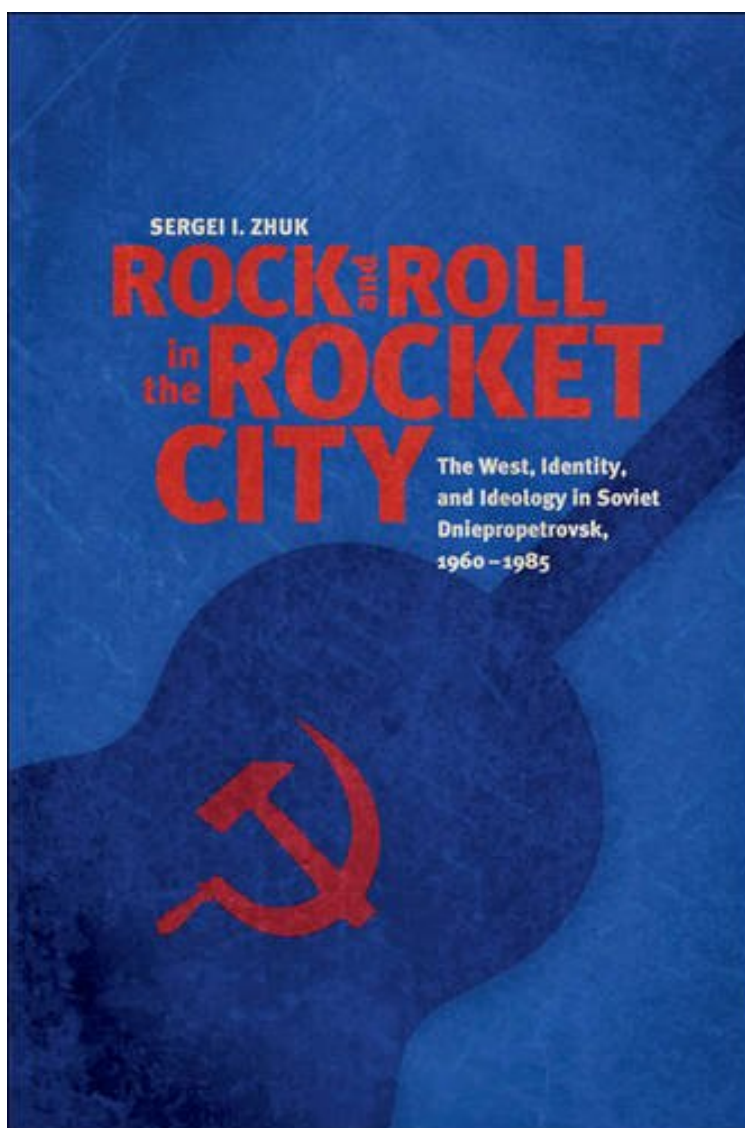


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Rock and Roll in the Rocket City: The West, Identity, and Ideology in Soviet Dnepropetrovsk, 1960-1985

Sergei I. Zhuk

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Sergei I. Zhuk : Rock and Roll in the Rocket City: The West, Identity, and Ideology in Soviet Dnepropetrovsk, 1960-1985 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rock and Roll in the Rocket City: The West, Identity, and Ideology in Soviet Dnepropetrovsk, 1960-1985:

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in western influence in the USSR or the deculturalization of the USSR, specifically the Ukraine, then is the book for you. I got this shipped pretty fast since my university library screwed me over and gave this book to another student. It saved my butt from failing my Soviet Union class. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Angela Baker Needed for a college course, 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good read if Ukrainian history is of interest By Hugo I spent 8 years in Ukraine associated with US Peace Corps. The culture was a challenge for an American. This book revealed amazing information on the influence of American and other Western cultures during the Soviet era. The influence of music, movies and videos plus the eventual advent of internet was most interesting.

How did rock music and other products of Western culture come to pervade youth culture in Brezhnev-era Dnepropetrovsk, a Ukrainian city essentially closed to outsiders and heavily policed by the KGB? In *Rock and Roll in the Rocket City*, Sergei I. Zhuk assesses the impact of Westernization on the city's youth, examining the degree to which the consumption of Western music, movies, and literature ultimately challenged the ideological control maintained by state officials. This book is the first historical study in any language of the everyday lives of Soviet urban youth during the Brezhnev era. A longtime student and resident of Dnepropetrovsk, Zhuk began research for this project in the 1990s. Weaving together diaries, interviews, oral histories, and KGB and party archival documents, he provides a vivid account of how Soviet cultural repression and unrest during the Brezhnev period laid the groundwork for a resurgent Ukrainian nationalism in the 1980s. In so doing, he demonstrates the influence of Western cultural consumption on the formation of a post-Soviet national identity.

"An invaluable addition to a less researched but culturally transformative period between Khrushchev's 'thaw' and Gorbachev's perestroika. Illustrations, an excellent bibliography, and richly informed footnotes abound." (Choice) "Refreshingly new and rich in insights." (Russian) "There have been worthy studies of rock music in the Soviet Union in the past, but what distinguishes Zhuk's account is the breadth of material he has been able to assemble in documenting the deep roots that the rock culture sunk into the society of 'developed socialism'... Zhuk's innovative book opens up a new field of inquiry, one that raises fundamental questions about what we really know about how the Soviet Union worked." (Transitions Online) "[Zhuk] makes his case convincingly in his thoroughly researched and well-organized study of western cultural influences during his youth in his home city." (Russian History) "Rock and Roll in the Rocket City is crammed with food for thought and should provoke many productive conversations in the field of Soviet history and beyond." (Slavic) "Zhuk has written a fascinating insight... The book provides the necessary background for many of the personalities and events that took place in the first two decades of Ukrainian independence." (Ukraine Analyst) "Zhuk gives us a fascinating insight into Dnipropetrovsk under Soviet rule and provides a comprehensive background to many of the personalities and events that took place in the first two decades of Ukrainian independence. *Rock and Roll in the Rocket City* should be included in every course taught on twentieth-century Ukraine." (Slavonic and East European) "Zhuk's excellent monograph makes a signal contribution in teasing out the complexities, ambiguities, and contradictions of official policy toward 'western' cultural influence from the 1960s to the mid-1980s. [This book] should be lauded for taking a major step forward in the study of popular culture in the late Soviet Union." (Journal of Social History) "A fascinating and academically important work." (Robert Hornsby Europe-Asia Studies) "Serious and highly original study, the most complete to date of Western influence in a provincial city of the former Soviet Union." (Donald J. Raleigh Journal of Modern History) "Sergei I. Zhuk's nuanced study offers a welcome addition to the growing literature on what used to be regarded as an unvariegated era of Soviet history." (Amy Nelson American Historical) "A very important contribution to late-Soviet social and institutional history." (Laboratorium) "This book is a rich read that pairs depth of analysis to an accurate measure of anecdote, and which succeeds in keeping a critical distance to a subject that clearly lies close to the personal affection of the author." (European of History) "Sergei Zhuk's illumination of youth culture in a provincial and closed Ukrainian city draws on a fascinating breadth of sources: archival documents, diaries, oral histories, and KGB intelligence. Zhuk shows how, despite the efforts of ideological officials and the paranoia of the KGB, the Soviet state fought a losing battle of accommodation and compromise against Western cultural influences. These influences, however, served to bolster as much as undermine Soviet ideology. Zhuk reconfigures Brezhnev-era society to reveal a more contradictory and multifaceted history than one usually encounters." (Kate Brown, University of Maryland, Baltimore County) From the Back Cover How did rock music and other products of Western culture come to pervade youth culture in Brezhnev-era Dnepropetrovsk, a Ukrainian city essentially closed to outsiders and heavily policed by the KGB? In *Rock and Roll in the Rocket City*, Sergei I. Zhuk assesses the impact of Westernization on the city's youth, examining the degree to which the consumption of Western music, movies, and literature ultimately challenged the ideological control maintained by state officials. This book is the first historical study in any language of the everyday lives of Soviet urban youth during the Brezhnev era. A longtime student and resident of Dnepropetrovsk, Zhuk began research for this project in the 1990s. Weaving together diaries, interviews, oral histories, and KGB and party archival documents, he provides a vivid account of how Soviet cultural repression and unrest during the Brezhnev period laid the groundwork

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