

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777785703321
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Titolo	Serfdom, society, and the arts in imperial Russia : the pleasure and the power // Richard Stites
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, Conn. ; ; London : , : Yale University Press, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-281-73008-4 9786611730086 0-300-12818-5
Edizione	[1st edition]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xiii, 586 pages, 36 unnumbered pages of plates) : illustrations
Disciplina	700.1030947
Soggetti	Serfdom - Russia Arts and society - Russia Russia Social life and customs 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 501-547) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: What's in a Title? -- 1. Town and Country -- 2. The Domestic Muse -- 3. In Search of a Concert Hall -- 4. Inside the Capital Stages -- 5. An Unfolding Drama -- 6. Playing the Provinces -- 7. Academic Vistas -- 8. Exploring the Interior -- 9. When Did the Real Day Dawn? -- List of Abbreviations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Serf-era and provincial Russia heralded the spectacular turn in cultural history that began in the 1860's. Examining the role of arts and artists in society's value system, Richard Stites explores this shift in a groundbreaking history of visual and performing arts in the last decades of serfdom. Provincial town and manor house engaged the culture of Moscow and St. Petersburg while thousands of serfs and ex-serfs created or performed. Mikhail Glinka raised Russian music to new levels and Anton Rubinstein struggled to found a conservatory. Long before the itinerants, painters explored town and country in genre scenes of everyday life. Serf actors on loan from their masters brought naturalistic acting from provincial theaters to the imperial stages.

Stites's richly detailed book offers new perspectives on the origins of
Russia's nineteenth-century artistic prowess.
