

Soviet Era Jokes

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Discover a fascinating collection of Soviet-era jokes, reflecting the unique political satire and daily life humor from the Cold War period. These witty and often dark jokes offer insight into the resilience and cynicism of people living under the communist regime in the USSR.

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Forbidden Laughter

Political Humor under Stalin is an anthology of jokes, wisecracks, and satire from the Soviet 1930s and '40s that provides a glimpse of everyday dissembling and dissent in one of the modern world's most repressive societies. More than merely a joke book, it offers no less than a folkloric counter-narrative to the official history of the USSR, as well as a ground-breaking discussion of the culture of joke-telling under Stalin.

Political Humor Under Stalin

This book presents a large collection of anecdotes and jokes from different periods of the 20th century. Anecdotes and jokes were a hidden form of discursive communication in the Soviet era, lampooning official practices and acting as a confidential form of self-affirmation. They were not necessarily anti-Soviet, by their very nature both criticising existing reality and acting as a form of acquiescence. Above all they provide invaluable insights into everyday life, and the attitudes and concerns of ordinary people. The book also includes anecdotes and jokes from the post-Soviet period, when ordinary people in Russia continued to have to cope with rather grim reality, and the compiler provides extensive introductory and explanatory matter to set the material in context.

Tiny Revolutions in Russia

In his original new study, Seth Graham analyzes a rich and forgotten vein of humor in an otherwise bleak environment. The late Soviet period (1961–1986) hardly seems fertile ground for humor, but Russian jokes (anekdoty) about life in the Soviet Union were ubiquitous. The cultural and political relaxation in the decade following Stalin's death produced considerable optimism among Soviet citizens. The anekdot exploited and exposed what Graham calls "Soviet diglossia" (official Sovietese vs. Russian everyday language) and emphasized the distance between official myths and quotidian reality. Jokes engaged a range of official and popular culture genres and also worked meta-textually, referring to the political consequences of jokes. While the dissidents of this period, who stressed the heroic and opposed everything Soviet, have been much written about, Graham's work on the anekdoty—written in the third person, ironic, and engaged with everything Soviet—fills a hole that has been overlooked in cultural history.

Resonant Dissonance

The book that immerses the Cold War in the warm bath of nostalgia. Q: Why, despite all the shortages, was the toilet paper in East Germany always 2-ply? A: Because they had to send a copy of everything they did to Moscow. Communist jokes are the strangest, funniest, most enchanting and meaningful legacy of the 80 years of political experimentation in Russia and Eastern Europe, known as Communism. The valiant and sardonic citizens of the former Communist countries - surrounded by an invisible network of secret police, threatened with arrest, imprisonment and forced labour, confronted

by an economic system that left shops empty, and bombarded with ludicrous state propaganda - turned joke-telling into an art form. They used jokes as a coded way of speaking the truth. HAMMER AND TICKLE takes us on a unique journey through the Communist era (1917-1989), and tells its real history through subversive jokes and joke-tellers, many of whom ended up in the gulags. It is also illustrated with a combination of rare and previously unpublished archive material, political cartoons, caricatures, photographs and state-sponsored propaganda. Humorous, culturally poignant and historically revealing, this is the story of a political system that was (almost) laughed out of existence.

Hammer And Tickle

Starting late 1960s the Soviet population had created an amazing national folklore of jokes , which was the adverse protective reaction against Communist intense and sickening propaganda .The Soviet Era jokes are essential national analysis of the Communist system and the assessment of the criminal characters leading the nation.They should be used as a historical source to understand the atheist realm of evil. Laughing at inferior , at nefarious , at cowardice, at ignoble is obligation ...

The Best of Russian Humor

The book consists of separate chapters and each of them has its own name that reflects the subject of its content. There are twenty five chapters in the book. The author was trying to make book as funny, entertaining and amusing as possible for different groups of people speaking English. Between its covers you will find a lot of information that reflects Russian life in the form of humor. Most jokes and anecdotes have been translated from Russian but some of them have been borrowed from English sources. Russian jokes were picked up from the author's friends and relatives, Russian TV and Internet radio programs, from Russian newspapers published in USA. Most of them are fresh and certainly reflect everyday life in Russia. Some jokes are related to the former Soviet Union. Readers, if you find some of the jokes inappropriate or abusive, just ignore them. It is well known that understanding foreign humor is often difficult for a number of reasons. Moreover, it takes time to completely understand some jokes because of the nature of the humor.

Soviet Era Jokes

It is important to remember the crucial era of modern history dominated by Soviet Russia and Red China, symbolized by Stalin and Mao, through Communist-style humor. The jokes were created mainly in the West, but also within the Communist system, which produced a rich sample of humor about political rule, music, oppression of the common man, and other realities of Communism. After tensions were thought dissipated between the superpowers, and capitalism was declared the winner, Communism was thought to have disappeared. But with the renewal of world difficulties, there is a need to reminisce on how Communism was conceived through Soviet jokes. Red Humor is divided into the Czarist period to Stalin's era, supplemented by memorable one-liners that immortalize that seven-decade harsh era. The author wrote this joke collection "to collect those bits of humor before they are forgotten." A Jew was dying in his bed during a bitterly cold and snowy night in Russia. He called his wife to his side and faintly murmured: - Sarah! The time has come! Call the Priest! - The Priest? Are you crazy Abraham? You mean Rabbi! - No, Sarah, I mean the Priest. I don't want to disturb the Rabbi in such terrible weather as this.

Russian Jokes, Anecdotes and Funny Stories

Volume 7 – Watch Out Children | ">< 7 A great book for learning everyday Russian conversational language. The caricature dialog in Daily Humor in Russian Life is the best Russian learning book for everyday Russian conversations, common phrases, and words with dual meanings. You will not find most of this material in traditional Russian language educational books that teach proper Russian. In this book, you'll encounter: Perfect holiday gift for all your friends, Russian or not Hilarious Russian children's jokes, Russian kid's jokes, learning Russian jokes Funny and relatable illustrations depicting Russian Life Colorful caricatures of Russian characters in twisted yet hilarious scenarios Captions and dialogue to help you learn conversational Russian Impeccable English translations Looking for a book represented by caricatures Russian humor? Laughter is indeed, the best medicine. Humor makes you human. We all have it, and everyone enjoys it when the right material tickles their funny bone. The meaning of a caricature according to Wikipedia is a rendered image showing the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way through sketching, pencil strokes, or through other artistic drawings.

The meaning of Russian caricature is a caricature on steroids. Humor largely depends on the context. What might make an American crack a smile or a couple of chuckles might be different from those born and raised in another country. Care to know what Russian humor looks like? Read and discover the tragic, yet comical aspects of life in Russia with Daily Humor in Russian Life! Russian children's jokes, Russian kid's jokes, learning Russian jokes, Russian Alphabet jokes, Russian Azbuka jokes. There are many Russian jokes that include children, but not intended for children. This book is no exception. One of the popular characters in anecdotes and caricatures in this book is Vovochka. Vovochka, who goes to school. This allows readers to find irrational and outrageousness in the behavior of adults when it comes to school and everything else child related, and do not hesitate to point it out. There are a few caricatures in the book referring to the Soviet Union era. All school kids age 9 to 15 were expected to join the Pioneers. There were no exceptions. The Pioneer attire included a red tie scarf and pin badge. Pioneers were taught to prioritize Communism above all and had the motto "Always Ready!". There are a few caricatures related to the pioneers. These caricatures would never be allowed to be published in the Soviet Union. But here we are years later and we can freely smile at these caricatures. Daily Humor in Russian Life is the seventh book of fourteen in a series the author holds very dear to their heart. Every reader of this book probably experienced a child saying something mean and embarrassing. But because they are children, we scold them and laugh. All these wonderful drawings, as always, reflect the adult-child relationship with kind humor expressed through caricature art. Discover another culture and more reasons to laugh and smile. Add Daily Humor in Russian Life to your cart TODAY! « Always Ready!"

Red Humor

It's Only a Joke, Comrade! uncovers how ordinary people joked, coped, and struggled to adapt in Stalin's brave new world. It asks what it means to live under a dictatorship: How do people make sense of their lives? How do they talk about it? And whom can they trust to do so?

Daily Humor in Russian Life Volume 7 - Watch Out Children

Volume 10 - Man's Power| ">< 10064001 book for learning everyday Russian conversational language. The caricature dialog in Daily Humor in Russian Life is the best Russian learning book for everyday Russian conversations, common phrases, and words with dual meanings. You will not find most of this material in traditional Russian language educational books that teach proper Russian. In this book, you'll encounter: Perfect holiday gift for all your friends, Russian or not Hilarious Russian men jokes, Russian power jokes, Russian boy jokes Funny and relatable illustrations depicting Russian Life Colorful caricatures of Russian characters in twisted yet hilarious scenarios Captions and dialogue to help you learn conversational Russian Impeccable English translations Looking for a book represented by caricatures Russian humor? Laughter is indeed, the best medicine. Humor makes you human. We all have it, and everyone enjoys it when the right material tickles their funny bone. The meaning of a caricature according to Wikipedia is a rendered image showing the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way through sketching, pencil strokes, or through other artistic drawings. The meaning of Russian caricature is a caricature on steroids. Humor largely depends on the context. What might make an American crack a smile or a couple of chuckles might be different from those born and raised in another country. Care to know what Russian humor looks like? Read and discover the tragic, yet comical aspects of life in Russia with Daily Humor in Russian Life! Russian men joke, Russian power jokes, Russian boy jokes! There is a stereotype of Russian man of being a protector. Of course, like many of the stereotypes, it does not apply to everyone and it is true to certain degree. There is a Russian saying «: 70025-карт-А-00-80» (toy) meaning "behind stone wall" that references Russian men in general. This topic is explored in the book. There are several caricatures included in the book that show military and police and anyone in uniform for that matter in a funny light. Another interesting aspect of Russian men is the friendships they develop with other men. These relationships are long lasting whether it is a best friend, neighbor, or drinking buddy. This is also reflected in the book. Daily Humor in Russian Life is the tenth book of fourteen in a series the author holds very dear to their heart. Collections in this book represent a look at women from the author's point of view. Funny, with a great love for vodka and cigarettes, men's stereotypes, and military or civilian characters are presented with great artistry and reflected in caricatures with such artistry, that you cannot help but laugh. Discover another culture and more reasons to laugh and smile. Add Daily Humor in Russian Life to your cart TODAY! « !0;Nalute!"

It's Only a Joke, Comrade!

Jokes and Targets takes up an appealing and entertaining topic—the social and historical origins of jokes about familiar targets such as rustics, Jewish spouses, used car salesmen, and dumb blondes. Christie Davies explains why political jokes flourished in the Soviet Union, why Europeans tell jokes about American lawyers but not about their own lawyers, and why sex jokes often refer to France rather than to other countries. One of the world's leading experts on the study of humor, Davies provides a wide-ranging and detailed study of the jokes that make up an important part of everyday conversation.

Daily Humor in Russian Life Volume 10 - Man's Power

This collection of Russian jokes is a must for anyone interested in Russian culture/humor. Grouped by category, jokes include classic topics like wives, jail, drinking, communism and more. Jokes are grouped by category and include both Russian and English versions. This is a unique glimpse into the world of Russian humor for anyone with an interest in Russian culture.

Jokes and Targets

Vladimir Putin is one of the most well-known leaders of our time. He is also one of the most worrisome. In recent years, Putin has invaded neighboring countries, stifled journalists and free speech in his country, and seemingly solidified complete control of the region. As Mr. Putin's influence has grown, intriguing stories have come out about him. Besides his public career, Putin has lived a life more unusual than anyone could wish to have. I have compiled some of Putin's best (or worst) comedic moments. In true Russian style, most of his jokes are *anekdoty*, literally 'anecdotes' or little stories. All oppressed societies express themselves through street humor. In the Soviet Union, jokes about General Secretaries of the Communist Party--Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid Brezhnev, etc.--were whispered in the kitchen. In fact, evenings around the table would be dedicated to thrashing the authorities through humor. Satire enabled people to overcome their fear of the controlling government. "If we can make fun of the Kremlin, the Kremlin doesn't have power over us," they reasoned. It is a well-known societal phenomenon: when accessible political space shrinks, unofficial social space expands. After the collapse of communism and Russia's attempts to become democratic, political anecdotes almost disappeared as part of the country's cultural life. But under President Vladimir Putin, political humor has been back with a vengeance.

The Official Russian Joke Book

Hello. And pleasure to meet you. My name Yevgeny. Yevgeny, yes. But my friends they call me Zhenya. Now, where was I born? In Vitebsk. In the looking glass world of the old Soviet reality, the future is certain. But the past is unpredictable and the truth a negotiable commodity. Into this changeable environment comes young Zhenya Gorevich, struggling to embrace a supposed Communist utopia. When his mother confesses the unlikely secret of his parentage, he determines to escape Russia and find his long-lost father. On a pillion's progress, as trying as anything endured by Dostoyevsky's Prince Myshkin, the hapless Gorevich journeys from his dreary home town of Vitebsk to Moscow and, eventually, to swinging London and the 1966 World Cup in an effort to reclaim his birthright. Culminating with the 1966 World Cup in England, Martin Sixsmith delightfully combines the riotous tradition of Russian satire with his own wry humour in the story of one man's circuitous journey through life.

Russia Dies Laughing

The Joke, Milan Kundera's first novel, gained him a huge following in his own country, and launched his worldwide literary reputation. 'Kundera is the saddest, funniest and most lovable of authors.' The Times

What is Your Wish Goldfish?

Žižek as comedian: jokes in the service of philosophy. "A serious and good philosophical work could be written consisting entirely of jokes."—Ludwig Wittgenstein The good news is that this book offers an entertaining but enlightening compilation of Žižekisms. Unlike any other book by Slavoj Žižek, this compact arrangement of jokes culled from his writings provides an index to certain philosophical, political, and sexual themes that preoccupy him. Žižek's Jokes contains the set-ups and punch lines—as well as the offenses and insults—that Žižek is famous for, all in less than 200 pages. So what's the bad news? There is no bad news. There's just the inimitable Slavoj Žižek, disguised as an impossibly erudite, politically incorrect uncle, beginning a sentence, "There is an old Jewish joke,

loved by Derrida..." For Žižek, jokes are amusing stories that offer a shortcut to philosophical insight. He illustrates the logic of the Hegelian triad, for example, with three variations of the "Not tonight, dear, I have a headache" classic: first the wife claims a migraine; then the husband does; then the wife exclaims, "Darling, I have a terrible migraine, so let's have some sex to refresh me!" A punch line about a beer bottle provides a Lacanian lesson about one signifier. And a "truly obscene" version of the famous "aristocrats" joke has the family offering a short course in Hegelian thought rather than a display of unspeakables. Žižek's Jokes contains every joke cited, paraphrased, or narrated in Žižek's work in English (including some in unpublished manuscripts), including different versions of the same joke that make different points in different contexts. The larger point being that comedy is central to Žižek's seriousness.

Russian Jokes

Irina H. Corten's Vocabulary of Soviet Society and Culture is an experiment in what Soviet scholars call *lingvostranovedenie*--the study of a country and its culture through the peculiarities of its language. Not a conventional dictionary, Corten's lexicon is selective, offering a broad sampling of culturally significant words in the areas of politics, ideology, the economy, education, arts and letters, social problems and everyday life as well as language associated with the personalities and activities of individual Soviet leaders. The entries are listed alphabetically in English transliteration followed by the Cyrillic, although readers familiar with Russian may prefer to use the Cyrillic alphabet listing included in this volume. In each entry, the author provides a succinct but full explanation of the term and, whenever possible, cross-references to other entries, authentic examples of its use, and samples of relevant Soviet jokes. A reader may approach the lexicon either sequentially or with the aid of a subject thesaurus that divides the material into specific topics. A listing of complementary sources of reference appears in a useful bibliography. With this fascinating lexicon of "Sovietisms," Corten provides an invaluable and easily accessible medium for those general readers and scholars of the Russian language and Soviet culture interested in understanding contemporary Soviet life. Selected entries from the Vocabulary of Soviet Society and Culture *Anekdotchik (anekdotchitsa) (cyrillic spelling) (n.)* 1: A person who tells jokes (*anekdoty*); 2: coll. since the late Stalin era, a person arrested and given a prison sentence for the telling of political jokes. The phenomenon indicates the important role of the political joke in Soviet culture and, specifically, in the dissident movement. See *iazychnik*; *sident*. The following jokes were popular during the Brezhnev era: 1. "Comrade Brezhnev, what is your hobby?" "Collecting jokes about myself." "And how many have you collected so far?" "Two and a half labor camps." 2. Question: What is a marked-down joke? Answer: A joke which, under Stalin, got you ten years in a labor camp, and now gets you only five. *egoístiki (cyrillic) (n.; pl.)*. Lit., little egotists; coll. since the 1970s referring to headsets worn by music lovers, especially teenage fans of rock music. The idea is that, by wearing headsets, one shuts out the world and becomes indifferent to everything except oneself. *zhrál'nia (cyrillic) (n.)*. Der. *zhrat'*, to gorge, devour (vulg.); coll. since the 1970s denoting an eating establishment with inexpensive and often bad-tasting food. In the late 1980s, the term also has been applied to new fast-food restaurants which have been built in Soviet cities by Western concerns, for example, McDonald's. See *amerikanka*; *stekliashka*; *stoiachka*.

Uncensored?

Published by St. Martin's Press (1999), this book shows how one pithy joke encapsulates a world of knowledge about a culture. Because humor plays with the most deeply seated cultural assumptions, it makes visible areas of unacknowledged attitudes and behaviors in private realms. In this groundbreaking study, through the content analysis of over 600 jokes, proverbs, sayings, and popular rhymes, Emil Draitser offers an insider's view on the sociological and psychological functions of Russian sexual folklore and the way it reflects male/female relationships. Draitser leaves no dirty joke untold as he examines such taboo subjects as adultery, impotence, and gender and violence. This timely study sheds light on Russian popular culture and the nature of sexual humor everywhere.

The Spy Who Couldn't Surrender

Volume 14 – Mix | ">< 14-great @BB for learning everyday Russian conversational language. The caricature dialog in Daily Humor in Russian Life is the best Russian learning book for everyday Russian conversations, common phrases, and words with dual meanings. You will not find most of this material in traditional Russian language educational books that teach proper Russian. In this book, you'll encounter: Perfect holiday gift for all your friends, Russian or not Hilarious Russian jokes and Russian

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I Heard Lenin Laugh

Not all Germans living under Hitler succumbed passively to the rhetoric and horror of the Nazi regime. Covert popular opposition in the form of humorous resistance was wider spread than is commonly thought. Embracing jokes, stories and 60 cartoons, this is the only collection in English of underground anti-Nazi humour. It is, as such, an invaluable contribution to the social history of twentieth century Germany.

The Joke

The Human Factor tells the dramatic story about the part played by political leaders - particularly the three very different personalities of Gorbachev, Reagan and Thatcher - in ending the standoff that threatened the future of all humanity

Zizek's Jokes

'Russia is the motherland of elephants' - this phrase from a Soviet-era anekdot (a peculiar genre of Russian jokes, often political, or obscene, or both) takes the mickey out of historical propaganda. The phrase is symbolic of the somewhat light-hearted approach to history, which is quintessential to this book. This is not an official history but a series of sketches, often humorous, on various aspects of Russian life over the centuries, of people, institutions, natural and political phenomena and local products of interest. The book also offers glimpses of Russia's historical relations with the West, chequered, complex and fraught with chronic mutual misunderstanding.

Vocabulary of Soviet Society and Culture

Volume 5 - Beware of Doctors | ">< 5 A 5 @ 5 3 8 5 4 1 r @ 0 0 5 9 everyday Russian conversational language. The caricature dialog in Daily Humor in Russian Life is the best Russian learning book for everyday Russian conversations, common phrases, and words with dual meanings. You will not find most of this material in traditional Russian language educational books that teach proper Russian. In this book, you'll encounter: Perfect holiday gift for all your friends, Russian or no Hilarious Russian doctor jokes, Russian nurse jokes, Russian medicine jokes Funny and relatable illustrations depicting Russian Life Colorful caricatures of Russian characters in twisted yet hilarious scenarios Captions

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Making War, Not Love

Focusing on urban areas in the 1930s, this college professor illuminates the ways that Soviet city-dwellers coped with this world, examining such diverse activities as shopping, landing a job, and other acts.

Daily Humor in Russian Life Volume 14 - Mix

Told through the eyes of a boy growing up in Cold War era Saint Petersburg, Everything is Normal is a journey into the world of Soviet Russia—and how as his world falls apart his defiant love of Western pop culture eventually defeats the bleakness of his upbringing.

Underground Humour In Nazi Germany, 1933-1945

Born in a surreal Moscow communal apartment where eighteen families shared one kitchen, Anya von Bremzen grew up singing odes to Lenin, black-marketeering Juicy Fruit gum at school, and longing for a taste of the mythical West. It was a life by turns absurd, drab, naively joyous, melancholy and, finally, intolerable. In 1974, when Anya was ten, she and her mother fled to the USA, with no winter coats and no right of return. These days, Anya is the doyenne of high-end food writing. And yet, the flavour of Soviet kolbasa, like Proust's madeleine, transports her back to that vanished Atlantis known as the USSR . In this sweeping, tragicomic memoir, Anya recreates seven decades of the Soviet experience through cooking and food, and reconstructs a moving family history spanning three generations. Her narrative is embedded in a larger historical epic: Lenin's bloody grain requisitioning, World War II starvation, Stalin's table manners, Khrushchev's kitchen debates, Gorbachev's disastrous anti-alcohol policies and the ultimate collapse of the USSR. And all of this is bound together by Anya's sardonic wit, passionate nostalgia and piercing observations. Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking is a book that stirs the soul as well as the senses.

Downtown Leningrad

"Nuclear weapons, since their conception, have been the subject of secrecy. In the months after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the American scientific establishment, the American government, and the American public all wrestled with what was called the "problem of secrecy," wondering not only whether secrecy was appropriate and effective as a means of controlling this new technology but also whether it was compatible with the country's core values. Out of a messy context of propaganda, confusion, spy scares, and the grave counsel of competing groups of scientists, what historian Alex Wellerstein calls a "new regime of secrecy" was put into place. It was unlike any other previous or since. Nuclear secrets were given their own unique legal designation in American law ("restricted data"), one that operates differently than all other forms of national security classification

and exists to this day. Drawing on massive amounts of declassified files, including records released by the government for the first time at the author's request, *Restricted Data* is a narrative account of nuclear secrecy and the tensions and uncertainty that built as the Cold War continued. In the US, both science and democracy are pitted against nuclear secrecy, and this makes its history uniquely compelling and timely"--

The Human Factor

A collection of Russian jokes, anecdotes and short stories. Humor is one of the best mediums for understanding and accepting other people. Russian worldview is saturated with jokes and humor. We tend to laugh at everything. Our favorite national pastime is to share a meal and some fresh jokes and anecdotes. The funniest Russian jokes are based on syntactic and lexical ambiguity, puns and wordplay. By definition, those verbal jokes are impossible to translate. That's why for this collection I use political, military, and sexual humor that I could actually translate, albeit with some changes and explanations.

The Motherland of Elephants

Hallway-dwelling Semyon is unemployed and disheartened with life. When his last hope for self-respect disappears, Semyon decides to take his own life. But word gets out and he finds himself inundated with sympathetic visitors - begging him to die on their behalf. Suddenly he is an important man, and on the night of his proposed suicide events spiral out of control. Moira Buffini has freely adapted Nikolai Erdman's celebrated satirical comedy 'The suicide', banned by Stalin before a single performance.-- Back cover.

Daily Humor in Russian Life Volume 5 - Beware of Doctors

This anthology offers a rich array of documents, short fiction, poems, songs, plays, movie scripts, comic routines, and folklore to offer a close look at the mass culture that was consumed by millions in Soviet Russia between 1917 and 1953. Both state-sponsored cultural forms and the unofficial culture that flourished beneath the surface are represented. The focus is on the entertainment genres that both shaped and reflected the social, political, and personal values of the regime and the masses. The period covered encompasses the Russian Revolution and Civil War, the mixed economy and culture of the 1920s, the tightly controlled Stalinist 1930s, the looser atmosphere of the Great Patriotic War, and the postwar era ending with the death of Stalin. Much of the material appears here in English for the first time. A companion 45-minute audio tape (ISBN 0-253-32911-6) features contemporaneous performances of fifteen popular songs of the time, with such favorites as "Bublichki," "The Blue Kerchief," and "Katyusha." Russian texts of the songs are included in the book.

Everyday Stalinism

"Dralyuk's new translation of *Sentimental Tales*, a collection of Zoshchenko's stories from the 1920s, is a delight that brings the author's wit to life."—The Economist Mikhail Zoshchenko's *Sentimental Tales* are satirical portraits of small-town characters on the fringes of Soviet society in the first decade of Bolshevik rule. The tales are narrated by one Kolenkorov, a writer not very good at his job, who takes credit for editing the tales in a series of comic prefaces. Yet beneath Kolenkorov's intrusive narration and sublime blathering, the stories are genuinely moving. They tell tales of unrequited love and amorous misadventures among down-on-their-luck musicians, provincial damsels, aspiring poets, and liberal aristocrats hopelessly out of place in the new Russia, against a backdrop of overcrowded apartments, scheming, and daydreaming. Zoshchenko's deadpan style and sly ventriloquy mask a biting critique of Soviet life—and perhaps life in general. An original perspective on Soviet society in the 1920s and simply uproariously funny, *Sentimental Tales* at last shows Anglophone readers why Zoshchenko is considered among the greatest humorists of the Soviet era. "A book that would make Gogol guffaw."—Kirkus Reviews "If you find Chekhov a bit tame and want a more bite to your fiction, then you need a dose of Zoshchenko, the premier Russian satirist of the twentieth century . . . Snap up this thin volume and enjoy."—Russian Life "Mikhail Zoshchenko masterfully exhibits a playful seriousness. . . Juxtaposing joyful wit with the bleakness of Soviet Russia, *Sentimental Tales* is a potent antidote for Russian literature's dour reputation."—Foreword Reviews "Superb."—Los Angeles Review of Books

Is that You Laughing, Comrade?

