# The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Russian Revolution



EDITED BY HAROLD SHUKMAN



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First published 1988
This paperback edition, revised and updated 1994

Blackwell Publishers 108 Cowley Road Oxford, OX4 1JF, UK

238 Main Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02142, USA

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

The Blackwell encyclopedia of the Russian revolution / edited by Harold Shukman.

450 p.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-631-19525-4 (pbk).

1. Soviet Union-History-Revolution, 1917-1921-Encyclopedias.

I. Shukman, Harold.

DK265.B54 1995

947.084'1'03-dc20

94-11241

CIP

Typeset in 9 on 11 pt Plantin Light by Columns of Reading Printed and Bound in Great Britain by Hartnolls Limited, Bodmin, Cornwall.

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## **Preface**

Before addressing the historical background of this paperback edition of the Encyclopedia, we wish to note with deep regret the deaths of two of our authors. On 2 June, 1988, only a few weeks before the publication of the Encyclopedia, Robert McNeal was killed in an automobile accident in Massachusetts. On 1 August, 1990, Michael Glenny died suddenly in Moscow.

Since the publication of this book in the summer of 1988, the perception of the events to which it was devoted has undergone a significant change. If in 1988 the Russian Revolution could still be viewed as having launched the process that resulted in the creation of the world's second super-power, by 1994 that creation is no more. In the years between 1988 and now, the Soviet state engendered by the Revolution entered a period of terminal decline, diseased by corruption, a flawed ideology, an irrational economic policy and unsustainable strategic goals. In the years immediately following this book's publication, moreover, the forces that had led to the virtual dismemberment of the territory of the former Russian Empire during the Civil War of 1918–21, and that had remained latent throughout the seventy years of Communist rule, erupted with such energy by the end of the 1980s that they succeeded in completely undoing the work of Soviet reunification. The Soviet Union has disintegrated and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has evaporated, which means in effect that, for all those interested in studying the Russian Revolution, from which both drew their legitimacy, to engage now in its description and analysis is no longer to question the origins of an existing political entity. The Russian Revolution has at last passed into history.

Russian historians were relatively slow to respond to the liberal policies that were a dominant feature of the last years of the Soviet regime, the Gorbachev era, the period of glasnost – openness – perhaps best paraphrased as the time for telling the truth. So much Soviet writing about the Revolution had been saturated by the ideological demands of the Stalin period, and because of the purges of the 1930s by the 'depopulation' of modern Russian history, that the process of reassessment was bound to take some time. Indeed, in 1988, liberally-minded historians were complaining to each other that the job of recovering the Soviet past was being done by playwrights and novelists. What they had in mind were the (unstaged) plays of Mikhail Shatrov about the February Revolution and the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, which were imagined dramatized debates between the chief dramatis personae, and Anatoly Rybakov's Children of the Arbat, a fictionalized account of the background to the purges of the 1930s.

The 'repopulation' of the field, however, was addressed relatively soon. Beginning with Bukharin in January 1988, by the middle of that year all of the purged Bolsheviks had been posthumously rehabilitated: since Trotsky, the chief (though absent) defendant at the purge trials, had technically not been purged and processed by Stalin's 'judicial' machinery, he could not be judicially rehabilitated; he has, however, been the subject of at least two studies published in Russia, a two-volume biography by Dmitri Volkogonov and a short but pointed sketch by Vitaly Startsey. In addition, in 1989 a two-volume collection appeared, entitled

Rediscovered Names (Vozvrashchennye imena), which included articles on such figures as Bukharin, Kamenev, Zinoviev, Rykov and Rakovsky, based chiefly on memoirs and reminiscences, but also with some original archival material. In 1993 the Great Russian Encyclopedia publishing house – formerly Soviet Encyclopedia – published Russian Political Activists of 1917 (Politicheskie deyateli Rossii 1917), a biographical dictionary covering personalities from a wide range of parties and groups, and also handling such touchy subjects as Lenin and Trotsky with laudably balanced judgment. The root-and-branch reassessment of Lenin, however, has had to wait for another two-volume work by Volkogonov, based on the Lenin archives, due out in Russia in the summer and in the West in the autumn of 1994.

The opening up of the modern history archives in Russia has been something of an intermittent process. The archives of the Communist Party in various locations and various parts have been renamed: the Central Party Archives are now called the Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Contemporary Historical Documentation, or RTsKhIDNI, in its Russian acronym; while the former Central Committee archives are now known as the Russian Centre for the Preservation of Contemporary Documentation, or RTsKhSD. One of the richest and most varied repositories, the former Central Archives of the October Revolution (TsGAOR) has been merged with the Central State Archives of the Russian Federation and is called by the latter name (TsGARF). The former Special Archive, consisting of the national archive collections of the countries of Western Europe occupied by the Germans in the Second World War, and including, for instance, French security reports on the activities of Russian revolutionaries in Paris before and during the First World War, is now called the Centre for the Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections. Finally, one of the treasure-houses of Party history, the archives of the Moscow Party Organization, which contains, inter alia, the personal dossiers of the largest and most active membership group in the former Soviet Union, is now known as the Scientific and Informational Centre for the Political History of the City of Moscow.

In August 1991, virtually in its first act after the failed coup against its authority, the Russian government brought all these repositories under the single authority of the State Archive Service, or Russian Archive Commission (Rosarkhiv). In view of the inevitable disruption caused by such vigorous reorganization and changes of personnel, it is still too early to expect an abundant or systematic archival publication programme. Nevertheless, much valuable material is now appearing in various new journals devoted to the publication of extracts from the archives, most notably Istoricheskii arkhiv and Istochnik, and a new series of miscellanies called 'Unknown Russia' (Neizvestnaya Rossiya). It is the aim of all of these publications to spread their range of interest as wide as possible, with the result that they are bringing to light documents relating to the entire span of Russian history, from the medieval period to the end of the Soviet era. Well-established history journals which have survived from the previous regime reflect a similar trend. 'Questions of the history of the CPSU' (Voprosy istorii KPSS), which used to be published under the auspices of the Party Central Committee, in October 1991 was obscurely renamed 'The Centaur' (Kentavr) - perhaps to reflect the blatantly obvious fact that the Party was no longer a single, unambiguous species - and is now physically a very much reduced version of its predecessor. It can, however, be relied on to publish new material on the history of the Party of interest to scholars.

In the West, where Russian scholarship has been devoted to the analysis and interpretation of original sources, rather than the reproduction of the raw material, there have been numerous valuable additions to the library of the Russian Revolution. While it is not feasible here to produce an exhaustive inventory, nor practical to add to the Further Reading lists within the body of the Encyclopedia, the following works represent a core of up-to-date research to which any reader wishing to deepen his or her knowledge of the subject is recommended to turn:

Acton, E.: Rethinking the Russian Revolution. London: Edward Arnold, 1990; Connaughton, R.:

The Republic of the Ushakovka: Admiral Kolchak and the Allied Intervention in Siberia, 1918-1920. London: Routledge, 1990; Dabom, J.: Russia: Revolution and Counter-revolution, 1917-1924. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991; Elwood, R.C.: Inessa Armand: Revolutionary and Feminist. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992; Freeze, G.L.: From Supplication to Revolution: A Documentary History of Imperial Russia. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988; Galili y Garcia, Z.: The Menshevik Leaders in the Russian Revolution: Social Realities and Political Strategies. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989; Kemp-Welch, A., ed.: The Ideas of Nikolai Bukharin. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992; Koenker, D. and Rosenberg, W.: Strikes and Revolution in Russia, 1917. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989; Lincoln, W. Bruce: Red Victory: A History of the Russian Civil War. London: Sphere Books, 1990; McAuley, M.: Bread and Justice: State and Society in Petrograd, 1917-1922. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991; Melancon, M.: The Socialist Revolutionaries and the Anti-war Movement, 1914-1917. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1990; O'Connor, T.E.: The Engineer of Revolution: L.B. Krasin and the Bolsheviks. Oxford: Westview, 1992; Pipes, R.E.: The Russian Revolution, 1899-1919. London: Harvill Press, 1990, and its sequel, Russia Under the New Régime, published in 1994; Service, R.: Lenin: A Political Life. vol. 2, London: Macmillan, 1991; Stites, R.: Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Visions and the Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989; Volkogonov, D.A.: Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy. Transl. and ed. Shukman, H. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1991; Volkogonov, D.A.: Lenin: His Life and Legacy. Transl. and ed. Shukman, H. London: HarperCollins, 1994.

The purpose of this Encyclopedia is to describe and analyse the events of 1917 in Russia, as well as their background and origin, and to show how they affected the political, economic, social and ethnic structures of the old empire and gave rise to the new order. The Encyclopedia does not attempt to cover Russian society in its totality; it includes studies of revolutionary organizations, but not those of parties and bodies whose programmes and tactics were based on negotiation, reconciliation and evolution, rather than revolution. The period of reform beginning in the 1860s is taken as a starting point, and the coverage terminates roughly with the end of the Civil War in 1921, by which time the Bolsheviks had eliminated any serious threat from their internal political enemies. The multi-national character of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union emerged with unprecedented (and unsurpassed) force during the events of 1917–21, and this is acknowledged in the wide-ranging treatment of revolution in the borderlands.

Depth can be added to the evolution of ideas and institutions, as well as the playing out of events, by the study of the lives of individual figures. A series of biographies has been included in the Encyclopedia, covering characters from all parties, as well as a number of leading figures of the old regime and the non-revolutionary parties (such as Nicholas II, Gapon, Guchkov, Lvov, Rasputin, Stolypin, Witte) whose activities compel their inclusion in a work devoted to the Revolution.

The Encyclopedia is designed as a source of reference for students and teachers of modern Russian history and politics and for the general reader wishing to extend and deepen an interest in this central event of twentieth-century history. Because an alphabetical arrangement of entries would lead to unnecessary duplication of material and possible confusion, the Encyclopedia has been arranged in an approximate chronological sequence, and the scheme of entries is clearly set out in the more than usually detailed contents list.

Each entry is intended to be complete in itself, but where it might be helpful to consult other entries, cross-references are printed in small capitals in the text. There is a general index at the end of the volume through which the reader can trace all references to a specific individual or topic. Most entries are followed by suggestions for further reading. Changes in this edition include the correction of typographical errors and the addition of a number of entries in the Biographical Section.

#### **Preface**

I owe thanks to the past and present staff of Basil Blackwell who have been involved in the conception, formation and production of this book: Janet Godden, Jo Hadley, Elizabeth Lake, Ann McCall, René Olivieri, Alyn Shipton and, above all, Carol Le Duc, whose alertness and commitment eliminated many of the flaws a less diligent editor might have let slip through. To Mary Hunt I am grateful for keying all the material in the hardback edition, and to Halina Boniszewska I am indebted for her help and the care with which this paperback edition has been prepared. My greatest debt of gratitude is to my contributors. Some responded to my invitation by recruiting additional authors, some made valuable suggestions for the content of the book, some contributed illustrations and, most important, all of them simplified my work by their professional approach, none more so than Felix Patrikeeff, who spotted gaps and expertly filled them with enviable despatch. The value of this book rests on the intrinsic quality of my contributors' expertise, which I have done my best to enhance.

Harold Shukman March 1994

# Acknowledgements

The illustrations in this book are reproduced by courtesy of the following: Richard Abraham, London, figures 2, 7, 14, 15 and 50; BBC Hulton Picture Library, London, figure 53; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, figure 55; Bodleian Library, Oxford, figure 44; Bulgarian National Library, Sofia, figure 74; Madame Colette Chambelland, Paris, figures 34, 35, 49, 56 and 58; Francis Conte, Paris, figure 68; from Crapouillet (1937), figure 3; Culver Pictures, figure 11; Dennis Dobson, London, figure 39; Michael Futrell, British Columbia, figure 71; Peter Gatrell, Manchester, figures 12 and 13; Sidney Harcave, New York, figures 10, 64, 73 and 79; Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford, figures 4 and 26; Houghton Library, Harvard, figures 24 and 69; Richard G. Hovannisian, UCLA, figures 54, and 75 (photographs, Bodleian Library); Imperial War Museum, London, figure 18; International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, figures 45, 47, 48, 60, 61, 65, 77 and 80; David King, London, figures 5, 16, 17, 21, 22, 46 and 66; Boris Koreneff, Polytechnik, Australia, figure 38; George Leggett, London, figures 52, 63 and 76; from Ace of Spies (1967) by Robin Bruce Lockhart, figure 70; Robert McNeal, Massachusetts, figure 28; John Milner, Newcastle, figure 42; John Murray, London, figures 1 and 36; Museum of Modern Art, New York, figure 43; Barbara Norton, Pennsylvania, figure 57; Oxford University Press, figure 37; Oriental Research Partners, Cambridge, Massachusetts, figure 62; Pasternak Trust, Oxford, figure 27; Central Archive, Central Committee, Polish United Workers' Party, Warsaw, figures 8 and 9 (photographs, Richard Abraham); Harold Shukman, Oxford, figure 6; Sotamuseo, Helsinki, figures 32 and 33; Süddeutscher Verlag, Munich, figure 25; Richard Taylor, Swansea, figures 19, 20, 40, 41 and 59; Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, New York, figures 31 and 72; Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, New York, figures 29, 30, 51 and 78; Roger Viollet, Paris, figure 67; Wide World, London, figure 23.

Part 1 illustration: Street demonstration in Petrograd, 23 February 1917.

Part 2 illustration: Contemporary photomontage of the Bolshevik leaders of the Revolution (among whom Joseph Stalin does not appear).

Both by courtesy of David King, London.

The editor and publisher would also like to thank Martin Gilbert, London, for producing the map which appears as endpapers at the back of the book.

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### **Editorial Notes**

#### **Topography**

The map bound as end-papers to this volume shows the entire area of the Russian Empire and Soviet Republic as it was between the 1860s and about 1921 – the period embraced by the Encyclopedia. Main cities and towns mentioned in the text are shown, as are the Trans-Siberian Railway and its branches, the main rivers and ethnic and borderland territories.

#### Marxism/Social Democracy

The terms Marxist and Social Democrat appear to some extent interchangeably in the text. The tsarist regime banned political organizations but not political philosophies. Thus, Marxists and those inclined towards Marxism were found among various groups. However, Social Democrats were the *organized* Marxists who composed the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. Its Russian initials, RSDRP, are used throughout the Encyclopedia.

#### St Petersburg, Petrograd, Leningrad

The capital of the Russian Empire bore the name Sankt Peterburg, in its German form, until the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, when it was Russified to become Petrograd, which it remained until Lenin's death in 1924. It then became and remained Leningrad until April 1993, when it reverted to its original name of St Petersburg.

#### **Transliteration**

It is impossible to transliterate Russian accurately, except by means of diacritical marks which require their own glossary. As long as there is no difficulty in recognizing Trotsky or Alexander, there seems little merit in insisting on Trotskii, Trotskiy or Trockij, and Aleksandr. Similarly, Peter has been used rather than Pyotr, Fedor rather than Fyodor. Such symbols as ' for the soft-sign have been dropped – we have become accustomed to seeing glasnost without it. However, in Further Reading and any bibliographical references, whole endings and soft-signs appear, as do any other apparatuses necessary to ensure the proper identification of a work.

In the presentation of Ukrainian names, their accepted appearance in Western usage has been adopted.

#### **Dates**

At the end of the sixteenth century most of Europe adopted the Gregorian or New Style Calendar, while the Russians retained the Julian or Old Style Calendar. By the nineteenth century Old Style dates lagged twelve days behind New Style; by the twentieth century the difference was thirteen days. For some time around the turn of the century, it became the custom (in Russian newspapers and private correspondence, for instance) to use both styles. Finally, on 14 February 1918, the Soviet government decreed that 1 February 1918, Old Style, was to become 14 February 1918,

#### **Editorial Notes**

New Style, and henceforth all dates were in conformity with the Gregorian calendar. The revolution itself, however, continued to be celebrated as the 'October Revolution'. In ambiguous cases, we have shown whether a date is Old Style, (OS), or New Style (NS).

#### **Pseudonyms**

Persecution by the tsarist police made pseudonyms commonplace among professional revolutionaries. As writers and underground organizers, both leading and minor activists changed their identities frequently, until their reputation in the movement (usually through journalistic activity) necessitated their establishing a single fixed label. (Curiously, with rare exceptions, women revolutionaries seem to have retained their real names throughout.) Following the Revolution, members of the Soviet government continued to use their old underground names: thus its head was Lenin, who added his pseudonym when signing decrees – V. I. Ulyanov (Lenin); the first president of the Comintern was Zinoviev, not Radomyslsky; the Red Army was organized by Trotsky, not Bronstein; and the eventual successor to Lenin was Stalin, not Dzhugashvili.

Since Jews (more than other minorities) were numerous in the Russian revolutionary movement, a pseudonym offered the added advantage of ethnic anonymity, and Jews therefore probably represent a disproportionate number among those with aliases.

Throughout the Encyclopedia, personalities are referred to by their most commonly-known names. Their other names, whether real or adopted, are given in the biographical entries and included in the Index as cross-references.

Historical facts about Russia's revolutionary past have been greatly enriched in the last two years or so by a flood of new and occasionally sensational writing, more in the Soviet popular, rather than academic, press. The Encyclopedia has attempted to reflect this; some previously obscure dates of death and (posthumous) rehabilitation are now known, such as those of Bukharin revealed in February 1988. However, where dates remain unknown, this is clearly stated, and where they are dubious, the given dates are accompanied by a question mark.

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# PART I

