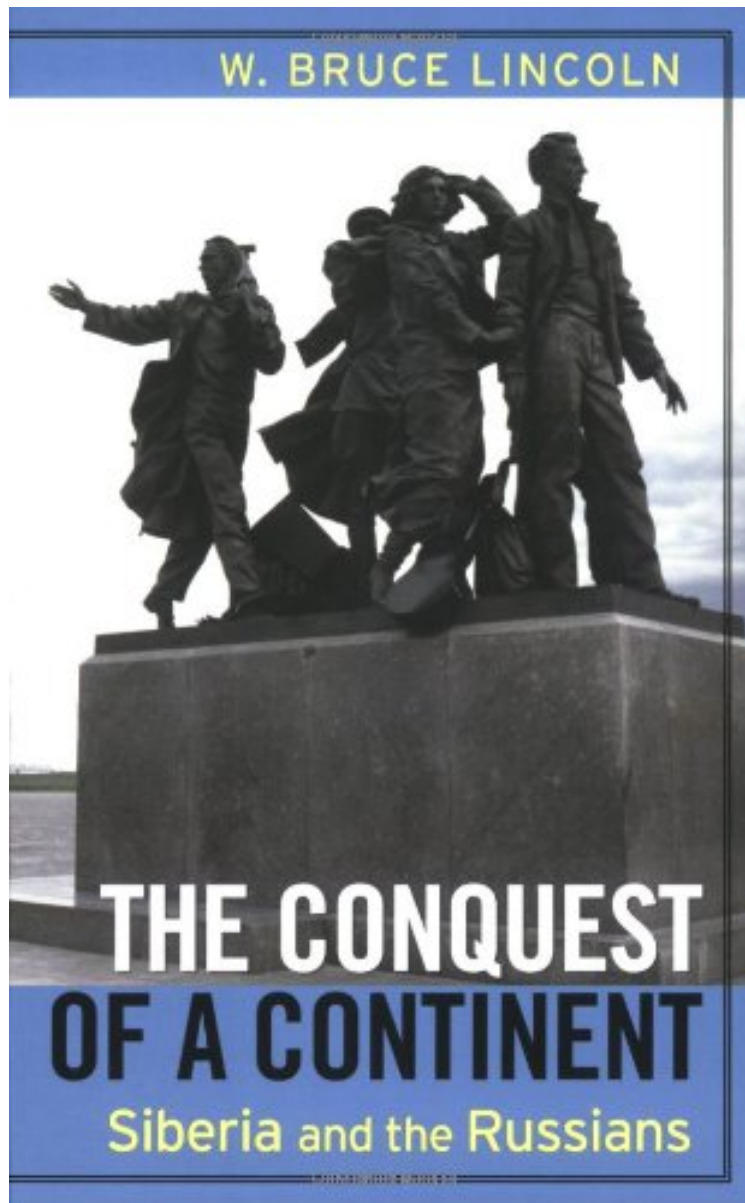


The Conquest of a Continent: Siberia and the Russians

Bruce Lincoln

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Bruce Lincoln : The Conquest of a Continent: Siberia and the Russians before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conquest of a Continent: Siberia and the Russians:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent; well documented By IRC It provides an entirely different view of the world - seeing the world a though you are looking out from Siberia. Excellent; well documented. Written

in the 1990s it is a bit old; but accurate and excellent for history to that point. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating study and very accessible. By John Desmond Lincoln is a noted historian on Russia, especially in the revolutionary period. He covers several centuries of history very handily by picking key events, personages, and locations to discuss in detail as a way of telling a much broader story in manageable form. Most insightful is his dealing with the ecological disaster that Russia inflicted on the world in their handling of this vast land. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author does a great job keeping the narrative interesting. By Overheater. If you ever wanted to know the history of Siberian exploration, colonization, and development, this is the book. The author does a great job keeping the narrative interesting.

"In *The Conquest of a Continent*, the historian W. Bruce Lincoln details Siberia's role in Russian history, one remarkably similar to that of the frontier in the development of the United States. . . . It is a big, panoramic book, in keeping with the immensity of its subject." *Chicago Tribune*. Lincoln is a compelling writer whose chapters are colorful snapshots of Siberia's past and present. . . . *The Conquest of a Continent* is a vivid narrative that will inform and entertain the broader reading public." *American Historical Review*. "This story includes Genghis Khan, who sent the Mongols warring into Russia; Ivan the Terrible, who conquered Siberia for Russia; Peter the Great, who supported scientific expeditions and mining enterprises; and Mikhail Gorbachev, whose glasnost policy prompted a new sense of 'Siberian' nationalism. It is also the story of millions of souls who themselves were conquered by Siberia. . . . Vast riches and great misery, often intertwined, mark this region." *The Wall Street Journal*. Stretching from the Urals to the Arctic Ocean to China, Siberia is so vast that the continental United States and Western Europe could be fitted into its borders, with land to spare. Yet, in only six decades, Russian trappers, cossacks, and adventurers crossed this huge territory, beginning in the 1580s a process of conquest that continues to this day. As rich in resources as it was large in size, Siberia brought the Russians a sixth of the world's gold and silver, a fifth of its platinum, a third of its iron, and a quarter of its timber. The conquest of Siberia allowed Russia to build the modern world's largest empire, and Siberia's vast natural wealth continues to play a vital part in determining Russia's place in international affairs. Bleak yet romantic, Siberia's history comes to life in W. Bruce Lincoln's epic telling. *The Conquest of a Continent*, first published in 1993, stands as the most comprehensive and vivid account of the Russians in Siberia, from their first victories over the Mongol Khans to the environmental degradation of the twentieth century. Dynasties of incomparable wealth, such as the Stroganovs, figure into the story, as do explorers, natives, gold seekers, and the thousands of men and women sentenced to penal servitude or forced labor in Russia's great wilderness prisonhouse.

From *Publishers Weekly*. Russia's conquest of Siberia, begun in 1582 with Cossack chieftan Ermak Timofevich's crushing of the Tatars, transformed the obscure kingdom of Muscovy into the world's largest contiguous empire. To Siberia's native nomads, hunters and reindeer herders, the conquest brought cruel exploitation, torture and corruption under military governors. Three and a half centuries later, the industrial complex that Stalin built east of the Urals manufactured the tanks, planes and guns that defeated Hitler, and Stalin's Siberian slave labor camps swallowed up millions of innocents. Its fragile ecology devastated by industrializers Khrushchev and Brezhnev, Siberia is today one of the world's worst environmental disaster zones. In Lincoln's (*In War's Dark Shadow*) compulsively readable epic narrative, Siberia's dark history comes alive as a vast human drama of greed, adventure, exploration, ambition, persecution and protest. Tamerlane, Danish explorer Vitus Bering (in the service of Czar Peter the Great), Dostoevsky, Lenin, rogues, reformers and Siberia's natives people this prodigiously researched tapestry. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. Lincoln (*Red Victory*, LJ 2/15/90) chronicles Siberia's role in Russian history, from the formation of the state to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The author uses primary and secondary documents to create this basic text, which is written for the undergraduate and general reader. Lincoln treats Siberia's resources as a measure of Russia's greatness. He traces Siberia's conquest and colonization; the search for its wealth; its role as an outlet for excess, criminal, and dissident labor; its industrial development and the development of the railroad; its part in the wars and upheaval of the 20th century; and, finally, the recognition of widespread pollution and environmental problems. Historians may still long for a scholarly, comprehensive study of Siberia, but this well-written and -researched book fills a void and belongs in general collections. - Rena Fowler, Humboldt State Univ., Arcata, Cal. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist*. Siberia was acquired in a quick expansive burst from the 1580s to 1689, and ever since the Russians have grappled with the gigantic expanse and its inclement climate, trying to explore it, populate it, build roads and cities in it, and extract minerals from it. As the czars' jail, Siberia has been synonymous with suffering--suffering on a megahuman scale when the gulag ruled. Lincoln's repute as the author of a half dozen histories on the Romanovs and Russian revolutions ensures curiosity about his approach to a half millenium and five million square miles of history. Bobrick Benson recently attempted this in *East of the Sun* and in some departments--Russian ethnography and the arduous annals of arctic discovery--bests his new competitor. Yet Lincoln excels in his specialties, the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and he enlivens his narrative with human-interest stories, particularly of famous exiles, such as the 1825 Decembrists, Dostoevsky, and Lenin. Now free of Soviet rule but saddled with a polluted legacy, Siberia

at the crossroads has in Benson and Lincoln two equally dramatic and popular chroniclers. Gilbert Taylor