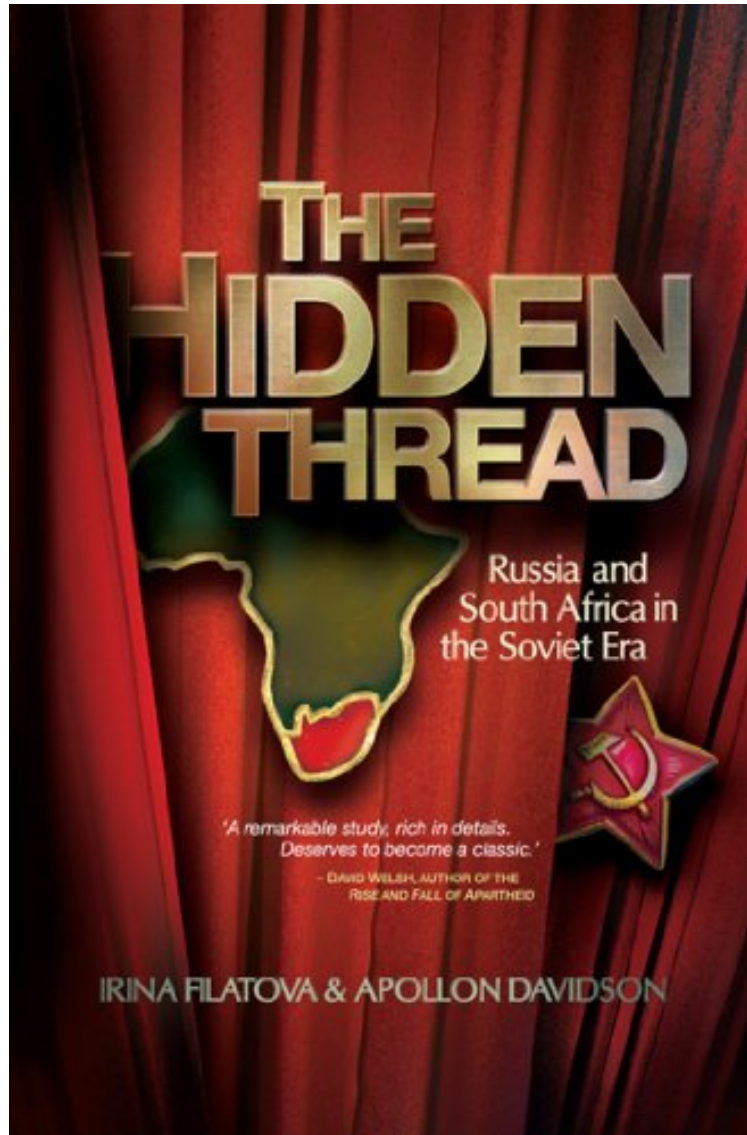


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The Hidden Thread: Russia and South Africa in the Soviet Era

Irina Filatova

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Irina Filatova : The Hidden Thread: Russia and South Africa in the Soviet Era before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Thread: Russia and South Africa in the Soviet Era:

0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Hidden Thread: Russia and South Africa in the Soviet Era by Irina Filatova By Andrew Barlow In many respects this book is one-sided. A few examples will make this clear: There are numerous books available on the Bush War in South West Africa and Angola. The authors have either not read these books or have ignored them. However, what is more important is that the authors do understand the struggle

between the US and the Soviet Union. The US had decided at least shortly after Hitler invaded Russia that the US could either not defeat the USSR militarily because the cost in lives and resources would be far too much. It and Britain then decided that the USSR and Germany should slog it out and that the USSR should defeat Germany. Thereafter the US would destroy the USSR economically. It did so by compelling the USSR to spend money and resources to an extent which must have led to its total economic collapse. Among many other measures the Vietnam War and the South African Bush war were part of this plan. The Bush War was effectively the last nail in the USSR coffin. The fact that this crucial matter is not even realised by the authors renders the book of not very much value. It is of value only because of certain facts which are dealt with.

The Hidden Thread is a journey of revelation about the relationship between Soviet Russia and South Africa, hidden for most of its length. The story is told with insight and depth by Irina Filatova and Apollon Davidson, who have had a decades long association researching and writing on Russian and South African politics and history. This insightful work follows the often surprising twists and turns of the history of South Africa's relationship with Russia and its people which started in the eighteenth century and is still very much alive today. The story evolves from the Russian volunteers who fought alongside the Boers in the Anglo-Boer War to South Africans who participated in the Russian revolution and civil war; from the Russian Jewish immigration to South Africa to the close involvement of the South African communists in the Communist International; from the Soviet consulates in South Africa and the activities of South Africa's Friends of the Soviet Union Society during the Second World War to the vicissitudes of the Cold War and the 'hot' war in Angola; from the SACP and ANC's relations with the USSR to the volte-face of perestroika and South Africa's transition and to today's business, political, cultural and sometimes criminal connections between Russians and South Africans.