leaders reluctantly agreed to pray for the ruler as the price of the community's survival. Elder Filipp and his followers rejected this decision and seceded to found their own communities. Gur'ianova throws new light on this pivotal episode in the history of priestless Old Belief. Detailed textological analysis of chapter 115 of Ivan Filippov's history of Vyg—which later copyists excised from the work—allows her to argue that Filippov and other leaders of the community had considerable sympathy for Elder Filipp's militant stand against the powers of the Antichrist and a powerful sense of ambivalence about their own compromise with the imperial government. Only later, she suggests, did the line separating the adherents of Vyg, the Pomortsy, and Filipp's followers become hard and fast.

Long after the 1740s, many groups of Old Believers continued to wrestle with the government's demands that they pray for the ruler in their worship. In navigating her way through the complex polemics on this question, Gur'ianova identifies three fundamental positions which she labels "extremely moderate," "moderately radical," "extremely radical."

Throughout this discussion and the rest of her work, Gur'ianova presents her case clearly and persuasively. In general, she sees a pattern of gradual moderation in the ideological stance of the main Old Believer groups and the emergence, in response, of more radical positions, particularly among the beguny. While the general shape of her argument is not new, she does an excellent job of tying specific texts to the general positions of the competing groups and the complex relations between them. Moreover, throughout her work, she remains sensitive to the tensions between more moderate and extreme positions within each group and the ideological inconsistencies which reflected them.

All in all, this small book is an important and stimulating contribution to the rapidly growing body of work on the Old Believers and, more broadly, popular culture in premodern Russia.

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Prince Michael Vorontsov's life (1782-1863) extended over five Russian reigns encompassing the most expansive and dynamic period of Russian history. His career included service with tsarist forces in Europe in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars, twenty-one years as Viceroy of New Russia and twelve more with the additional duty of ruler of the Caucasus. His background, training, and experience exposed him to most of the cross-currents that came into play in the expanding Russian empire in the nineteenth century. It is surprising that we have had to wait so long for a biography of a man whose actions and attitudes reflected so many of the contradictions in Russian nineteenth-century experience. Professor Rhinelander has filled that gap with distinction. He observes in his preface that "biography is not the scholarly historian's favorite vehicle of expression." This richly sourced, highly readable book nevertheless demonstrates that good biography can illuminate and enliven history more effectively than any other medium except, perhaps, the novel.

Michael Vorontsov's lineage may have been less ancient and illustrious than he liked to believe (Rhinelander discusses the problem toward the end of the book, pp.
but his noble birth and inherited wealth assured him high status in a society and imperial system where such advantages were still enormously valuable. Unlike most Russian aristocrats, he spent his childhood and youth in England where his recently widowed father who was inclined toward political liberalism went to serve as Empress Catherine’s ambassador in 1784. The father later fell afoul of Emperor Paul and never returned to Russia, nor did his sister, Michael’s aunt, who married the Earl of Pembroke. The young Michael went back with his father’s blessing to claim the family inheritance in 1801 after Alexander I ascended the throne. The lifelong affection and admiration he retained for England, English friends and relatives, and English standards and principles remained a major theme throughout his life.

Rhinelander’s biography is relatively short but meaty. Sixteen well rounded chapters grouped into four sections (The Training Ground, New Russia, Caucasia, and The End of a Career) describe Vorontsov’s life in its political, geographic, and occasionally, bureaucratic context and forty-three pages of footnotes provide both extensive sourcing and additional facts and commentary. There is an excellent selection of illustrations. The author does not neglect important facts about Vorontsov’s personal life. But, appropriately for a serious historian, he deals only briefly with potentially titillating issues which had no significant effect on Vorontsov’s career or the performance of his duties: the presumed infidelities of his wife, including an affair with Pushkin (pp. 75-76), and his relationship with the attractive Hungarian widow, Irma Csesenyi (pp. 164-65).

The two sections on New Russia and Caucasia form the core of the book and in them history justifiably takes precedence over biography. New Russia included what is today southern Ukraine, Bessarabia and the Crimea. Vorontsov was an enlightened and energetic governor of these fertile but underdeveloped territories recently acquired from the Ottoman Empire. The region made enormous economic progress under his administration. He oversaw and encouraged the expansion of Odessa as a cosmopolitan gateway to the Mediterranean world and was one of the first Russians to build a vacation retreat on the Crimean coast, to which he developed a deep attachment.

Vorontsov’s record in New Russia, his close personal relationship to his sovereign, and his keen sense of duty to the throne (very traditional Russian attitudes which, in light of his English orientation, seem to have generated remarkably little inner conflict) made him a natural choice to take over administration of the Caucasus when Nicholas I in the early 1840s reached a point of acute frustration at the dead end to which his armies’ efforts to subdue the highland Muslims had led. The freedom-loving Circassians of the Black Sea coastal valleys and the mountaineers of Dagestan and Chechnia inspired by the Imam Shamil had repeatedly defeated the Tsar’s forces and attracted the admiration of Russia’s rivals in Europe.

Arriving in Tbilisi in 1844, Vorontsov’s first undertaking was to mount a massive offensive against the mountaineers. It was a disaster. He was saved from disgrace because he had launched it against his better judgment at the express order of Nicholas I. This circumstance secured him the freedom to pursue both military and civil initiatives in the Caucasus at his own pace. His accomplishments during the ensuing decade, as Rhinelander demonstrates, were substantial. He reformed the civil administration and gave important segments of the Georgian and Armenian population a sense of having a stake in the empire. He avoided massive offensives against the mountaineers, employed tactics of attrition, and exploited clan rivalries among the Circassians while co-opting Christian Ossetes and Mountain Georgians to the Russian cause.