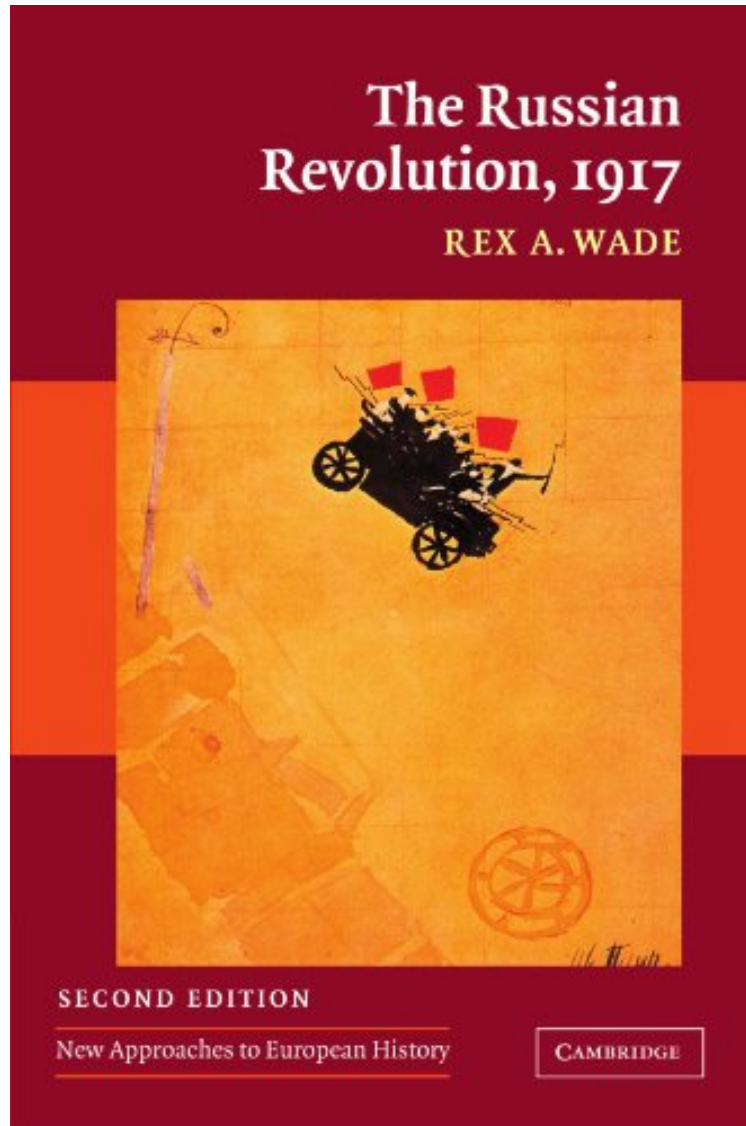


[Ebook free] The Russian Revolution, 1917 (New Approaches to European History)

The Russian Revolution, 1917 (New Approaches to European History)

Professor Rex A. Wade

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Professor Rex A. Wade : The Russian Revolution, 1917 (New Approaches to European History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Russian Revolution, 1917 (New Approaches to European History):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Overall, a very thorough treatment of the "Great Russian Revolution," utilizing recent scholarship and Professor Wade's own rich analysis. Little-appreciated insights

abound, such as the unfortunate Alexander Kerensky's blundering actions providing the catalyst for the October "coup." Yet I withhold the fifth star in this review because I differ with Professor Wade on a couple of important points. He is much too sanguine on the potential of the Constituent Assembly to deal with Russia's problems by the time of its convocation in January of 1918. By late 1917 Russia was far too polarized for any parliamentary regime to fill the breach. For the CA to have been effective it must have been elected as scheduled in the late summer. Past that date, things had gone far beyond its powers. Even had it prevailed, it would still have had to deal with an insurgent left, and to defend itself would have had to rely on the old army to suppress striking workers, rebellious peasants, seceding minorities, mutinous sailors and soldiers, as well as invading Germans: a recipe for right-wing dictatorship. In fact the old army had betrayed Russian parliamentarianism twice: first in the attempted Kornilov putsch of August, 1917, and then by Admiral Kolchak's overthrow of the Constituent Assembly in Exile in Ufa in November, 1918. Interestingly, the Socialist Revolutionary Party leader Victor Chernov had the unenviable distinction of having been overthrown twice in one year by both opposing sides: as president of the CA by the Bolsheviks, and then by Kolchak. The CA's majority consisted of the same moderate socialists whose waffling on the war and popular demands for land and peace had already provoked the "extremes of right and left." Parliamentarianism was too weak and Russia too riven for the CA to have been the happy end suggested by Professor Wade. Also he posits that anti-Bolsheviks had "no other choice" but to take up arms after the CA's closing. This is patently untrue. The next three years were rife with many non-violent opposition movements, specifically waves of strikes in the cities and industrial centers, as well as non-Bolshevik political opposition in the soviets. That these non-violent protests did not succeed no more counts against them than the failure of armed struggle to unseat the Bolsheviks. These caveats taken under consideration, I still highly recommend Professor Wade's book as an effective antidote to the cold war historiography which still stereotypes the subject.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Ann Bouffard
Exactly as described with quick delivery. Thank you very much!
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very well-done overview of the Russian Revolution
By M. A. Krul
This book is mainly a narrative history of the Russian Revolution in its two stages of February and October and everything in between. Rex Wade, a historian at George Mason University, has given a very accessible and solid summary of the developments, issues and people involved in this work. What's more, the book also pays significant attention to women, peasants, and the various minority nationalities, all groups that tend to be forgotten in the all too Petrograd-centered popular histories of the Revolution. Wade of course also provides the necessary background, both historically (the emancipation of the serfs, the Revolution of 1905, etc.), and of the structure of the parties, their respective bases of power, and their internal points of strife. He does a great job explaining somewhat complicated issues such as the conflict within the Socialist-Revolutionary party, the basis of the split between Mensheviks and Bolsheviks, and the importance of "revolutionary defensism" to the Provisional Government and its subsequent downfall. Wade further shows that contrary to some allegations, the Bolsheviks and their left-radical allies did have a popular majority to overthrow the Provisional Government, though clearly NOT to disperse the Constituent Assembly. He rightfully points this latter act on the part of Lenin, heavily contested even within his own party, as illegitimate and unnecessary, but that the Bolsheviks up to that point had behaved perfectly in accordance with the newly developing soviet system. "The Russian Revolution, 1917" is an excellent introduction to the history of that fateful year, and recommended for casual readers and beginners interested in the subject. Note that due to the introductory nature of the book, there is very little by way of economic analysis, nor is any significant attention paid to developments in culture.

Combining his own long term study of the revolution with the best of contemporary scholarship. Rex Wade presents a revised and expanded account of one of the pivotal events of modern history in this second edition. Within an overall narrative that provides a clear description of the 1917 revolution, he introduces several new approaches on its political history and complexity. Wade discredits many of the myths and misconceptions that have clouded studies of the period. He also considers the social history of the revolution and incorporates people and places too often left out of the story, including women, national minority peoples, and peasantry front soldiers.

of first edition: 'This work is, without a doubt, the best single-volume treatment of the 1917 revolution ever published in English ... a remarkably readable synthesis of exceptionally diverse recent scholarship ... Rex Wade has done the field a great service with the publication of *The Russian Revolution, 1917*, which is bound to become a standard choice of syllabi in Russian history of the revolutionary period.' Slavic of first edition: 'Read Wade, Rex Wade, his *The Russian Revolution, 1917* ends logically with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in January 1918; it combines traditional history from above with more recent history from below; it has no ideological preconceptions; it is new, admirably brief, and it is good.' Carter Elwood, *Revolutionary Russia* of first edition: '... students and the interested general public will choose Wade's book not only for his 'rethinking our narrative and interpretation of several major features of the revolution' but also for the enjoyment of engaging with a good history of one of the seminal events of the last century that is well told.' Anthony Bidgood, *Eras Journal* of first edition: '... it is a thoughtful and balanced work which logically [] describes the sequence and outcome of the events of 1917 ... as of today it is the

book that logically balances the many, divergent extremes of past interpretations of the Russian revolution.' Buldakov V. P., *Otechestvennaya Istoriya* of the first edition: 'Rex Wade has written an excellent short history of the Russian Revolution.' Graeme Gill, *Russian* of first edition: 'Wade has written a very reliable largely political account produced to a very high standard of accuracy of information and absence of factual and typographical error.' *Europe-Asia Studies* of first edition: 'Rex Wade's succinct book is reliable and judicious ... it is exemplary in its clear exposition of the latest historical literature.' *BBC History Magazine* About the Author Rex A. Wade is Professor of Russian History at George Mason University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Russian history.