



# Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press)

*By Peter Kolchin*



Download



Read Online

 Get Print Book

**Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press)** By Peter Kolchin

Two massive systems of unfree labor arose, a world apart from each other, in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The American enslavement of blacks and the Russian subjection of serfs flourished in different ways and varying degrees until they were legally abolished in the mid-nineteenth century. Historian Peter Kolchin compares and contrasts the two systems over time in this magisterial book, which clarifies the organization, structure, and dynamics of both social entities, highlighting their basic similarities while pointing out important differences discernible only in comparative perspective.

These differences involved both the masters and the bondsmen. The independence and resident mentality of American slaveholders facilitated the emergence of a vigorous crusade to defend slavery from outside attack, whereas an absentee orientation and dependence on the central government rendered serfholders unable successfully to defend serfdom. Russian serfs, who generally lived on larger holdings than American slaves and faced less immediate interference in their everyday lives, found it easier to assert their communal autonomy but showed relatively little solidarity with peasants outside their own villages; American slaves, by contrast, were both more individualistic and more able to identify with all other blacks, both slave and free.

Kolchin has discovered apparently universal features in master-bondsman relations, a central focus of his study, but he also shows their basic differences as he compares slave and serf life and chronicles patterns of resistance. If the masters had the upper hand, the slaves and serfs played major roles in shaping, and setting limits to, their own bondage.

This truly unprecedented comparative work will fascinate historians, sociologists, and all social scientists, particularly those with an interest in comparative history and studies in slavery.



[Download Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfd ...pdf](#)



# **Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press)**

*By Peter Kolchin*

**Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin**

Two massive systems of unfree labor arose, a world apart from each other, in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The American enslavement of blacks and the Russian subjection of serfs flourished in different ways and varying degrees until they were legally abolished in the mid-nineteenth century. Historian Peter Kolchin compares and contrasts the two systems over time in this magisterial book, which clarifies the organization, structure, and dynamics of both social entities, highlighting their basic similarities while pointing out important differences discernible only in comparative perspective.

These differences involved both the masters and the bondsmen. The independence and resident mentality of American slaveholders facilitated the emergence of a vigorous crusade to defend slavery from outside attack, whereas an absentee orientation and dependence on the central government rendered serfholders unable successfully to defend serfdom. Russian serfs, who generally lived on larger holdings than American slaves and faced less immediate interference in their everyday lives, found it easier to assert their communal autonomy but showed relatively little solidarity with peasants outside their own villages; American slaves, by contrast, were both more individualistic and more able to identify with all other blacks, both slave and free.

Kolchin has discovered apparently universal features in master-bondsman relations, a central focus of his study, but he also shows their basic differences as he compares slave and serf life and chronicles patterns of resistance. If the masters had the upper hand, the slaves and serfs played major roles in shaping, and setting limits to, their own bondage.

This truly unprecedented comparative work will fascinate historians, sociologists, and all social scientists, particularly those with an interest in comparative history and studies in slavery.

**Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin**  
**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #730440 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
- Published on: 1990-03-01
- Released on: 1990-03-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.34" w x 6.13" l, 1.53 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 534 pages

 **[Download](#)** [Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom ...pdf](#)

 **[Read Online](#)** [Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfd ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin**

---

## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

Unfree Labor will stand the test of time much as Jerome Blum's *Lord and Peasant in Russia* and Kenneth Stamp's *The Peculiar Institution* have for serfdom and slavery respectively. In this major comparative study Kolchin analyzes the numerous similarities, e.g., serious labor shortages in two land rich areas on the peripheries of a dynamic, changing Europe, and dissimilarities, e.g., a primarily economic system (Russia) versus a comprehensive way of life (America). He demonstrates a keen knowledge of the sources as he examines the organization and dynamics of these two systems, and the responses they evoked from the slaves and serfs, over three centuries. The final product is a skillful blend of scholarship and readability that no library should ignore. It is a paradigm of what comparative history at its best can achieve. Mark R. Yerburgh, Trinity Coll. Lib., Burlington, Vt.  
Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Comparative history is a tricky business and *Unfree Labor* succeeds where many previous ventures into this genre have failed. (Richard S. Dunn *Times Literary Supplement*)

A learned and sophisticated book in the tradition of high scholarship, as well as a book written to be read and enjoyed. Those who share a taste for comparative history will be taken with the author's spirit of play, his readiness to ask 'what if,' and his zest for experiment and discovery. (C. Vann Woodward *New York Review of Books*)

In its balance of interpretation, clarity of exposition, and depth and breadth of research, the book is exceptional. Moreover, it is a model of comparative analysis, displaying, as too few such studies have ever done, the complexities and the value of historical comparison. (Carl N. Degler *Journal of Social History*)

Students of servile labor systems, slave and serf, and of American and Russian history, have needed, and have known they needed, a book like this for a long time...This is indeed a splendid and indispensable book...Required reading for American historians. (Eugene D. Genovese *Journal of Economic History*)

Kolchin's stupendous research effort and sensitive reading of the evidence have resulted in an original, perceptive, and significant book. Admirably proving the enormous value of comparative study, Kolchin's analysis provides fresh insights into the nature of unfree labor in general and slavery and serfdom in particular. And despite its sophistication and its length, the book is a good read; it is clear, cogent, and free of academic jargon. This is a splendid study. (Harold D. Woodman, Purdue University)

Kolchin's book is a work of staggering erudition as regards the literature and sources concerning both Russian serfdom and American slavery. His comparative study offers significant insight into both systems of bondage. There is nothing remotely comparable in the literature in Russian or English, and Kolchin's writing is always lucid. (Daniel Field, Russian Research Center, Harvard University)

Review

Kolchin's stupendous research effort and sensitive reading of the evidence have resulted in an original, perceptive, and significant book. Admirably proving the enormous value of comparative study, Kolchin's analysis provides fresh insights into the nature of unfree labor in general and slavery and serfdom in

particular. And despite its sophistication and its length, the book is a good read; it is clear, cogent, and free of academic jargon. This is a splendid study.

--Harold D. Woodman, Purdue University

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jamie Brewer:**

The ability that you get from *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) may be the more deep you excavating the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) instantly.

#### **Jessie Lloyd:**

The publication with title *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) has lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This specific book exist new expertise the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you throughout new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

#### **Summer McGaugh:**

This *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it facts accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world with ten or fifteen second right but this book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

#### **Flora Godfrey:**

A lot of reserve has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the best book for you, science, comedian, novel, or whatever simply by searching from it. It is named of book *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (Belknap Press). You can include your knowledge by it. Without making the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make you actually

happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about publication. It can bring you from one location to other place.

**Download and Read Online Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin  
#2QH09RTDSVC**

## **Read Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin for online ebook**

Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin books to read online.

### **Online Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin ebook PDF download**

#### **Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin Doc**

Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin Mobipocket

Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Belknap Press) By Peter Kolchin EPub