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The Post-Soviet Handbook: A Guide to Grassroots Organizations and Internet Resources in the Newly Independent States

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Ruffin, M. Holt. **The post-Soviet handbook: a guide to grassroots organizations and Internet resources in the newly independent states**, by M. Holt Ruffin, Joan McCarter, and Richard Upjohn. Center for Civil Society International/Washington, 1996. 393p index afp ISBN 0-295-97534-2 pbk, \$19.95

This trade paperback provides information on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the newly independent states (NIS) of the former Soviet Union, as well as clearinghouses and resources in the US and on the Internet regarding the NIS. The compilers were highly selective, excluding political and religious groups and the Baltic countries, and including only a few hundred of the thousands of NGOs active in the NIS. The information, much of which was supplied by the groups themselves, includes (when available) name, address, telephone and fax numbers, contact person, e-mail address, and a brief description of the group's purpose and activities. NGOs are listed alphabetically, and the NIS section is divided by country and subdivided by city. Internet resources include WWW sites, mailing lists, electronic directories, and news sources, as well as a brief discussion of Cyrillic-font software. Although information on the US-based organizations should be readily available in standard reference sources, the majority of the NIS-based ones will not be found in the *International Organizations* volumes (1989-) of *Encyclopedia of Associations*. Since all entries are alphabetical, a subject index would have made this volume even more useful; but graduate students, faculty, and other specialists attempting to establish contacts with grassroots groups in the former Soviet Union will find it very useful.—
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