



### **Eight Years on Sakhalin**

A Political Prisoner's Memoir

By *Ivan P. Iuvachev*, Translated with commentary by *Andrew A. Gentes*

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**A memoir by Ivan P. Iuvachëv, a cofounder of the People's Will, detailing his time as a political exile in the Sakhalin penal colony from 1887 to 1895**

“This translation of a political prisoner’s memoir is another excellent work by Gentes dealing with Siberian exile and exiles during Russia’s late tsarist period. It not only sheds light on the Russian exile system during that period, but also has universal significance regarding prisoners everywhere.” —Walter G. Moss, Professor emeritus, Eastern Michigan University, US.

In 1887, following several years’ imprisonment for his role in the People’s Will terrorist group, Ivan P. Iuvachëv was exiled with other political prisoners to the notorious Sakhalin penal colony. The penal colony emerged during the late 1860s and 1870s and collapsed in 1905, under the weight of Japan’s invasion of Sakhalin. The eight years between 1887 and 1895 that Iuvachëv spent on the island were some of the most tumultuous in the penal colony’s existence. Originally published in 1901, his memoir offers a first-hand account of this netherworld that embodied the extremities of tsarist Russian penalty. A valuable historical document as well as a work of literature testifying to one man’s ability to retain his humanity amid a sea of human degradation, this annotated translation marks the first time Iuvachëv’s memoir has appeared in any language besides Russian.

### **About the Author**

Andrew A. Gentes is an historian and translator. His publications and translations include *The Mass Deportation of Poles to Siberia, 1863–1880* (2017) and *In the World of the Outcasts: Notes of a Former Penal Laborer* (2014).

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