

# TWO LENINS



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TWO LENINS  
A BRIEF ANTHROPOLOGY OF TIME

*Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov*



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Cover, © 1923. Electric light bulb of a half-watt 1000 *svetchi*, with a filament in the shape of V. I. Lenin. Courtesy of the Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia.

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## Acknowledgements

This book is the product of multiple anthropological temporalities. Its biography bridges two main areas of my academic interests: Siberian studies, where I have been involved since my initial fieldwork in Siberia in the late 1980s; and research into gift giving to Soviet leaders, which I have conducted since the early 2000s. The topic of time has been important for both. This book has developed as a conceptual sequel to an article on the *heterochrony* of Stalin's 70th birthday gifts, in 1949. In Siberia, I focused on deferral, delay, and teleological temporalities of Russian and Soviet statehood among indigenous Evenki. However, I first thought of combining these two kinds of material in a comparative and theoretical argument about temporal multiplicity when Victor Vakhstayn invited me to give a keynote address at the conference "Future as culture: Prognoses, representations, scenarios" at Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (2010). I am grateful to Laura Bear, who ran a seminar series, "Conflicts in time: Rethinking 'contemporary' globalization" (2008–11), in which I took part; she suggested that this might be a book-length project. I presented versions of this book's argument at London School of Economics, Russian University for the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, University of Helsinki, University of Ekaterinburg, National Research University Higher School of Economics, and European University at St. Petersburg. In following the American Anthropological Association's Code of Ethics, I have anonymized the names of my informants and fieldwork locations. This project would not have been possible without the hospitality and collaboration of residents of the Siberian village that I call Katonga as well as the support by the Russian Foundation for Basic

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