



# **Karamzin's Memoir on Ancient and Modern Russia: A Translation and Analysis (Ann Arbor Paperbacks for the Study of Russian and Soviet History and Politics)**

*Richard Pipes*

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Richard Pipes

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Russian history was typically studied through liberal or socialist lenses until Richard Pipes first published his translation of Karamzin's *Memoir*. Almost fifty years later, it is still the only English-language edition of this classic work. Still fresh and readable today, the *Memoir*-in which Alexander I's state historian elaborates his arguments for a strong Russian state-remains the most accessible introduction to the conservatism of Russia's *ancien regime*. This annotated translation is a "faithful rendition of the letter and spirit of the original," which not only introduces readers to the sweep of Karamzin's ideas, but also weaves together a fascinating version of Russia's rich history. With a new foreword by Richard Pipes, Karamzin's *Memoir on Ancient and Modern Russia* is a touchstone for anyone interested in Russia's fascinating and turbulent past.

Richard Pipes is Baird Professor of History at Harvard University.

Nikolai M. Karamzin (1766-1826) was a Russian historian, poet, and journalist. He was appointed court historian by Tsar Alexander I.

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