire United States, Siberia is undoubtedly a country of contrasts, which elicits from the author both awe and melancholy. Here on one hand is a northern wilderness "shattered into a jigsaw of ponds and streams," and on the other a "black detritus of factories and ruins." No less memorable than the landscape are the people that Thubron encounters. He gathers their stories like rough jewels, showing us a self-proclaimed descendant of Rasputin, an isolated Jewish community, and a parade of "indestructible babushkas." Woven among the often bitter and eroding memories of a Siberian past is a sense of new freedom. After all, this is the first time in Russia's history when foreigners can travel freely throughout the region--and its inhabitants can comment openly about their government without fear of reprisal. Thubron coaxes an institute official at the Akademgorodok Praesidium to speak his mind: His face was heavy with anger. "We have one overriding problem here. Money. We receive no money for new equipment, hardly enough for our salaries. There are people who haven't been paid for six months." Then his anger overflowed. He was barking like a drill sergeant. "This year we requested funds for six or seven different programmes! And not one has been accepted by the government! Not one!" Thubron's portrait is as elegant as it is evocative. But just as notably, his journey to the east manages to break the long and destructive Siberian silence. --Byron Ricks

Pressestimmen? What a relief after all the cheerful travel books and brave adventure stories! A small human voice that makes the dark woods pulse with magic.?--"Los Angeles Times Book

? Thubron is a sensitive, observant traveler who clearly respects the Siberians for the hardships they have endured. . . . In Siberia places the region in its historical context, but Thubron's history is never didactic or potted. Above all,

Thubron is never a travel bore. . . . Readers may derive a great deal of travel envy from this account of his adventures.--"New York Times Book "Thubron proves again why he is considered one of the most affecting travel writers today with this graphic, melancholy portrait of Siberia. . . . From each locale he prides a nugget--a lasting personal tale or memory he passes to the reader like a gift. . . . Thubron's prose poetry is abrupt, frugal, and glinting. . . . And if Siberia is slippery, what he has caught is treasure enough.--"Kirkus s?You might not want to journey to the vast tundra of Siberia, but Colin Thubron takes you there with a lyrical poignancy that paints vivid images in your mind and makes your heart ache. . . . If modern America troubles you, "In Siberia will give you evocative encounters with another world and reason to be grateful for your own.--"USA Today?Many adventurers plunge into Siberia in search of untrammelled roads or unspoiled grandeur; only a handful bring with them a significant knowledge of the land's history, geology and wildlife. Even rarer are those who relay the experience as magically as does this award-winning author. . . . Only his tender treatment of Siberia's enchanting characters and extraordinary natural beauty brighten what would be an otherwise dark and desolate path.--"Publishers Weekly (starred review)?Thubron's ability to see, feel, analyze, to blend the present and the past, makes "In Siberia more than a travel book. His keen eye, like a great photographer's, sees more than an image; he captures the essence of Siberia.--"Chicago Tribune?No single book can capture the enormity or the ?otherness? of Siberia, but this one comes close. Thubron's travel books and novels have been widely appreciated for years in Britain, and it's easy to see why. Through language that is alternately exuberant, poetic, and mournful, Thubron evokes the natural beauty of Siberia as well as its despoliation.--"Booklist (starred review)?In this powerful, final volume of his trilogy on the Asian continent ("Where Nights Are Longest, The Lost Heart of Asia), veteran travel writer Thubron traverses all points of the compass in Russia's vast, sparsely settled Wild East. . . . [His] well-researched, moving account is a testament to the hardships endured by Siberia's people and their ability to turn their backs on history, look to the future, and whistle a hopeful tune.--"Library Journal?Now comes a third book in this extraordinary series of Russian travelogues. Siberia! . . . Thubron approaches his great theme through language. Page after page contains examples of the exact word needed to convey observation. . . . He wanted to find some unity or shape to human destiny, and he has done so. Fear of Russia is a thing of the past, and pity for the living and the dead instead fills this book with the purpose and beauty of prayer.--"National ?A cinematically evocative, often heartbreaking account of one of the world's wildest, loveliest places--and one of its worst vacation destinations.--"Newsweek?Thubron fuses history with politics, ethnography with geography, cultural anthropology with social psychology to demarcate what Siberia was and is, literally and metaphorically. . . . This challenging, self-contained volume warms to the task of paying tribute to the coldest inhabited place on Earth. . . . Thubron's descriptive authority and all-encompassing breadth are palpable.--"Houston Chronicle"The journey depicted was lonely and grueling, the writing so fine that it is like a long meditation, with perfect tonality. Besides conveying both the beauty and ugliness of an unknown quadrant of the earth, Thubron employs the travel genre to show us exactly how those in the Gulag suffered. I could never really picture what the Gulag "looked" like until I read this book.-- Ryszard Kapuscinski, Author of "Imperium"A fascinating book! Once again, Colin Thubron has proved his mastery, his unique talent for reaching exceptional places and extraordinary people. Thanks to him we encounter a world which, in its beauty and awe, exceeds our imagination.-- Robert D. Kaplan, author of "Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History?On the short list of great contemporary travel writers . . . Colin Thubron ranks very high.-- "Boston Sunday Globe?[Thubron] paints a fascinating picture of [Siberia's] culture, wildlife, and natural beauty.? -- "American Way