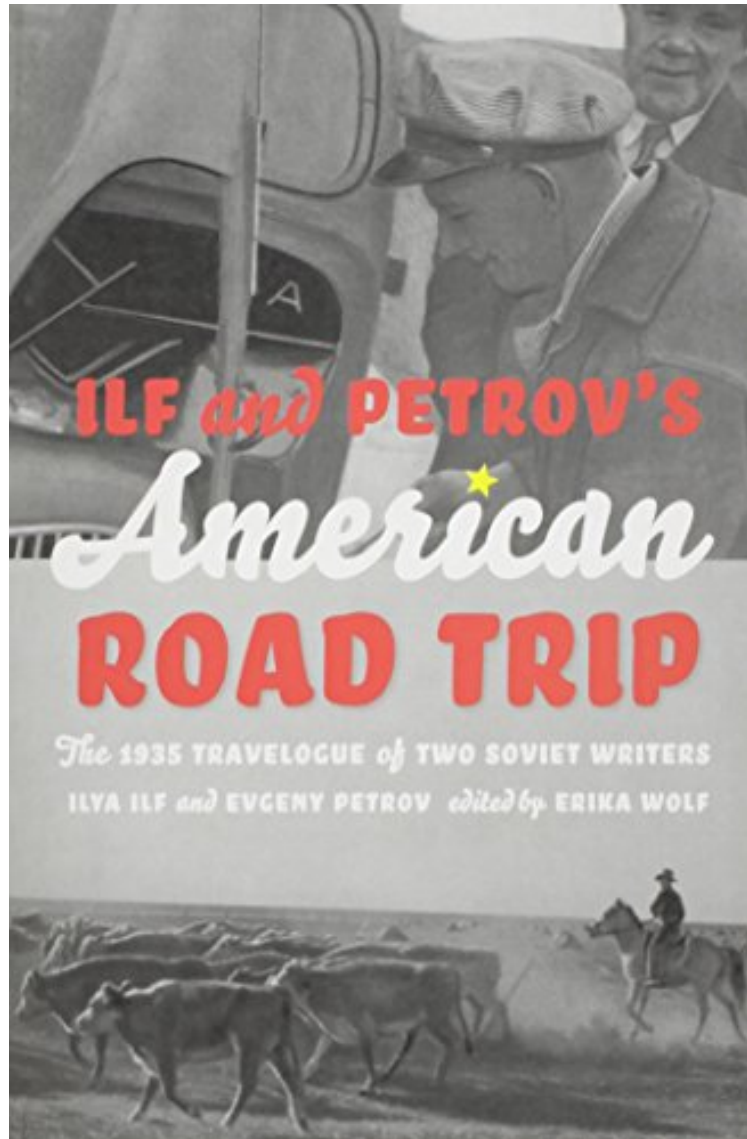


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Ilf Petrov's American Road Trip PB

Ilya Ilf, Evgeny Petrov
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Ilya Ilf, Evgeny Petrov : Ilf Petrov's American Road Trip PB before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ilf Petrov's American Road Trip PB:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable Commentary On American Life By Matthew Milf and Petrov were Russia's most favorite and beloved humorists. Much of their humor would be missed by most Americans, however, because the Russian sense of humor is so much different than our own. I read "The Twelve Chairs" and found it enjoyable, but would have been lost on most of the jabs and jokes they made, had it not been for the

translator's notes on every chapter at the back of the book. This work, though, was as pointed and pertinent in 1935 as it is today...truly timeless observations, especially on Hollywood and what goes on there. They were hired by the newspaper Ogonek to drive across America and back and make commentary on the people, places, and events they encountered. Petrov's camera work is extremely interesting. Finishing this book made me wish Ilf and Petrov had made other trips through our country together, and that more of Petrov's photos had survived. Many of them were destroyed.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Soviet satirists take a road trip in 1930's AmericaBy R. M. PetersonIn 1935 two Soviet journalists -- Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov -- were sent to the United States by "Pravda". They spent four months here, much of it driving from New York to California and back again. They wrote a series of articles for "Pravda" and Ilf took over a thousand photographs. The articles and a selection of Ilf's photographs were republished as "American Photographs" in a popular Soviet magazine that was a counterpart of sorts to the American "LIFE". This book is a translated reconstruction of "American Photographs".Ilf and Petrov were established and skilled writers. Their natural mode was satire. That satirical bent, along with some "alien" insights, along with Ilf's photographs make ILF AND PETROV'S AMERICAN ROAD TRIP an engaging book. I learned a few things about the United States in the Depression. The photographs in particular were instructive. And it was interesting, and amusing, to see how these two intelligent Soviet satirists went about reprocessing what they saw through the lens of 1930's Soviet Communist ideology. For make no mistake, they were committed ideologues.The eleven articles or chapters include ones on New York City (where they were chaperoned by John Dos Passos), small towns (all of which seemed the same), American Indians, Hollywood, Negroes, and Mark Twain (an American literary hero to the Soviets; Ilf and Petrov made a point of visiting Twain's birthplace in Hannibal, Missouri on their trip). To give you an idea of their style and their biases, here is a sampling of quotes from the book:* "A Spaniard and a Pole worked in the barbershop where we got our hair cut. An Italian shined our shoes. A Croat washed our car. This was America."* [Accompanying a photograph of an American male, whom they had picked up hitchhiking:] "One of our passengers, an out-of-work fellow from Texas. He has a little Indian blood. It's enough to have one drop of Negro blood to ruin a person's entire life. A dash of Indian blood is less destructive."* [Accompanying a photograph of a typical American road intersection:] "We would like to use this caption for this picture: 'This right here is America!' Truly, when you close your eyes and try to resurrect in your mind the country in which you spent four months, you imagine not Washington with its gardens, columns, and complete set of memorials; not New York with its skyscrapers, with its poverty and riches; not San Francisco with its steep streets and hanging bridges; not the mountains, the factories, or the canyons, but this intersection of two roads and a gas station against a background of wires and advertising billboards."* "There's probably nothing on earth more majestic and beautiful than the American desert. We raced along in it for a whole week and never stopped being amazed."* "Just thinking about the general state of affairs in the United States is enough to make you fall into a deep melancholy, but the young American man doesn't think in the abstract. He's not capable of making generalizations. He just knows that he's young, he's healthy, he's got white skin, and he plays baseball. That means that everything's okay--all right--and he'll get by somehow."* "And if you asked us now 'What did America seem like to you?' our honest answer would sound something like this: 'The most advanced technology in the world and a horrifyingly oppressive, stupefying social order.'"0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hillarious Russian TravelogBy Beach GuyIn 1935 these two writers were commissioned to travel from NYC to the West Coast and write about it. Their words are funny and the fact that they still wanted to return home is something to puzzle over.

In 1935, well into the era of Soviet communism, Russian satirical writers Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov came to the U.S as special correspondents for the Russian newspaper "Pravda." They drove cross-country and back on a ten-week trip, recording images of American life through humorous texts and the lens of a Leica camera. When they returned home, they published their work in "Ogonek," the Soviet equivalent of "Time" magazine, and later in the book "Odnootazhnaia Amerika" (Single-Storeyed America). This wonderful lost work filled with wry observations, biting opinions, and telling photographs is now collected in "Ilf and Petrov's American Road Trip," the first English translation.From "Ilf and Petrov's American Road Trip" "The word 'America' has well-developed grandiose associations for a Soviet person, for whom it refers to a country of skyscrapers, where day and night one hears the unceasing thunder of surface and underground trains, the hellish roar of automobile horns, and the continuous despairing screams of stockbrokers rushing through the skyscrapers waving their ever-falling shares. We want to change that image."A Cabinet Book published by Princeton Architectural Press

From Booklist*Starred * Ilya Ilf (1897-1937) and Evgeny Petrov (1903-42) are the foremost comic novelists of the early Soviet Union. Their *The Twelve Chairs* (1928) was never suppressed, and in 1970 Mel Brooks made one of his earliest hit movies out of it. Their popularity and doctrinal orthodoxy helped them land an assignment for a series of articles about the real America, illustrated by photos Ilf snapped with a new Leica. Starting out from New York City in late November 1935, they drove to Chicago and then in a southerly circuit through Missouri and the Southwest, up to San Francisco, and back via southern Texas and the Gulf and tidewater coasts to Manhattan after New Year's. They

gawked and got bored, picked up hitchhikers, palavered when they could (they were stunned by Americans' incuriosity about them), swallowed a couple of stretchers, and reported everything in 11 loosely thematic pieces whose prose is clean as a whistle and much more ingenuous. Ilf's pictures, reproduced from the best available sources (the negatives have vanished), are reminiscent of the Farm Security Administration photos of Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, and company, but they're literally artless, just snapshots, really. Impeccably translated, edited, and introduced, and supplemented by artist Aleksandr Rodchenko's prepublication assessment of the original photos and remarks by Ilf's daughter, Aleksandra, this is riveting, fresh-eyed Americana and--how d'you say?--Sovietiana? Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ... a jovial and surprisingly affectionate account... a fascinating snapshot of a nation's history... before the Cold War took firm hold. -- CNN Traveler, Dec. 2006 In 1935, two Soviet writers embarked on a Borat-like tour of the U.S. Relive their strange journey in this delightful book. -- Entertainment Weekly, "The Must List", November 10, 2006 Now translated, this is a riveting piece of Americana. -- Booklist, September 15, 2007 Sorry, Borat, but two sassy Soviet Russians beat you to it. Just published for the first time ever in English, this lost treasure is a cool, strange artifact, but it's also simply a hoot. -- Very Short List, November 9, 2006 About the Author Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov are the authors of the popular Russian satiric novels *The Twelve Chairs* (1928) and *The Little Golden Calf* (1931). Erika Wolf is a lecturer in the Department of Art History and Theory at the University of Otago, New Zealand.