



New Lithuania in Old Hands

Effects and Outcomes of Europeanization in Rural Lithuania

Ida Harboe Knudsen

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Description

An examination of the impact Lithuania's EU membership has had upon the country's ageing small-scale farmers.

"Analyzing Lithuania's development as two parallel and intertwined processes – withdrawing from the Soviet Union and entering the EU – *New Lithuania in Old Hands* provides a convincing understanding of the country's continuities and discontinuities with its socialist past. The book's vivid ethnographic examples provide a deep insight into Lithuanians' ambivalent feelings of anxiety, fear, and hope for affluence and a better future."

—Dr Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, *Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology*

"The variety of research and the individuality of the researchers' voices make this collection thought-provoking, engaging, interesting, and informative [...] This collection will both complement linguistic seminars and linguistic survey courses, as well as provide an enjoyable read for anyone with an interest in the Russian language, linguistics, and language pedagogy." —Julia Mikhailova, *"Canadian Slavonic Papers"*

Based on detailed ethnographic material, *New Lithuania in Old Hands* analyzes the impact that European Union accession has had upon the country's aging smallscale farmers, and describes how the reality of Lithuania's EU membership has been a far cry from the scenarios of wealth and overabundance once promised. The text reveals that, in many instances, membership has resulted in a return to subsistence production, increased insecurity and a reinforcement of kinship obligations. Thus instead of treating the European Union as an elite project and voicing the support of various other segments of the population, this volume shows how broad parts of the rural population have been affected by and engaged in processes of change following Lithuania's accession – changes that threaten to have a large impact upon the future of the country's family structures and its farming demographic.

Readership: This book will be suitable for students and scholars interested in the Baltic Sea Region, the European Union enlargement and postsocialist developments.

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About the Author

Ida Harboe Knudsen is a postdoctoral fellow at Aarhus University, Denmark (financed by the Danish Independent Research Council) and an affiliated researcher at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania.

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