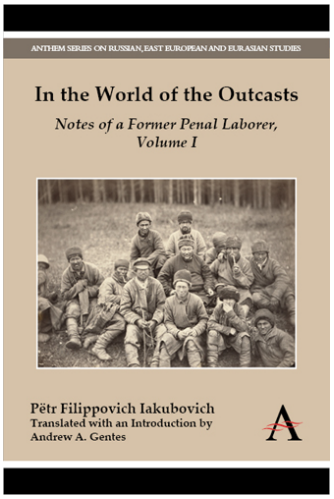

In the World of the Outcasts

Notes of a Former Penal Laborer, Volume I

Pëtr Filippovich Iakubovich, Translated with an Introduction by Andrew A. Gentes

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Description

The first English-language translation of P. F. Iakubovich's popular roman à clef about his exile and experiences as a Siberian penal laborer during the late nineteenth century.

Pëtr Filippovich Iakubovich represents the many young people whose opposition to the Russian state turned to extremism during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His conviction and banishment to forced labor and settlement in Siberia was an experience shared by many. But, unlike most, Iakubovich detailed his experiences in a thrilling and insightful roman à clef. Like the better-known accounts by Dostoevskii and Chekhov, Iakubovich's novel paints a picture of his fellow criminal inmates that is both objective and insightful. ***In the World of the Outcasts*** proved especially popular, appearing first in serial form between 1895 and 1898, and then as a book which ran through three editions prior to 1917. Along with other exposés of official malfeasance and corruption, it helped to focus popular resentment against the Romanovs. The book reappeared in 1964, in one of the last breaths of fresh air before Khrushchëv was supplanted by Brezhnev's neo-Stalinism. Laying bare the facts of Russia's penal system like Dostoevskii's *Notes from a Dead House* before it, and Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* after it, Iakubovich's ***In the World of the Outcasts*** is both a valuable historical document and a compelling work of literary fiction. This translation marks the first appearance of Iakubovich's masterpiece in English.

Readership: This volume will primarily appeal to scholars working on nineteenth-century Russia and to college-level students studying the same. It will serve as a valuable addition to college and research libraries.

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About the Author

Pëtr F. Iakubovich was a Russian dissident imprisoned in the late nineteenth century.

Andrew A. Gentes is an historian and translator who lives with his wife in New Hampshire.

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