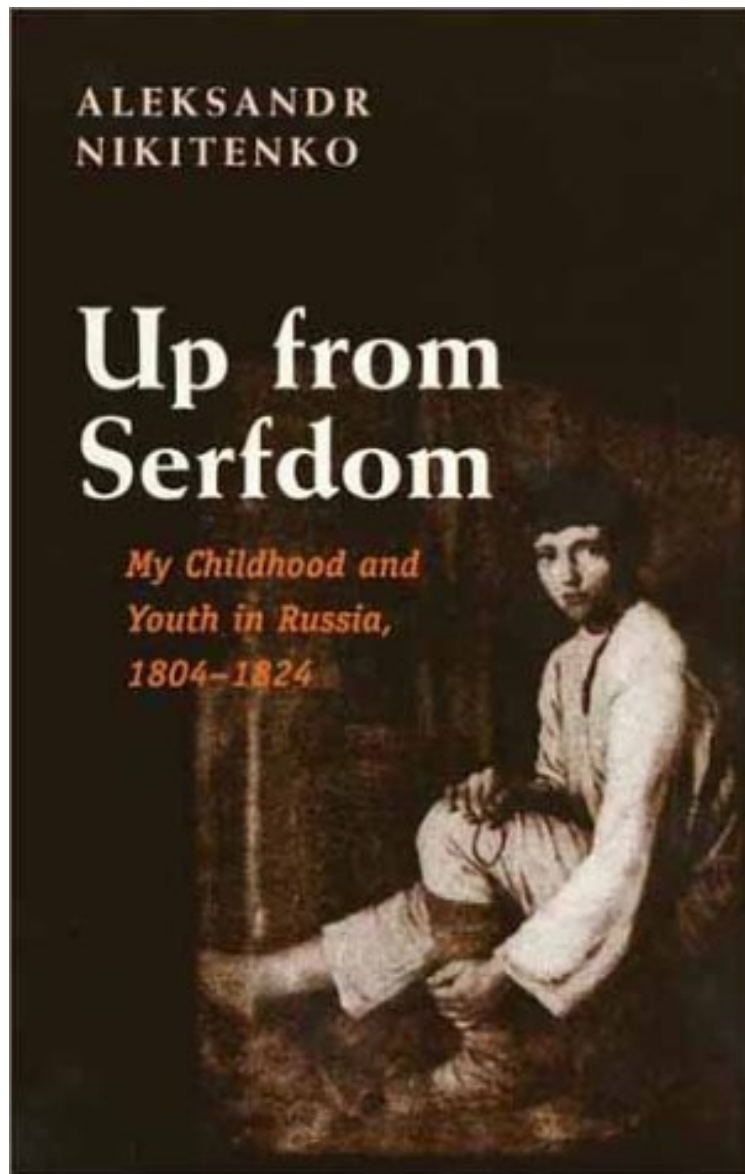


(Read free) Up from Serfdom: My Childhood and Youth in Russia, 1804-1824

Up from Serfdom: My Childhood and Youth in Russia, 1804-1824

Aleksandr Nikitenko, Helen Saltz Jacobson
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Aleksandr Nikitenko, Helen Saltz Jacobson : Up from Serfdom: My Childhood and Youth in Russia, 1804-1824 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Up from Serfdom: My Childhood and Youth in Russia, 1804-1824:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating look at life in early 19th century RussiaBy CustomerWhat a fun book! The author tells of his life as a serf in the Imperial Russia of the early 19th Century.

Admittedly, his was not the life of a typical serf--he was well educated, eventually being emancipated by his "owner" (and the description of this process is in itself fascinating). The great part of this book is in the details--the descriptions of the people, places, and interactions of his childhood; the reader cannot help sympathizing with his poor father who tries over and over again to make the best of his situation, yet is trapped by his social standing. This work is a great addition to the current understanding of life in Russia during the period. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Students loved it! By NMEMy Russian history students really enjoyed this one, and it was great for using the "little Russian" experience of Nikitenko to talk about nascent Ukrainian national identity. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book-for class By MatthewI didn't read the whole thing but most of it. Short and easy read novel. Most people don't know that slavery (serfdom) ended in Russia just two years before the Emancipation Proclamation in America in 1863.

A rare and powerful document. Nikitenko's memoir should take its place next to the very best ex-slave narratives and those of untouchables in India. James C. ScottAn important historical account that reveals a great deal about the realities of serfdom. Juliet Wittman, Washington Post Book WorldOne of the best surviving accounts of Russian serfdom. Blake Eskin, Lingua FrancaAleksandr Nikitenko, born into Russian serfdom in 1804, almost miraculously gained his freedom as a young man, thirty-seven years before serfdom was abolished in the Russian Empire. His compelling autobiography--here translated into English for the first time--is one of the very few ever written by a former serf. Nikitenko describes the tragedy, despair, unpredictability, and astounding luck of his youth, bringing to life as never before the experience of a serf in nineteenth-century Russia.

From Library JournalIn 1975, translator Jacobson first acquainted us with Nikitenko in *Diary of a Russian Censor* which she edited. Now, again in his own words, we have this account of Nikitenko's childhood and adolescence, which he began writing in 1851. His constant preoccupation, other than survival, was to be free of the serf conditions into which he was born. He shows very well the gratuitous capriciousness of the serf-owning gentry, which placed him "at the mercy of whim and chance." In a unique career, he learned how to read and write, became a teacher, and made some powerful friends, who in 1824 sought to free him from his owner the richest man in Russia, who regarded his appeal as "not worthy of attention." An intriguing account, with a most useful introduction by Peter Kolchin, contrasting contemporary Russian serfdom and black slavery in the United States. For academic and specialized libraries. Robert H. Johnston, McMaster Univ., Hamilton, Canada Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "[A]n important historical account that reveals a great deal about the realities of serfdom." -- Juliet Wittman, Washington Post Book World "[O]ne of the best surviving accounts of Russian serfdom." -- Blake Eskin, Lingua Franca Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Russian