



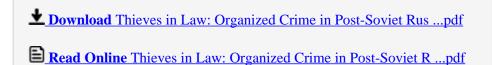
## Thieves in Law: Organized Crime in Post-Soviet Russia

By Paul Bolan



Thieves in Law: Organized Crime in Post-Soviet Russia By Paul Bolan

Organized crime in Russia began in the imperial period of the Tsars, but it was not until the Soviet era that vory v zakone ("thieves-in-law") emerged as leaders of prison groups in gulags, and their honor code became more defined. After World War Ii, the death of Joseph Stalin, and the fall of the Soviet Union, more gangs emerged in a flourishing black market, exploiting the unstable governments of the former Republics, and at its highest point, even controlling as much as two-thirds of the Russian economy.



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#### Thieves in Law: Organized Crime in Post-Soviet Russia By Paul Bolan Bibliography

Sales Rank: #5190030 in BooksPublished on: 2016-02-15Released on: 2016-02-15

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 11.00" h x .26" w x 8.50" l, .61 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 114 pages

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