

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778174203321
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Titolo	Russia under western eyes [[electronic resource] ] : from the Bronze Horseman to the Lenin Mausoleum / / Martin MALia
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 1999
ISBN	0-674-04048-1
Descrizione fisica	xii, 514 p
Disciplina	947
Soggetti	HISTORY / Russia & the Former Soviet Union Russia History Russia Civilization Soviet Union Civilization Russia Foreign public opinion Soviet Union Foreign public opinion
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. 437-482) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Prologue: In Scythia -- Introduction: The Russian Riddle -- 1 Russia as Enlightened Despotism: 1700–1815 -- 2 Russia as Oriental Despotism: 1815–1855 -- 3 Russia as Europe Regained: 1855–1914 -- 4 War and Revolution: 1914–1917 -- 5 Through the Soviet-Russian Looking-Glass, and What the West Found There: 1917–1991 -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	A dazzling work of intellectual history by a world-renowned scholar, spanning the years from Peter the Great to the fall of the Soviet Union, this book gives us a clear and sweeping view of Russia not as an eternal barbarian menace but as an outermost, if laggard, member in the continuum of European nations.