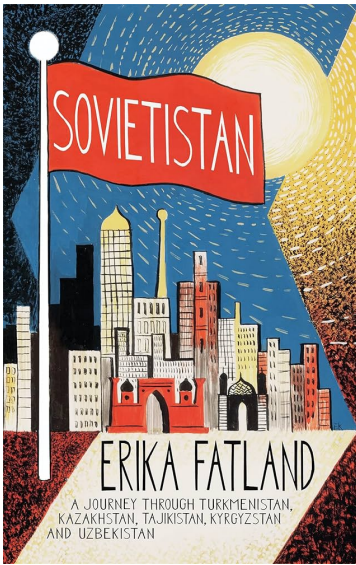




Prison Reading Groups

Sovietistan

by Erika Fatland



Erika's enlightening accounts of the five former 'Stan' Soviet republics encapsulate themes of mystery, wonder, and historical fact that seems to be left out of conventional textbooks. Fatland's openness towards the people she talks to and the places she sees is inspiring, as is the political geography mixed with everyday life that she observes. This incredible access to a part of the world that seems largely misunderstood sees interviews with victims of bride snatching in Kyrgyzstan, the haunting Point Zero which absorbed 456 Soviet nuclear tests, traditional Kazakh wrestling on horseback, and descriptions of seemingly deserted cityscapes.

What is truly uncovered is a new perspective of life in 'Sovietistan', which simultaneously entangles political history, culture and geology with the spirit of adventure.

Discussion Questions

1. How much did you know about these countries before reading the book?

2. What did you learn about the Soviet Union?

