

Stalin's Millennials: Nostalgia, Trauma, and Nationalism in Post-Soviet Russia

Nostalgia for the Soviet Union is a complex phenomenon that has been the subject of much scholarly research. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the role that nostalgia plays in the lives of millennials, who came of age after the collapse of the USSR. This article explores the complex relationship between millennials in post-Soviet Russia and the legacy of Joseph Stalin. Drawing on interviews with millennials, archival research, and cultural analysis, it argues that nostalgia for Stalin among millennials is rooted in trauma, a search for identity, and a desire for order in a rapidly changing society. The article also examines how Stalin's image has been rehabilitated in recent years, and how this has contributed to the rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia.



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by Tinatin Japaridze

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Nostalgia and Trauma

Nostalgia is often understood as a longing for a past that is perceived to have been better than the present. In the case of Stalin's millennials, nostalgia for the Soviet Union is often rooted in trauma. Many millennials grew up in families that were affected by the repressions of the Stalin era. Their grandparents or great-grandparents may have been executed, imprisoned, or exiled. As a result, many millennials have a deep-seated fear of political instability and violence.

Nostalgia can also be a way of coping with the trauma of the past. By idealizing the Soviet Union, millennials can create a sense of order and predictability in a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain. Stalin's image provides a sense of stability and strength, which can be appealing to millennials who are struggling to find their place in a rapidly changing society.

Identity and Order

In addition to trauma, nostalgia for Stalin among millennials is also rooted in a search for identity. After the collapse of the USSR, many millennials felt a sense of loss and confusion. The Soviet Union had provided them with a clear sense of who they were and what their place in the world was. With the collapse of the USSR, this sense of identity was lost.

Nostalgia for Stalin can provide millennials with a sense of belonging and purpose. By identifying with Stalin, millennials can connect with a past that they feel has been erased. They can also adopt Stalin's values and beliefs, which can give them a sense of direction and meaning in life.

Finally, nostalgia for Stalin among millennials is also rooted in a desire for order. After the collapse of the USSR, Russia experienced a period of

economic and political instability. This instability has created a sense of anxiety and insecurity among many millennials. Nostalgia for Stalin can provide them with a sense of order and predictability. Stalin's image represents a time when Russia was a powerful and respected nation. By identifying with Stalin, millennials can feel a sense of pride and belonging.

The Rehabilitation of Stalin

In recent years, there has been a growing rehabilitation of Stalin's image in Russia. This rehabilitation has been led by the Russian government, which has sought to portray Stalin as a strong and effective leader who restored order to Russia after the chaos of the revolution. The government has also funded the construction of new monuments to Stalin and the publication of books and articles that glorify his achievements.

The rehabilitation of Stalin's image has been met with mixed reactions. Some Russians welcome the return of Stalin to prominence, seeing him as a symbol of Russia's past greatness. Others are more critical, arguing that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

The rehabilitation of Stalin's image has had a significant impact on millennials. Many millennials have grown up with a sanitized version of Stalin's history. They are not aware of the crimes that he committed, and they see him as a strong and effective leader. This positive view of Stalin has contributed to the rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia.

Nationalism and Authoritarianism

Nostalgia for Stalin among millennials is part of a broader trend of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia. In recent years, there has been a growing desire among Russians for a strong leader who can restore

order and stability to the country. This desire has been fueled by the economic and political instability that has followed the collapse of the USSR.

The rehabilitation of Stalin's image has contributed to the rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia. Stalin is seen as a symbol of Russia's past greatness, and his image is used to justify the government's authoritarian policies.

The rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia is a serious threat to democracy and human rights. It is important to understand the complex factors that have led to this rise, including the role that nostalgia for Stalin plays among millennials.

Nostalgia for Stalin among millennials is a complex phenomenon that is rooted in trauma, a search for identity, and a desire for order. The rehabilitation of Stalin's image in recent years has contributed to the rise of nationalism and authoritarianism in Russia. It is important to understand the complex factors that have led to this rise, in order to develop strategies to combat it.



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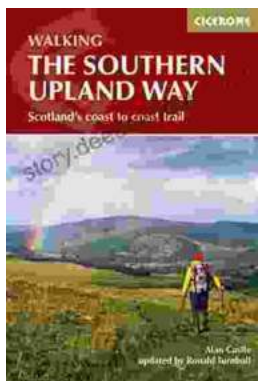
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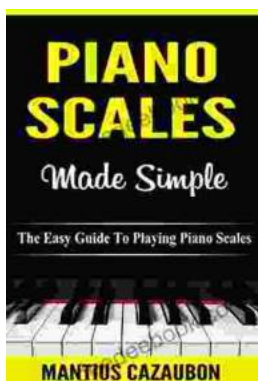
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