

THE CONSUMERS OF INTIMATE SERVICES

Regardless of the profession, the user of prostitutes was mostly a single man or a man far from home. School students were strictly forbidden from entering such "public houses". The militants were the most typical customers of harlot houses in the Czar's Russia. There was always work for prostitutes in the larger garrison towns. The result was the high prevalence of syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases in the army. In the 1880s, 38% of the Russian army was ill with those diseases. Even more active use of the bordellos was prevented simply by the low income level of the soldiers. The official peacetime service salary was 50 kopecks a month, which was enough for a bottle of vodka or a cheap prostitute, but not for both at once. Naturally, they ended up in the cheap brothels, where women were more likely to be sick.