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Curative Powers: Medicine and Empire in Stalin's Central Asia (Paperback)

By Paula A. Michaels

University of Pittsburgh Press, United States, 2003. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Finalist, PEN Center USA Literary Awards, Research Nonfiction Rich in oil and strategically located between Russia and China, Kazakhstan is one of the most economically and geopolitically important of the so-called Newly Independent States that emerged after the USSR's collapse. Yet little is known in the West about the region's turbulent history under Soviet rule, particularly how the regime asserted colonial dominion over the Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities. Grappling directly with the issue of Soviet colonialism, *Curative Powers* offers an in-depth exploration of this dramatic, bloody, and transformative era in Kazakhstan's history. Paula Michaels reconstructs the Soviet government's use of medical and public health policies to change the society, politics, and culture of its outlying regions. At first glance the Soviets' drive to modernize medicine in Kazakhstan seems an altruistic effort to improve quality of life. Yet, as Michaels reveals, beneath the surface lies a story of power, legitimacy, and control. The Communist regime used biomedicine to reshape the function, self-perception, and practices of both doctors and patients, just as it did through education, the arts, the military, the family, and...



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