

NAMES, TRANSLITERATION, AND ABBREVIATIONS

THIS BOOK FOLLOWS the Library of Congress transliteration system with some modifications. Namely, to increase accessibility, diacritic marks are omitted in both the text and the notes. “Soft” and “hard” signs are likewise omitted in the text but preserved in the notes.

Where possible, modern local spelling for geographic names is followed (thus, Kyiv, the Dnipro River), with the exception of places better known by their Anglicized (Moscow) or non-Russian (Lake Peipus) names.

Names of historical figures well-known in the West are spelled using their most familiar form (Peter I, Rurik, Alexander Nevsky). In other cases, the spelling of names follows the modified Library of Congress system above. *-ii* endings in given and family names are transliterated as *-y* (Arkady Strugatsky). Patronymic names are omitted, except in rare cases where they help avoid confusion.

Throughout the text, all translations from Russian are my own, unless indicated otherwise.

The following abbreviations are used in the text and notes:

FSB – Federal Security Service

RG – Rossiiskaia Gazeta

ROC – Russian Orthodox Church