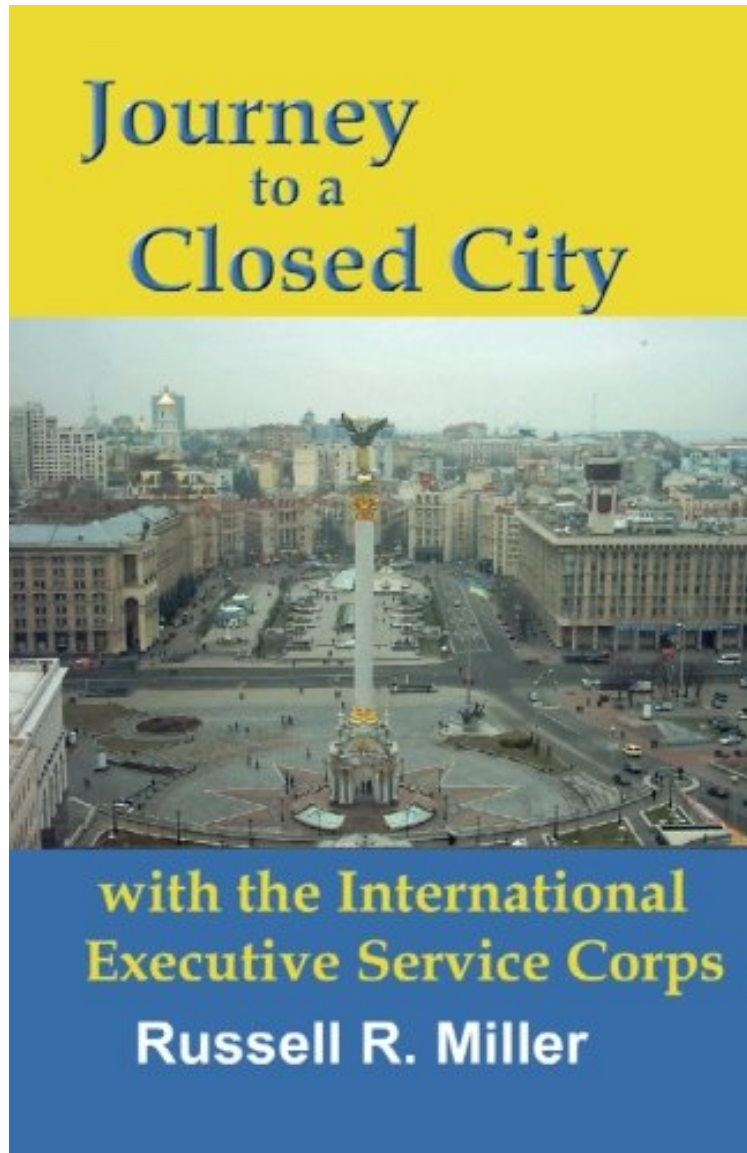


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Journey to a Closed City With the International Executive Service Corps

Russell R Miller

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#5941862 in Books Science Humanities Press 2004-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .63 x 5.50l, .71 #File Name: 188872594X280 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Russell R Miller : Journey to a Closed City With the International Executive Service Corps before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to a Closed City With the International Executive Service Corps:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bringing the horse to water By HerRoyalCatness Mr. Miller provides

a glimpse into Ukraine in the difficult early stages of its transition from Soviet dominance and subsidization to free market independence. His task--providing advice to a moribund manufacturing company regarding new products and marketing strategies to attract foreign investment and trading partners--was daunting. We do not learn whether or not his advice was heeded, but he does throw light on the resistance to change he found among the people he worked for and with, as well as the customs and living conditions of the Ukrainians with whom he shared his leisure time in what was then a minimally functioning country. One can only salute Mr. Miller and the thousands like him who give so generously of their time and expertise to help set emerging democracies on their feet, and thank him for sharing his observations with the rest of us.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Thomas S. The book sounds interesting; I am looking forward to reading it.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting!
By Armchair Interviews

In November 2004 the world watched as a politician in Ukraine, the second most powerful country in the former Soviet Union, wrested the presidency through popular and peaceful downtown protests in Kiev. After a second and unrigged election, Viktor Yuschenko became president in December, and, in April 2005, he and his Chicago-born wife were warmly received by the White House and Congress. Such a fairy tale was unimaginable during the Cold War years and during the 1990s following glasnost, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. In satellite nations like Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and in several Soviet member nations, the new "democratic" leaders were seen to be the same who had once worn the livery of Moscow. Because of the great difficulty and uncertainty caused by real change, people yearn nostalgically for the numbing reliability of dictatorship. The Yuschenkoes' April visit forms an interesting counterpoint to Russell R. Miller's *Journey to a Closed City*. In his 30-year career with major U. S. multinationals, he traveled to over 100 countries. After retiring, in 1993 he accepted a two-month volunteer consultancy assignment to advise an evolving Ukrainian manufacturing company that was trying to cope with capitalistic opportunity while embedded, more than figuratively - in Soviet concrete. His thoughts during those two months show the frustration and satisfaction of landing in an alien garden patch and trying to plant a few significant seeds. He weaves the threads of the disrupted Ukrainian business environment with his own uncertainty in his first significant retirement activity. Twelve years ago, when Miller visited the country, there was no chance that a Viktor Yuschenko could have risen to their presidency. Then the political and economic upheaval fed the citizen's gloom and despair and assured that an American visitor would be viewed with suspicion, no matter how sincere and competent. The story captures the mood of that not-too-distant past, so familiar to visitors to former Soviet countries. This autobiography is also an armchair traveler's window into a backward environment that still exists in corners of Russia and its former empire. Further, the story is very typical of the experiences of consultants from developed countries engaging with the Third World, whether on two-week or two-year assignments. Thankfully, Ukraine seems to have emerged from the economic and political gloom pictured so well by Miller. Unfortunately, other nations still have far to travel.

Journey to a Closed City with the International Executive Service Corps describes the adventures of a retired executive volunteering with the senior citizens' equivalent of the Peace Corp as he applies his professional skills in a former Iron Curtain city emerging into the dawn of a new economy. This book is essential reading for anyone approaching retirement who is interested in opportunities to exercise skills to "do good" during expense-paid travel to intriguing locations. *Journey to A Closed City* should also appeal to armchair travelers eager to explore far-off corners of the world in our rapidly-evolving global community.