



Description of the Clergy in Rural Russia: The Memoir of a Nineteenth-Century Parish Priest (Paperback)

By I.S. Belliustin

Cornell University Press, United States, 2000. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Religious life has been perhaps the least explored and most poorly understood aspect of imperial Russian history. This annotated translation of a dissident priest's expose of the parish clergy adds significantly to our knowledge, providing a graphic picture of the Orthodox church in the mid-nineteenth century. For the first time, we are able to grasp the profound importance of the church in the everyday lives of ordinary men and women. I. S. Belliustin's Description of the Clergy in Rural Russia was published abroad and smuggled back into the empire in 1858, on the eve of the Great Reforms. Its shocking depiction of a church pervaded by venality and ignorance created a sensation in high society and government circles. It generated a new sense of self-awareness among the younger clergy and sparked a reform movement that climaxed in the years just before the 1917 Revolution. Much more than a chapter in the history of Russian Orthodoxy, Belliustin's memoir is a major document in Russian social history. Throughout, the author ranges beyond the seminary and the parish to touch on almost every aspect of village...



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