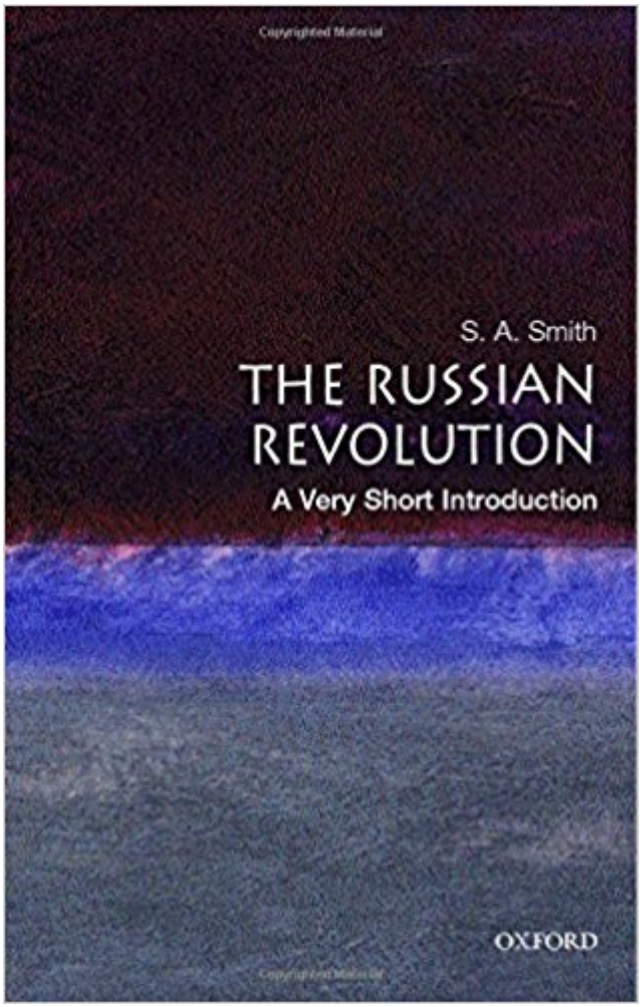
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

This concise, accessible introduction provides an analytical narrative of the main events and developments in Soviet Russia between 1917 and 1936. It examines the impact of the revolution on society as a whole--on different classes, ethnic groups, the army, men and women, youth. Its central concern is to understand how one structure of domination was replaced by another. The book registers the primacy of politics, but situates political developments firmly in the context of massive economic, social, and cultural change. Since the fall of Communism there has been much reflection on the significance of the Russian Revolution. The book rejects the currently influential, liberal interpretation of the revolution in favor of one that sees it as rooted in the contradictions of a backward society which sought modernization and enlightenment and ended in political tyranny.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages
Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1st edition (May 16, 2002)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0192853953
ISBN-13: 978-0192853950
Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 4.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #68,416 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 inÃ Â Books > History > Asia > Russia #243 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Europe #874 inÃ Â Books > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

"An admirable effort to rescue from politics the greatest upheaval of modern times and reclaim it for history."--Newsweek (on the previous edition) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stephen Smith is Professor of History at the University of Essex. He works on the social history of the Russian and Chinese revoltuions and is author of Red Petrograd: Revolution in the Factories, 1917-1918 (Cambridge University Press, 1983), and A Road is Made: Communism in Shanghai, 1920-27 (Curzon Press, 2000).

In 1656, Pascal wrote, "I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time". In other words, it’s easy to be prolix but time, intellect, application and clarity are needed to be concise yet simultaneously informative. In this book, Steve Smith has achieved the "impossible": a perfect example of lucid concision in which he distills books that run to a thousand pages into around 180. "A Short Introduction" is just that and yet, Smith allows for statistical data (e.g., Red vs. White casualty figures, percentages of proletariat vs. peasants, etc) where necessary while also including his own enlightened perspective on the Bolshevik enterprise and yes: there are both good and bad points which should be acknowledged, regardless of one’s own political philosophy.By necessity, the story of the Revolution requires contextualization. Perhaps the prime catalyst was Russian involvement in WW-I. Russia was unequipped for battle against a sophisticated, determined professional army (Kaiserine Germany) backed by a large, modern, industrial economy. Yet, despite disaster after disaster, the Great Autocrat, Tsar Nicholas II, this arrogant, benighted and "divinely anointed" ruler was both intractable and sufficiently obtuse as to not recognize the unfolding debacle. A few concessions were made and then recanted. Thus, the stage was set. Kerensky’s successor government was limited and ineffectual in dealing with soldier and peasant demands and, fatally engaged with General Kornilov to maintain power. By dint of iron willpower and absolute adherence to a carefully defined program, Lenin succeeded in undermining the Provisional Government. He was masterfully aided by the Petersburg Soviet under the brilliant and supremely capable Trotsky. Smith capably reviews all this and much more, yet keeps the story "on track".The most contentious item - the legacy of the Revolution and its means/methods - is brilliantly stated. Anti-Communists (considering, that is, Soviet Party-State dictatorship as the functional equivalent of that construct) make much of Bolshevik atrocities and correctly so. However, in what context did they occur? "Between 1918 and February, 1922, it has been estimated that 280,000 were killed by the Cheka and Internal Security Troops, about half in the course of operations to mop up peasant insurgents. This suggests that perhaps 140,000 were executed directly by the Cheka - a bloodcurdling number to be sure...By contrast, the White terror, which has received far less attention...In Ukraine at least 100,000 Jews perished at the hands of unruly soldiers of Denikin...In leading Bolshevik circles concern was regularly expressed that the Cheka was out of control..." Does that excuse? No. Does it explain? Yes.Opposition parties (SR, Menshiviks, and others) were routinely outmatched by Lenin and his cadre of professional revolutionaries. How did that happen? Smith attributes their failure to organizational difficulties, ideological infighting and failure to adhere to a consistent program which could nimbly adapt to changing circumstances. Lenin, on the other hand, was expert. By October, 1921, he conceded that "War Communism" (a pragmatic adaptation

to the Civil War and international diplomatic isolation coupled with direct military intervention) wasn't working: he abandoned it. Food requisitions? A draconian but probably necessary expedient and, "That circumstances of war did much to dictate policy can be seen fromt he fact that een White regimes, commited to the free market, resorted to measures of economic compulsion in the 'interests of state'. Moreover, policies, whether carefully crafted or hastily cobbled together, threw up entirely unintended consequences that set parameters for future action."By the end of the March, 1921 with the crushing of the Kronstadt Sailors' Rebellion, all pretexts for a multi-party state were demolished and the Bolshevik dictatorship was established. Did the roots of the regime extend to Marxist theory? Was the ultimate outcome the result of various expedients that later crystallized programmatically? Was the Party-State a perversion of more noble ideals by Stalin and others? These topics are also nicely addressed.Finally, what does it all mean? The Revolution was likely the most important event of the Twentieth Century: "At a philosophical level, the revolution raised profound questions about how justice, equality, and freedom can be reconciled that are still relevant today, even if the answers the Bolsheviks gave to those questions were fatally flawed. We live in a world wher eit has become hard to think critically about the principals on which society is organized. Everything conspires to make us acquiesce in the world as it is, to discourage the belief that it can be radically reordered on more just and equal lines. Yet that is precisely what the Bolsheviks undertook to achieve. I write at a time when there has been a rise in 'anti-capitalist' protests, motivated by the revulsion at the staggering inequalities that charaterize our world. As the 21st century dawns, it seems safe to conclude that there will be elements in the Russian Revolution that continue to inspire, even as there are many that will stand as a dreadful warning." This is what good history is all about and I've never seen a finer synopsis that this one.

This short examination of the events of the Russian revolution and rise of communism covers all the important questions and leads on to more detailed reading for any particular issue. The attention devoted to social and cultural issues after the defeat of the Whites stimulates our curiosity. More can and has been said about art, music, and literature in the last few years of Lenin's life but Smith's introduction will motivate a reader to search out more information. The book is an outstanding value.

Dr. Fitzpatrick is a titan in her field and that much is clear in her writing and blessedly tight analysis. While it is, by no means, a thorough analysis of the Revolution Fitzpatrick has laid out the groundwork for further study and research. Her bibliography is likewise well composed and helpful. This was a joy to read for a class otherwise composed of seemingly endless dry tomes.

Excellent short summary of the revolution in its various phases, stopping just prior to WWII. Very well written. This should be assigned in expository writing classes as a model of concision and precision.

For anyone interested in a short, coherent and compelling history of the Russian Revolution, this is an exceptional read.Beginning with a chapter on the pre-conditions of the revolution, and then rendering a step-by-step account of Lenin's and the Bolshevik actions that precipitated the revolution, we have here a single document that makes the entire process, including the purges that terminated the revolution, understandable. I was particularly struck by the charismatic power and control that Lenin exercised over the entire movement almost until his death in 1924.The one enormous weakness of this text is what I would call its "sanitized" version of events. By that I mean that it glosses over the horrors and the colossal human costs involved in what transpired in Russia between 1917 and 1937. That cost is estimated by some to have involved taking the lives, directly or indirectly, of up to 35 million people.Fitzpatrick speaks about the "liquidation" of certain groups external to the revolution, such as the kulaks, the intelligentsia, the bourgeoisie, and she also mentions the internal purges within the Bolshevik party itself, but these horrific events are passed over lightly and quickly.One of my favorite aspects of this enlightening textis the framework that Fitzpatrick uses to illuminate what happened, emphasizing the ever-dangerous and ultimately destructive utopianism that characterizes most, but not all, revolutions.

Presenting a 'very short introduction' to the Russian Revolution must necessarily be dense. I found it dense to distraction. There is no doubting the scholarship, however. I finished the book with a much clearer understanding of that tumultuous time, especially for the heroic Russian commoners, that greatly changed the history of Western Civilization.Mike Crawford

Well researched and well written.

I really enjoyed this book. I found Fitzpatrick's explanation of what happened AFTER the Russian Civil War to be especially interesting. Her description of Stalin's first "Five Year Plan" as a continuation of the revolution was new information to me.She does a great job throughout the book of describing political events in Russia in a way that is exciting and keeps the reader interested. I recommend this book.Tom Blackstone, Author ofÃ Â Philosophy: What It Is and Why We Need It.

Download to continue reading...

I Love My Dad (Russian kids books, English Russian book): Russian childrens books, bilingual russian books, russian books for kids (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Russian picture books: Learn Russian (Counting book 1-20): Children's English-Russian Picture book (Bilingual Edition) Russian Learning.Russian books for children (Russian Edition),Russian Bilingual learn animals in russian, Russian Children's Picture Book (English Russian Bilingual Books): russian for children ; Russian Children Books ; Russian Books for toddlers ; russian kids books I Love My Mom (English Russian Bilingual books, russian childrens books): russian kids books, english russian children's books (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Children's Russian book: Counting Fun: Russian kids book. Russian books for kids.Children's Picture Book English-Russian (Bilingual Edition), Russian ... Picture books) (Volume 2) (Russian Edition) I Love to Eat Fruits and Vegetables (english russian children's books, bilingual russian books): russian bilingual books, russian kids books, russian ... Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love to Share (russian kids books, bilingual russian english): russian childrens books, kids books in russian (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love my Mom (Bilingual Russian English, Russian childrens books): russian kids books, bilingual russian books, ESL for kids (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) I Love My Dad (russian kids books, russian bilingual): Childrens Russian books, russian for kids, detskie knigi (Russian English Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Children's books in Russian: Peekaboo baby.Ã•Å¡Ã‘Æ'-Ã•ÂºÃ‘Æ', Ã•Â Ã•Â Ã•Â»Ã‘â Ã‘Ë†: Russian kids book,Children's Picture Book English-Russian (Bilingual Edition), Russian English ... (Bilingual English-Russian Picture books 1) Babushka: Russian Recipes from a Real Russian Grandma: Real Russian Food & Ukrainian Food (Russian food, Russian recipes, Ukrainian food, Polish recipes) The Mexican Revolution: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) The Industrial Revolution: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) Russian childrens books: I Love to Keep My Room Clean (Bilingual): English Russian Bilingual Book Children's Book (English Russian Bilingual Collection) (Russian Edition) Childrens Russian books : Jojo's Playful Day - Cute Russian book for children (Kids ages 3-6) bedtime reading (bilingual Russian): Elephant book for children ... - Bilingual Russian books for kids 1) Learn Russian language with Matreshka #2: an audio magazine for Russian learners in Russian language about Russian culture Learn Russian: 300+ Essential Words In Russian - Learn Words Spoken In Everyday Russia (Speak Russian, Russia, Fluent, Russian Language): Forget pointless phrases, Improve your vocabulary The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) Christianity: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short

Introductions)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help