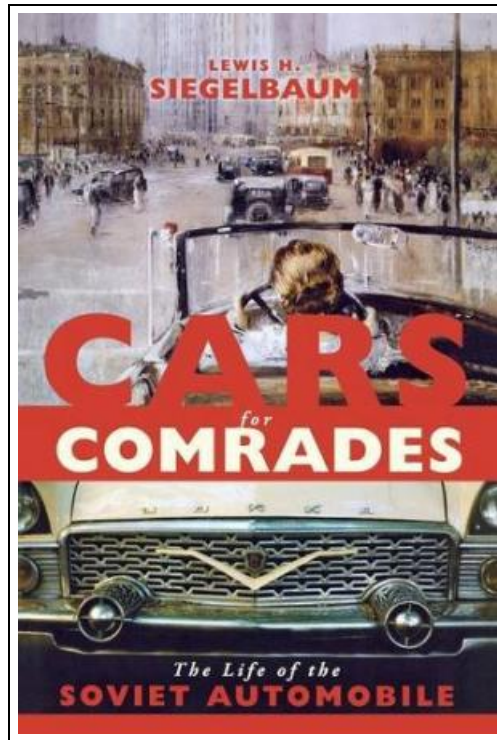


Cars for Comrades: The Life of the Soviet Automobile (Paperback)



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Reviews

Merely no terms to spell out. We have read through and i also am confident that i will gonna read yet again again in the future. You will not sense monotony at anytime of your own time (that's what catalogs are for about should you question me).
(Pasquale Larkin I)

CARS FOR COMRADES: THE LIFE OF THE SOVIET AUTOMOBILE (PAPERBACK)



Cornell University Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The automobile and Soviet communism made an odd couple. The quintessential symbol of American economic might and consumerism never achieved iconic status as an engine of Communist progress, in part because it posed an awkward challenge to some basic assumptions of Soviet ideology and practice. In this rich and often witty book, Lewis H. Siegelbaum recounts the life of the Soviet automobile and in the process gives us a fresh perspective on the history and fate of the USSR itself. Based on sources ranging from official state archives to cartoons, car-enthusiast magazines, and popular films, *Cars for Comrades* takes us from the construction of the huge Soviet Detroit, emblems of the utopian phase of Soviet planning, to present-day Togliatti, where the fate of Russia's last auto plant hangs in the balance. The large role played by American businessmen and engineers in the checkered history of Soviet automobile manufacture is one of the book's surprises, and the author points up the ironic parallels between the Soviet story and the decline of the American Detroit. In the interwar years, automobile clubs, car magazines, and the popularity of rally races were signs of a nascent Soviet car culture, its growth slowed by the policies of the Stalinist state and by Russia's intractable roadlessness. In the postwar years cars appeared with greater frequency in songs, movies, novels, and in propaganda that promised to do better than car-crazy America. Ultimately, Siegelbaum shows, the automobile epitomized and exacerbated the contradictions between what Soviet communism encouraged and what it provided. To need a car was a mark of support for industrial goals; to want a car for its own sake was something else entirely. Because Soviet cars were both...



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