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### **The Solidarity of a Philosophe**

Diderot, Russia and the Soviet Union

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#### **Book synopsis**

This study links, for the first time, three separate areas of research: Denis Diderot's visit to Petersburg in 1773-74, Diderot in Soviet criticism, and Marxism and the French Enlightenment. Diderot's relations with Russia, Catherine the Great, other Russians, the Russian language and Slavophilism are all discussed in the light of western, Russian and Soviet sources. A detailed analysis of Soviet criticism of Diderot in the key areas of his political and religious thought then follows. From this examination a more accurate portrait of the eighteenth-century philosophe emerges, while the tracing - and linking - of three centuries of European intellectual history provide an enhanced perspective from which to view current events.

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#### **About the author(s)/editor(s)**

The Author: Peter H. Kaufman is an assistant professor of French at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Prior to this appointment, he taught at Columbia University and Hunter College of the City University of New York. He received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. from Columbia University. His graduate education included periods of study in Paris and Moscow.

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