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**MOSCOW UNCHAINED!
SAINT PETERSBURG ALIVE!
THIS IS RUSSIA c.1995!**

Though originally intended as a private journal, 'TO THE LAND!' has mutated into social commentary, analysis, story, documentary... even a travel guide of sorts. Christopher M. was fortunate to have been in Russia during a holiday-packed period in 1995 which allowed him to participate in the culture in ways that are otherwise not normally in plain view.

This is no scholarly thesis, although he approached both Russia and his journals with the background of a degree in Russian Area Studies and a minor in the Russian language. In Russia, he did not "research" his topic; he walked among it, questioned it, and drank with it. Posh tourist hotels were not on the agenda and bus tours were taboo. Besides covering mass distances on the Metro, his feet were his transportation.

This text is by no means definitive of life in Moscow and Saint Petersburg in 1995, but it is always accurate. Much was changing, rapidly, during this period in Russian history. Lifestyles, values and daily activity varied from person to person, day to day, week to week, and month to month..... this does not imply an absence of tradition or values, just that Russian society, at that time, was metamorphosing, as it has done so many times in its storied history.

GO WITH CHRISTOPHER M... TO THE LAND!

