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**ORAL HISTORIES OF SOVIET
INCARCERATION AND EXILE**

VOICES

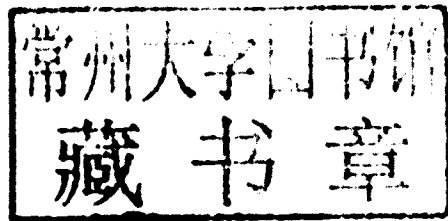
**JEHANNE M GHEITH AND
KATHERINE R. JOLLUCK**



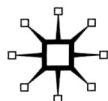
Gulag Voices

Oral Histories of
Soviet Incarceration and Exile

Jehanne M Gheith and Katherine R. Jolluck



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GULAG VOICES

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To those who lived and shared these stories

Series Editors' Foreword

The collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 and the fall of the Soviet Union two years later opened the way for a remarkable efflorescence of oral history in this part of the world. The two events are distinctly related: Communist regimes had promoted a collectivist ethic, inimical to the highly personal accounts of individual experience encouraged by oral history. More importantly, Communism had imposed an official silence about atrocities committed by the state, punishing those who dissented and cultivating a culture of fear among the populace. Liberated from this silence, scholars and citizens have turned to oral history to recover memories, both suppressed and repressed, and to generate new knowledge about life under Communism.

Jehanne Gheith and Katherine Jolluck's thoughtfully conceived and finely edited volume, *Gulag Voices*, is a part of this broader movement and the first published collection of oral history interviews with Soviet Gulag survivors to appear in English. They have defined Gulag—an acronym for *Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerei* or Main Camp Administration—broadly, to include prisons, forced labor camps, transit camps, and special settlements, as well as psychiatric hospitals and the “climate of fear” pervading Soviet society, and have included here ten interviews with 11 narrators representing a variety of experiences, including children of Gulag prisoners who themselves were not imprisoned but suffered as a result of their parents' removal. The operations of memory, in all its messiness, are palpable in the interviews, inflecting them with a particular poignancy: narrators both condemn and support Stalinism; they recall the past with bitter intensity or uneasy reluctance; they likely misremember elements of what happened to them, incorporating memories that are not their own, even as they communicate the essence of their experiences.

The collaboration between Gheith, a scholar of Russian literature and culture, and Jolluck, a historian of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, has resulted in a refined and sophisticated rendering of these interviews. They have well situated narrators' personal stories within the politics and society of the Soviet era, and carefully delineated the influence of history, culture, and language on the narrative texts. Additionally, they have included in this volume six contemporary documents written by individuals caught within the Gulag,

providing a theoretically interesting assessment of ways these differ from—and supplement—the oral histories.

We are enormously pleased to include *Gulag Voices* in Palgrave Macmillan's *Studies in Oral History* series. The twenty-third book in the series, it joins several recent volumes focusing on the state-sponsored abrogation of human and civil rights, including Suroopa Mukherjee's *Surviving Bhopal: Dancing Bodies, Written Texts, and Oral Testimonials of Women in the Wake of an Industrial Disaster*; Anne Valk and Leslie Brown's *Living with Jim Crow: African American Women and Memories of the Segregated South*; and Irum Shiekh's *Being Muslim in America*. The series aims to bring oral history out of the archives and into the hands of students, educators, scholars, and the reading public. Volumes are deeply grounded in interviews and present those interviews in ways that aid readers to appreciate more fully their historical significance and cultural meaning. The series also includes work that approaches oral history more theoretically, as a point of departure for an exploration of broad questions of cultural production and representation.

Linda Shopes
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Bruce M. Stave
University of Connecticut

Acknowledgments

First, our thanks to those who were interviewed for this volume. It was difficult for them to talk about their Gulag experiences, as they had to review their pasts in an often unfamiliar way. Yet they participated in the interviews and wanted their experiences to be known more widely. Most interviewees felt that they were bearing witness, not only to their own suffering, but to that of others who were also sent to the Gulag.

We also want to thank those who conducted interviews that are included in this volume: Cathy Frierson, Emily D. Johnson, and Robert Latypov. Editing interviews involves a dialogue about points ranging from translation to context. Each of these interviewers made this a lively conversation and cared deeply about the integrity of the interview and those they interviewed. They always responded to our queries quickly, generously, and with great professionalism.

We thank Elizabeth Ransome Stine for her work in translating some of the interviews, and Irena Czernichowska for hers with the Polish documents. Our deep appreciation to Amy J. Blatt, who generously and expertly created the maps in this volume.

We owe special gratitude to Linda Shopes and Bruce Staves, who initiated this project and have been involved from the start. Thanks also to our editor at Palgrave Macmillan, Chris Chappell, for his interest and guidance in this project, as well as his patience.

We also want to thank those who have supported each of us individually.

Jehanne: I want to first thank those I interviewed: Larisa Mikhailovna Lappo-Danilevskaia, Giuli Fedorovna Tsivirko, Nina Ivanovna Rodina, and Giuzel Gumerovna Ibragimova. With gratitude for their grace, humor, and generosity in sharing their experiences even when they weren't sure if those experiences would matter to others.

My deep thanks to Elena Grigor'evna Koshkarova, who has been involved at every stage of the project. Thanks to Kathryn Hendley, Cynthia Ruder, and Katherine Smith, who answered many questions within about three minutes of my sending them and did so with great expertise, honesty, and humor. And to the members of my department who have helped so consistently with this book: Edna Andrews, Beth Holmgren, Lena Maksimova, and Erik Zitser. My deep

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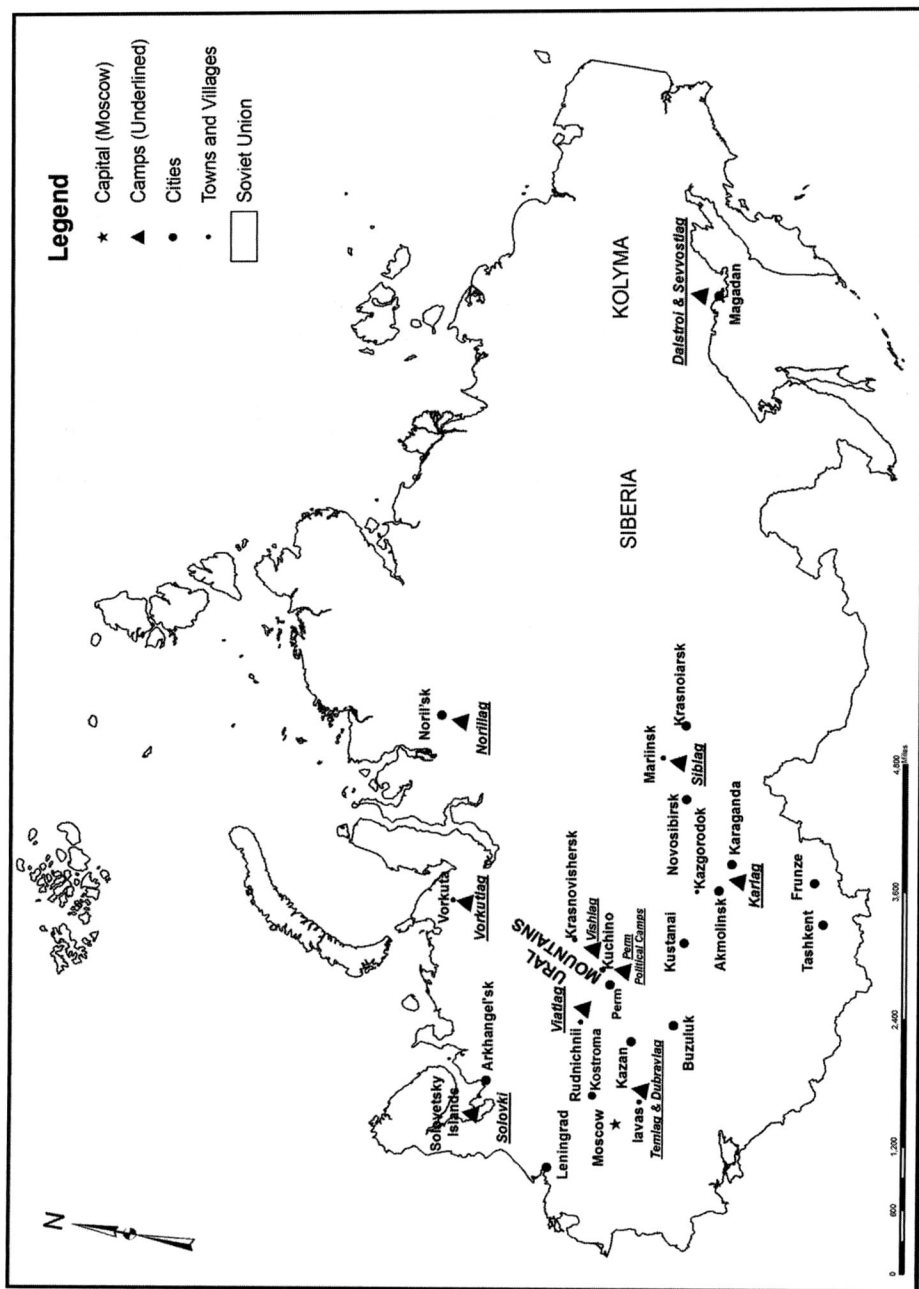
I am grateful to Marcy Litle for her friendship, art, and wisdom. And to Janice Muse Thomas for reminding me to breathe. My thanks to Katherine Jolluck for our steady and stimulating collaboration: I have learned so much in this process.

My greatest thanks to my husband, David, who gave repeatedly of his time and energy so that I could work on the book or travel to Russia or melt down about the book, or And to my cats, especially Topaz, who, on a month-long sojourn with me to the Outer Banks so that I could work on this book, insisted that I take the occasional break.

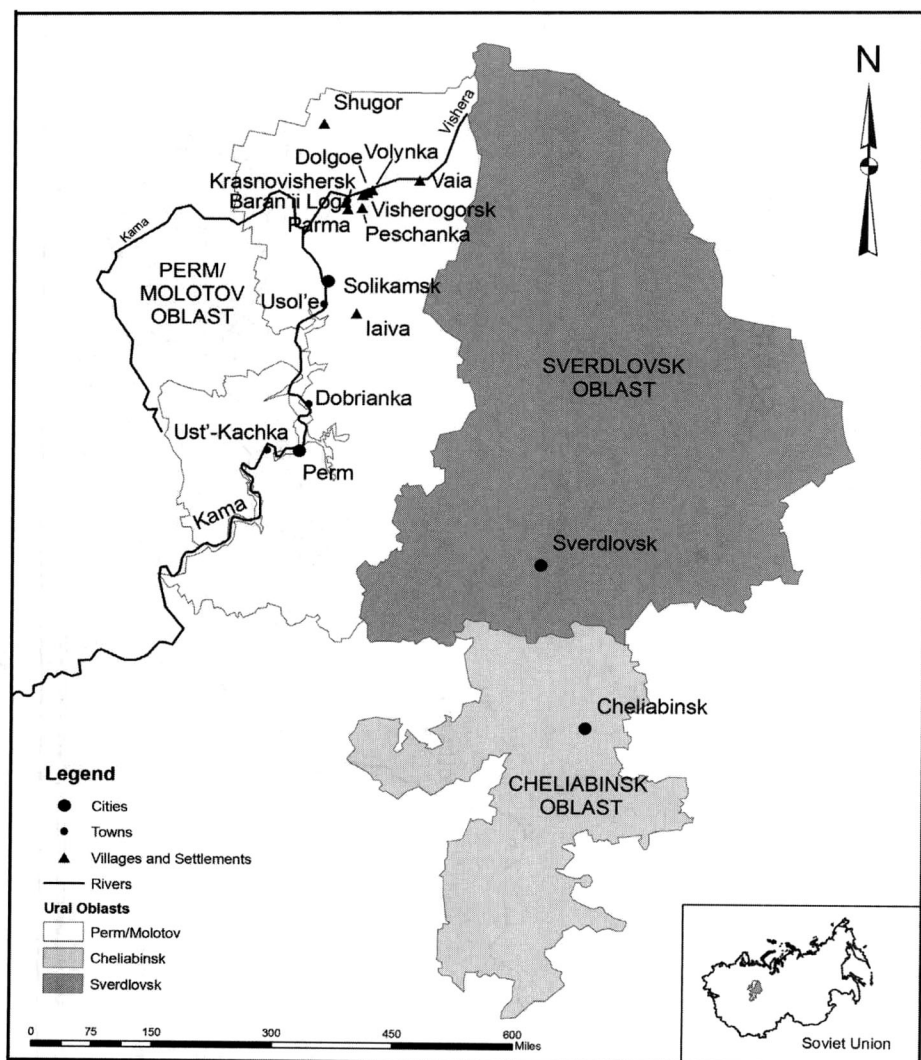
Katherine: I want to extend special thanks to Vladimir Nest'ev, Anatoly Katsev, and Lora Soroka for their insights and assistance. I am grateful for and enriched by the opportunity to work so closely with Jehanne Gheith, whose knowledge and talents I admire greatly. The Department of History, the Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University provided financial help for this volume; I thank all involved for their support. And finally, my love and appreciation go to my husband and colleague, Norman Naimark, who shared his expertise, warmth, and good humor, supporting me throughout the process of completing this book, and to my son Benjamin, whose curiosity, energy, and affection inspire and renew me.

Note on Transliteration

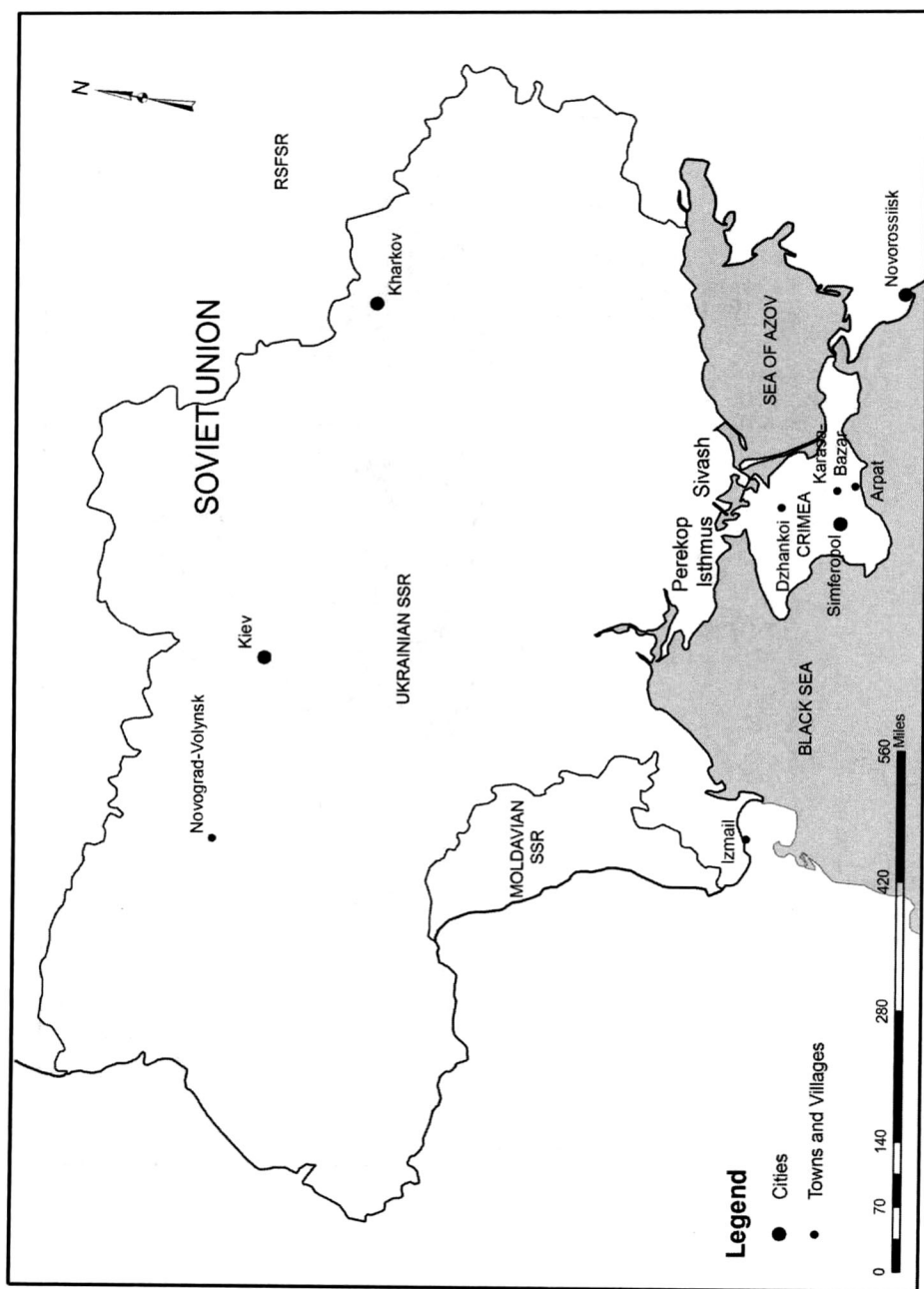
Throughout this volume, we have used the Library of Congress system of transliteration of Russian, with a few modifications. In place names and some terms used commonly, we have omitted the marks for soft signs. In the case of names of individuals or places that have widely recognized spellings in the English language, such as Moscow for *Moskva*, we have gone with the popular English usage. And in cases where place names have changed since the break-up of the USSR, we have retained the version commonly used by the Soviet government at the time of the events (Kharkov, not Kharkiv; Akmolinsk, not Astana).



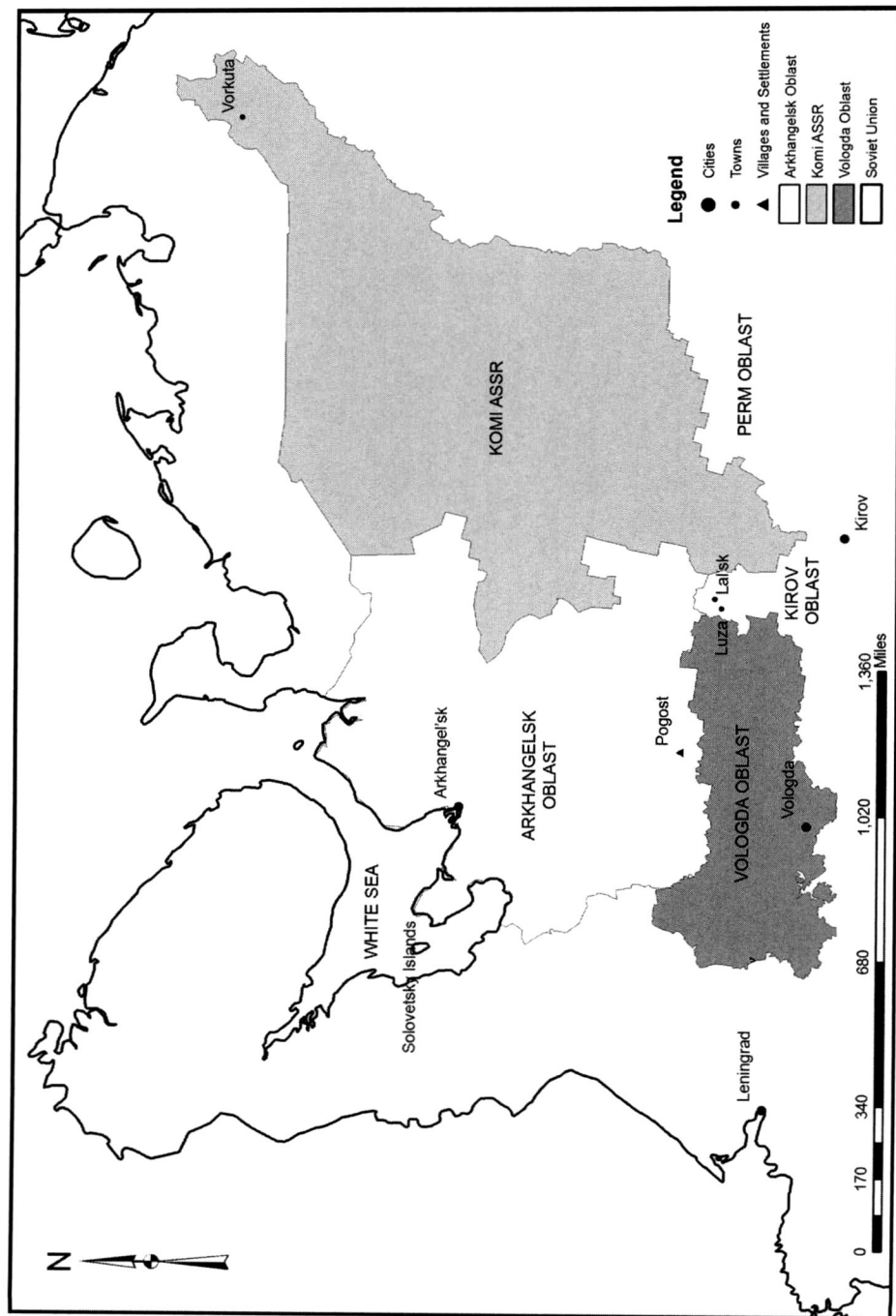
Map 1 Selected Cities and Labor Camps in the USSR



Map 2 Urals Region



Map 3 Ukraine and Crimea



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