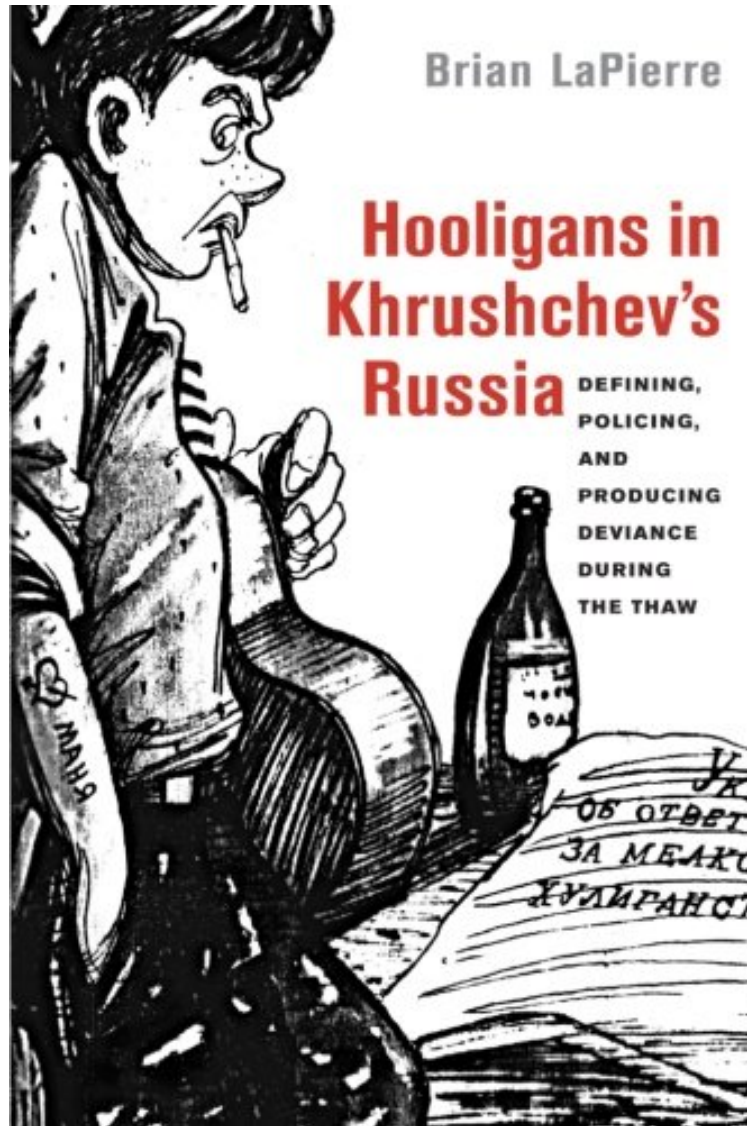


(Free) Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia: Defining, Policing, and Producing Deviance during the Thaw

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Brian LaPierre

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Brian LaPierre : Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia: Defining, Policing, and Producing Deviance during the Thaw before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia: Defining, Policing, and Producing Deviance during the Thaw:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ryne AllenFantastic! A must read for anyone studying "The Thaw" :)

Swearing, drunkenness, promiscuity, playing loud music, brawling--in the Soviet Union these were not merely bad behavior, they were all forms of the crime of "hooliganism." Defined as "rudely violating public order and expressing clear disrespect for society," hooliganism was one of the most common and confusing crimes in the world's first socialist state. Under its shifting, ambiguous, and elastic terms, millions of Soviet citizens were arrested and incarcerated for periods ranging from three days to five years and for everything from swearing at a wife to stabbing a complete stranger. *Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia* offers the first comprehensive study of how Soviet police, prosecutors, judges, and ordinary citizens during the Khrushchev era (1953-1964) understood, fought against, or embraced this catch-all category of criminality. Using a wide range of newly opened archival sources, it portrays the Khrushchev period--usually considered as a time of liberalizing reform and reduced repression--as an era of renewed harassment against a wide range of state-defined undesirables. Brian LaPierre shows the illiberal underside of a Thaw that did more than roll back some of the more egregious abuses of Stalinism. He uncovers how the Thaw unleashed an energetic and intrusive campaign to expand policing and persecution to the most mundane aspects of everyday life. In an atmosphere of Cold War competition, foreign cultural penetration, and transatlantic anxiety over "rebels without a cause," hooliganism emerged as a vital tool that post-Stalinist elites used to civilize their uncultured working class, confirm their embattled cultural ideals, and create the right-thinking and right-acting socialist society of their dreams.

"This is an eye-opening and highly original study that challenges the traditional stereotypical view of Khrushchev's liberalization campaign and exposes its dark underside. The author succeeds admirably in exposing the persistent tension inherent in Khrushchevism--the constant negotiation between liberalization and state control. Moreover, he has managed to strike a good balance between social history and its legal counterpart, and this volume's contribution to both branches is significant." Olga Kucherenko, *of Politics*"...this is a superb piece of scholarship, written in a fluid, accessible style and based on a myriad of primary source materials. It is a truly interdisciplinary work that should have broad appeal to anthropologists, sociologists who study crime, and both legal and social historians. LaPierre provides a complex reinterpretation of the thaw period and a discussion of urban social decay during the Khrushchev era while documenting the regime's excessive control of behavior from above, making this a must-read for anyone interested in post-Stalinist society." James T. Andrews, *Slavic* "*Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia* provides a mountain of evidence about an important social and cultural campaign under Khrushchev. LaPierre has produced a compact, and often entertaining, work that contributes to and complicates the growing literature on policing and social activism during the Thaw. This work is mandatory reading for anyone working on deviance and criminology in Russia or the Soviet Union, and sections would provide undergraduate students with a nice introduction to the paradoxes of the Khrushchev era." Seth Bernstein, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*"... LaPierre's work stands as an important contribution to a growing body of literature that seeks to present the Khrushchev-era Thaw as more multifaceted and contradictory than the golden age that the Soviet intelligentsia imagined after the fact." Stephen Bittner, *Russian* "LaPierre's book, a tightly argued and well-researched monograph, adds significantly to our understanding of crime and justice under Khrushchev. It also provides rich food for thought as scholars take on the challenge of fully understanding what living in the workers' state actually meant for members of the urban proletariat some forty years into the experiment and in the wake of a devastating war." Miriam Dobson, *Journal of Modern History* About the Author Brian LaPierre is associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi.