

assistance and guidance, not only in finding the appropriate Soviet archival collections and libraries, but also in finding accommodations and by organizing dinners in his hospitable home. During very difficult times in the 1970s and 1980s, when honest historians like Nikolai Nikolaevich worked to resist KGB pressure, many American historians benefited from his support and assistance in Moscow. Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Nikolai Nikolaevich remained an active member of the international community of historians in post-Soviet Russia, helping young American historians with archival research.

Nikolai Nikolaevich also initiated the U.S.-Soviet project to publish the most important archival documents on Russian-American relations in Soviet and American archives and played a major role in compiling and preparing the collection for publication. The result of his efforts was *The United States and Russia: The Beginning of Relations, 1765–1815: Collection of Documents* (1980), which he coedited with N. N. Bashkina, J. H. Brown, and others. In Moscow in 1991 and 1999, Nikolai Nikolaevich organized two large international conferences on the history of early America. In the 1990s, he supervised, directed, edited, and contributed to the three-volume project on the history of the Russian colonies in America, which became a pioneering study of early America and the role Russian colonists played in settling North America.

In 2000, Nikolai Nikolaevich began his new research project on the Russian historian-emigrants such as Michael Karpovich and others who contributed to the study of Russian history in the United States. His unfortunate death from a massive heart attack on 1 October 2008 prevented him from finishing this project. Luckily, though, his major project, a serious and respectful Russian-American scholarly dialogue, still exists, and we all participate in and benefit from it.

SERGEI I. ZHUK
Ball State University
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Marc Raeff, 1923–2008

On 20 September 2008, Marc Raeff—the universally recognized doyen of imperial Russian history—succumbed to the effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Marc had a profound impact on Russian historiography, especially in the west, with a series of pathbreaking studies, exploratory articles, and penetrating reviews. A polyglot, he read widely and intensively, demonstrated extraordinary erudition, and he taught Russian historians to frame their research in a broader comparative framework.

Born in Moscow in on 28 July 1923, he spent the interwar years in western Europe, first in Czechoslovakia, later moving to Berlin and then Paris. It was in this environment that he added to his native Russian a mastery of German and French, the same facility he later acquired in English. Relocating to the United States in 1941, he studied briefly at the City College of New York and then served in the U.S. Army, eventually participating in the wartime “area studies” that the American government had organized for postwar occupation. After the war he matriculated in graduate school at Harvard University, without an undergraduate degree (having been advised that, if one asked for something really extraordinary, it was more likely to be approved). He participated in the famous seminar led by Michael Karpovich and belonged to the renowned cohort that shaped the emerging new field of Russian studies. Marc first taught at Clark University (1949–61) and then moved to Columbia University, where he taught until his retirement in 1988.

By far the bulk of his scholarship concerned Russia, and he placed a particular emphasis on institutions and law. Curiously, he did not publish his doctoral dissertation (defended at Harvard in 1950 as “The Peasant Commune in the Political Thinking of Russian Publicists: *Laissez-faire* Liberalism in the Reign of Alexander II”); only a couple of segments would subsequently appear as articles in academic journals. Instead, Marc turned to his primary interest—law and institutions, reflecting his abiding interest in their importance to Russian historical development. The result was his seminal monograph, *Michael Speransky: Statesman of Imperial Russia, 1772–1839* (1957), a superb analysis of governance, poli-

tics, and law-making in the Alexandrine era. A by-product was a book that appeared a year earlier, *Siberia and the Reforms of 1822* (1956), which recognized Speranskii's role but gave close attention to a different subject—the relationship between the imperial state and the ethnic minorities—that would occupy the interest of Russianists only much later. Marc's interest subsequently shifted toward the impact of the state, initially on educated elites who were the primary targets—as beneficiaries and victims. That research culminated in his provocative essay, *The Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia: The Eighteenth-Century Nobility* (1966), which sought to explain how the changes in service had alienated the service nobility and generated a new ethos—to serve the people, not the state—that shaped the mentality of the nineteenth-century intelligentsia. Simultaneously, Marc arranged for important documentary collections on intellectual history, on plans for political reform, and on the Decembrists to be translated and published. He also published a general survey, *Imperial Russia, 1682–1825: The Coming of Age of Modern Russia* (1971); a broad analysis, *Understanding Imperial Russia* (1984); and a collection of his most important articles, *Political Ideas and Institutions in Imperial Russia* (1994).

By the mid-1960s, as American scholars became increasingly engrossed in the opportunities for archival research, Marc turned in another direction, arguing that western scholars could also make a vital contribution by offering a comparative perspective and placing Russian development in a larger, European context. To be sure, in the mid-1960s Marc traveled to the Soviet Union to conduct archival research, but that was not to be his métier. As he himself wrote in 1994: “To compensate for my scant work in the archives, I have stressed comparative aspects involving Western European institutional and intellectual developments” (*Political Ideas and Institutions in Imperial Russia*, 1). That broader European perspective informed his next major project—a comparative study of cameralism in the Germanies and Russia (*The Well-Ordered Police State: Social and Institutional Change through Law in the Germanies and Russia, 1600–1800*, 1983). This magisterial study was a model of empirical comparative research, drawing on not only Russian but also a vast corpus of German sources. In many respects, this work marked the culmination of his dual interest in European comparative history and in institutions and law; it reflected his belief, expressed in print and in private, that law—however imperfectly implemented—nonetheless shaped values, expectations, mentalities.

In his final major project, Marc turned back to his roots to explore the interwar history of the Russian emigration. *Russia Abroad: A Cultural History of the Russian Emigration, 1919–1939* (1990) is informed not only by research in disparate archives and neglected émigré publications but also by his personal knowledge of many of the leading figures. But that research was not only “autobiographical,” as he put it, it also reflected his belief that scholars were wrong to ignore émigré journals and newspapers in favor of official party and state organs.

Marc was an exemplary mentor, supportive but critical, tactful but challenging. He also taught much about the historian's “craft” and his own style of research (for example, browsing *Russkii arkhiv* and *Russkaia starina* for insights, not “data”). Nor did he seek to produce clones: while Marc himself sought to add a comparative dimension to Russian historiography, he encouraged his students to dive into the archives and explore new avenues, especially in the newer genres of social and cultural history. And he went the “extra mile”—in my case, arranging to have Fr. Georgii Florovskii (then emeritus at Princeton) serve as chairman of my dissertation defense at Columbia. Marc was extraordinarily generous with his time; his rapid, careful reading of manuscripts was legendary.

Marc left an indelible mark on both the field and those of us who had the good fortune to know and work with him.

GREGORY L. FREEZE
 Brandeis University
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