

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	7
Note on Transliteration	8
Illustrations	9

Introduction	11
<i>Birgit Menzel</i>	

I Prerevolutionary Roots and Early Soviet Manifestations

The Occult and Popular Entertainment in Late Imperial Russia	
<i>Julia Mannherz</i>	29

The History of Esotericism in Soviet Russia in the 1920s–1930s	
<i>Konstantin Burmistrov</i>	52

The Occultist Aleksandr Barchenko and the Soviet Secret Police (1923–1938)	
<i>Oleg Shishkin</i>	81

From Synarchy to Shambhala: The Role of Political Occultism and Social Messianism in the Activities of Nicholas Roerich	
<i>Markus Osterrieder</i>	101

Konstantin Tsiolkovskii and the Occult Roots of Soviet Space Travel	
<i>Michael Hagemeister</i>	135

II Manifestations in the Soviet Period (1930–1985)

Occult and Esoteric Movements in Russia from the 1960s to the 1980s	
<i>Birgit Menzel</i>	151

Away from the Globe. Occultism, Esotericism and Literature in Russia during the 1960s–1980s	
<i>Leonid Heller</i>	186

Guests from Outer Space. Occult Aspects of Soviet Science Fiction	
<i>Matthias Schwartz</i>	211

	Totalitarian Utopia, the Occult, and Technological Modernity in Russia: The Intellectual Experience of Cosmism <i>Marlène Laruelle</i>	238
III	The Occult Revival in Late and Post Soviet Russia (1985 to the Present)	
	Occult and Esoteric Doctrines after the Collapse of Communism <i>Demyan Belyaev</i>	259
	Occult Dissident Culture: The Case of Aleksandr Dugin <i>Mark Sedgwick</i>	273
	The <i>Rodnoverie</i> Movement: The Search for Pre-Christian Ancestry and the Occult <i>Marlène Laruelle</i>	293
	Through an Occult Prism: The Bolshevik Revolution in Three Post-Soviet Novels <i>Marina Aptekman</i>	311
	Shamanism in the Russian Intelligentsia (Post-Soviet Space and Time) <i>Natalia Zhukovskaia</i>	328
	Competing Legacies, Competing Visions of Russia: The Roerich Movement(s) in Post-Soviet Russia <i>John McCannon</i>	348
	On the Way from Border Conflicts: Transpersonal Psychology in Russia <i>Boris Falikov</i>	370
IV	Comparative Aspects, Continuity and Change	
	Occultism as a Response to a Spiritual Crisis <i>Bernice Glatzer Rosenthal</i>	390
	On Reading Russian Mystical Literature Upside-Down <i>Jeffrey J. Kripal</i>	421
	Select Bibliography <i>Michael Hagemeister</i>	432
	About the Contributors	445