



Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna, Princess Isabel and the Ending of Servile Labour in Russia and Brazil

By Shane O'Rourke

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Examines the political activities of the two royal women—Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna of Russia and Princess Isabel of Brazil—within the context of their respective societies, adopting a comparative approach.

Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna of Russia and Princess Isabel of Brazil were active participants in the struggle to end servile labor in their respective countries. They acted in defiance of political conventions which excluded women from any political activity. Both women were determined to do all in their power to further the cause of emancipation and to determine the terms under which serfs and slaves were emancipated. This book examines the political activities of the two royal women within the context of their respective societies and adopts a comparative approach.

Readership

This book would cater to those interested in the histories of Russia and Brazil, focusing on women, royalty and slavery/serfdom, and emancipation. In the current political climate of Black Lives Matter and #MeToo it will attract a lot of attention.

Key selling points

- Chronicles the political lives of Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna and Princess Isabel.
- Brings to an English-speaking audience two of the great nineteenth-century emancipations which are much less well-known than the British and American cases.
- Reveals that emancipation was a truly transnational phenomenon.
- Adopts an explicitly comparative approach.

Contents

Preface; Introduction; 1. Empires of Servility; 2. Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna and the Emancipation of the Serfs; 3. Princess Isabel and the Abolition of Slavery; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Shane O'Rourke is a senior lecturer in the Department of History at the University of York.

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