Record Nr. UNINA9910651672503321 Autore Sobol Valeria Titolo Haunted empire: Gothic and the Russian imperial uncanny / / Valeria Sobol [[electronic resource]] Ithaca:,: Northern Illinois University Press,, 2021 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-5017-5058-5 1-5017-5057-7 1 online resource (xi, 198 pages): illustrations, maps Descrizione fisica Collana NIU series in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies Cornell scholarship online Disciplina 891.7308729 Soggetti Gothic fiction (Literary genre), Russian - History and criticism Ukrainian fiction - History and criticism Imperialism in literature Uncanny, The (Psychoanalysis), in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Previously issued in print: 2020. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Note on Transliteration and Translation -- Introduction. From the Island of Bornholm to Taman: The Literary Trajectory of the Russian Imperial Uncanny -- 1. A Gothic Prelude: Nikolai Karamzin's "The Island of Bornholm" -- 2. In Search of the Russian Middle Ages: The Livonian Tales of the 1820s -- 3. "Gloomy Finland" and Russian Gothic Tales of Assimilation -- 4. Ukraine: Russia's Uncanny Double -- 5. On Mimicry and Ukrainians: Empire and the Gothic in Antonii Pogorelsky's The Convent Graduate -- 6. 'Tis Eighty Years Since: Panteleimon Kulish's Gothic Ukraine -- Afterword -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index Sommario/riassunto This text shows that Gothic elements in Russian literature frequently expressed deep-set anxieties about the Russian imperial and national identity. The book argues that the persistent Gothic tropes in the literature of the Russian Empire enact deep historical and cultural tensions arising from Russia's idiosyncratic imperial experience. It brings together theories of empire and colonialism with close readings

> of canonical and less-studied literary texts as the book explores how Gothic horror arises from the threatening ambiguity of Russia's own

past and present, producing the effect Sobol terms 'the imperial uncanny.' Focusing on two spaces of 'the imperial uncanny' - the Baltic 'North'/Finland and the Ukrainian 'South' - the book reconstructs a powerful discursive tradition that reveals the mechanisms of the Russian imperial imagination that are still at work today.