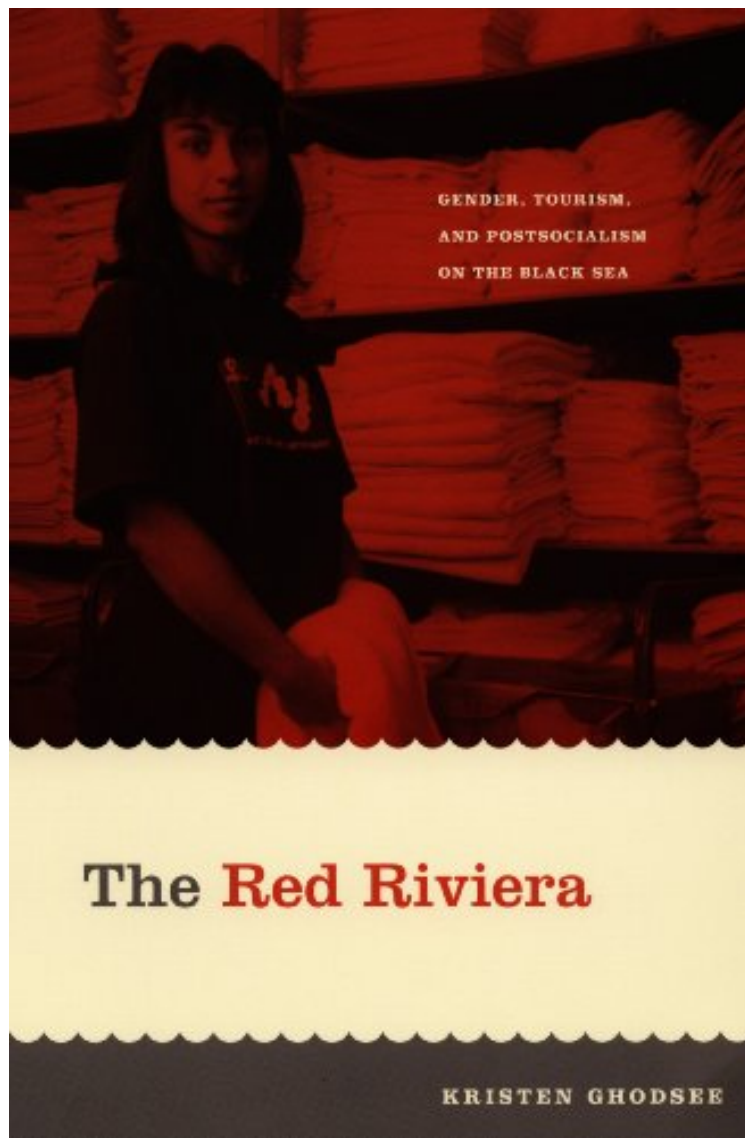


(Read free ebook) The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Postsocialism on the Black Sea (Next Wave: New Directions in Women's Studies)

The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Postsocialism on the Black Sea (Next Wave: New Directions in Women's Studies)

Kristen Ghodsee

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1928879 in eBooks 2005-10-12 2005-10-12 File Name: B00EHNZH2W | File size: 49.Mb

Kristen Ghodsee : The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Postsocialism on the Black Sea (Next Wave: New Directions in Women's Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Postsocialism on the Black Sea (Next Wave: New Directions in Women's Studies):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great story- not just for academic reading!By Dr. SThe Red Riviera

tells the engaging story of an economic, historical, and cultural revolution with a "ground level" focus on the lives of several women working within the tourist industry in Bulgaria. The portraits of these stereotype-defying women reveal a picture of far greater complexity than the statistical studies of the economic outcome of certain populations after the fall of communism. In a uniquely neutral look at life before and after the fall of the state run communist regime in Bulgaria, Ghodsee shines light not only on the good and bad points of communism vs. capitalism, but also on the way that the communist system inadvertently prepared some members of its society (exemplified by these women working in the tourist industry) to thrive after the advent of capitalism, while other members were utterly unprepared for the sudden change in "the rules", and floundered when the communist system that supported them collapsed. The book is fascinating as a study of the dynamics of the change from communism to capitalism. However, the real beauty of the book is the sheer delight of reading it. Ghodsee maintains the rigor of an academic study but writes with the clarity and rich descriptiveness of an entertaining work of fiction. The result is a book that races along as if it were a novel- the story of a major economic and cultural revolution, as seen through its focus on the lives of these intriguing women. In short, highly recommended!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting!

By chucklincanuck Using this book for a first year anthropology university course, however, an interesting read for anyone. Easy to follow and written in a captivating way.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. what an ethnography should look like!

By Concoriu I read this book while conducting a major literature review. And when I say I read this, I mean I actually read it. No skimming, no first and last chapter, no hurrying... just enjoyment, thoughtful reflection, and slow digesting. It was that good, especially in comparison to most other academic ethnographies out there!

Briefly, Kristen Ghodsee looks at how women in Bulgaria have dealt with the transition from socialism to capitalism. Through stories of women working in the European tourism industry, she suggests that access to cultural capital (primarily skills and education) became more important in determining the success of women in the transition than access to money or networks. One of the areas women worked in during Soviet times was tourism, and many women continue to work in tourism now. She indicates that there is a sharp difference between women who have used their portfolio of capital successfully in the transition, and women who have not, but that the cultural capital developed during socialism matters. She further suggests that NGOs and feminists advocating for non-economic rights have not helped Bulgarian women get what they want -- economic access through education and further skills building.

I truly enjoyed the experience of reading this book - from humorous dialogue, to case stories of young and middle-aged women in the Bulgarian tourist industry, to a thoughtful history of Soviet tourism and the realities of the post-Soviet Eastern European economy. Ghodsee has done a great job in writing this, and I highly recommend it. This is what an ethnography should look like!

This compelling ethnography of women working in Bulgaria's popular sea and ski resorts challenges the idea that women have consistently fared worse than men in Eastern Europe's transition from socialism to a market economy. For decades western European tourists have flocked to Bulgaria's beautiful beaches and mountains; tourism is today one of the few successful—and expanding—sectors of the country's economy. Even at the highest levels of management, employment in the tourism industry has long been dominated by women. Kristen Ghodsee explains why this is and how women working in the industry have successfully negotiated their way through Bulgaria's capitalist transformation while the fortunes of most of the population have plummeted. She highlights how, prior to 1989, the communist planners sought to create full employment for all at the same time that they steered women into the service sector. The women given jobs in tourism obtained higher educations, foreign language skills, and experiences working with Westerners, all of which positioned them to take advantage of the institutional changes eventually brought about by privatization.

Interspersed throughout *The Red Riviera* are vivid examinations of the lives of Bulgarian women, including a waitress, a tour operator, a chef, a maid, a receptionist, and a travel agent. Through these women's stories, Ghodsee describes their employment prior to 1989 and after. She considers the postsocialist forces that have shaped the tourist industry over the past fifteen years: the emergence of a new democratic state, the small but increasing interest of foreign investors and transnational corporations, and the proliferation of NGOs. Ghodsee suggests that many of the NGOs, by insisting that Bulgarian women are necessarily disenfranchised, ignore their significant professional successes.

The Red Riviera explores gendered inequalities in Bulgaria's postsocialist tourist industry, focusing on the forces and factors that have enabled women, in particular, to dominate this sector. Kristen Ghodsee's well-written study adds provocatively to debates on cultural capital and capitalism, gender, and postsocialist transformation.

—Gail Kligman, coauthor of *The Politics of Gender after Socialism*