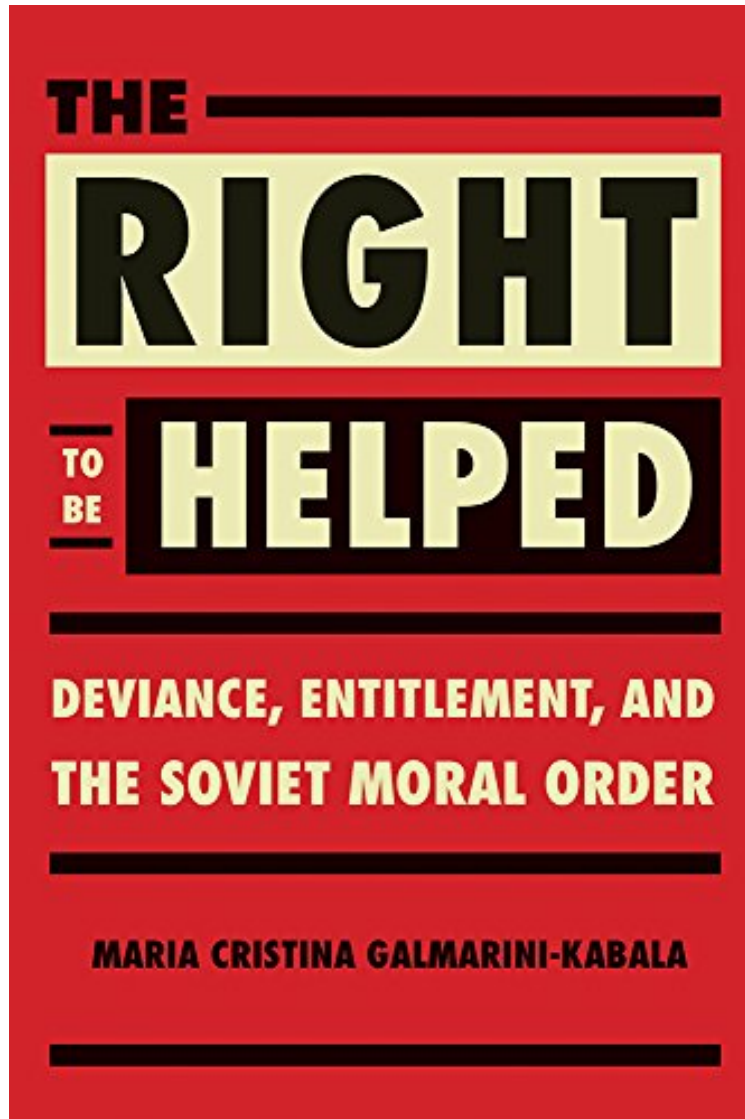


[FREE] The Right to Be Helped: Deviance, Entitlement, and the Soviet Moral Order

The Right to Be Helped: Deviance, Entitlement, and the Soviet Moral Order

Maria Cristina Galmarini-Kabala
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#6520819 in Books 2016-08-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name:
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Maria Cristina Galmarini-Kabala : The Right to Be Helped: Deviance, Entitlement, and the Soviet Moral Order before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Right to Be Helped: Deviance, Entitlement, and the Soviet Moral Order:

Doesn't an educated person, simple and working, sick and with a sick child, doesn't she have the right to enjoy at least the crumbs at the table of the revolutionary feast? Disabled single mother Maria Zolotova-Sologub raised this question in a petition dated July 1929 demanding medical assistance and a monthly subsidy for herself and her daughter. While the welfare of able-bodied and industrially productive people in the first socialist country in the world was protected by a state-funded insurance system, the social rights of labor-incapacitated and unemployed individuals such as Zolotova-Sologub were difficult to define and legitimize. *The Right to Be Helped* illuminates the ways in which marginalized members of Soviet society understood their social rights and articulated their moral expectations regarding the socialist state between 1917 and 1950. Maria Galmarini-Kabala shows how definitions of state assistance and who was entitled to it provided a platform for policymakers and professionals to engage in heated debates about disability, gender, suffering, and productive and reproductive labor. She explores how authorities and experts reacted to requests for support, arguing that responses were sometimes characterized by an enlightened nature and other times by coercive discipline, but most frequently by a combination of the two. By focusing on the experiences of behaviorally problematic children, unemployed single mothers, and blind and deaf adults in several major urban centers, this important study shows that the dialogue over the right to be helped was central to defining the moral order of Soviet socialism. It will appeal to scholars and students of Russian history, as well as those interested in comparative disabilities and welfare studies.

"*The Right to Be Helped* brings together significant new archival information on the Soviet state's practice of social assistance, and provides a valuable addition to the scholarship on marginality, disability, and welfare in the USSR." The Russian "This book is a very valuable addition to our understanding of Soviet history, precisely because it gives a voice to those who were excluded and overlooked." Canadian Slavonic Papers Galmarini-Kabala's research is exhaustive and impressive, and her book advances scholarship on the Soviet Union. The discussion of WWII's impact on welfare policies is important and stimulating. Cathy Frierson, author of *Silence Was Salvation: Child Survivors of Stalin's Terror and World War II in the Soviet Union* *The Right to Be Helped* is a thoughtful, comprehensive, and challenging history of how the imperative to care for people emerged, evolved, and eroded in the Soviet history from the revolution through the end of Stalinism. By situating the Soviet efforts relative to pan-European attitudes, policies, and practices associated with disability, Galmarini-Kabala demonstrates both the continuity across geographical, political, and chronological boundaries, and the distinctive nature of Soviet efforts in a context defined by revolution, dictatorship, and war. E. Thomas Ewing, author of *Separate Schools: Gender, Policy, and Practice in Postwar Soviet Education* (NIU Press, 2010)