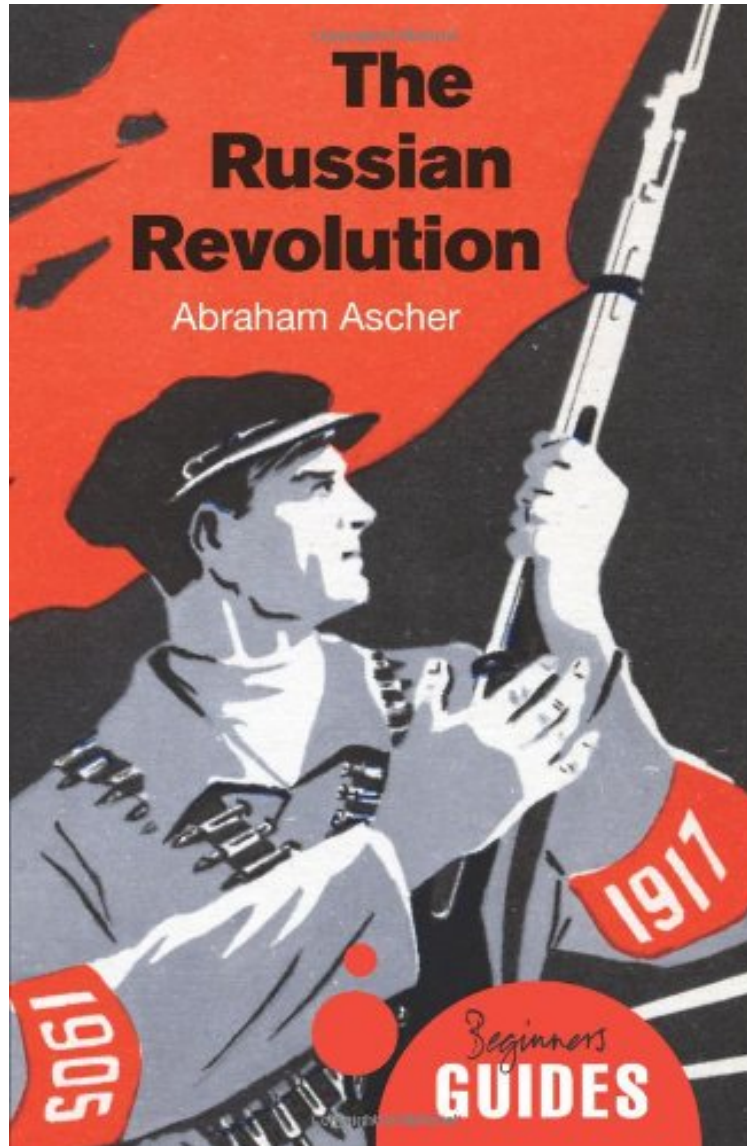


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The Russian Revolution: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides)

Abraham Ascher

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Abraham Ascher : The Russian Revolution: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Russian Revolution: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Concise, readable primer of Russian RevolutionBy MRR7417This is a great primer that covers the Russian Revolution, from its roots in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century to "Stalin's completion of the revolution." The author provides the various reasons for why this political and social

phenomenon began, how it evolved during the its formative years during the 1910s-1920s, and finally how it became a "dictatorship more authoritarian and ruthless than the Tsars."The author does a thorough job of explaining why the Russian people were so disgruntled with the Tsarist government and how the Bolsheviks gradually gained power, both popularly and perniciously. One important point he makes throughout the book is that the revolution wasn't complete once the Bolsheviks assumed power in 1917; Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin all consolidated power throughout the next two decades through various measures (and with plenty of political intrigue) to complete the revolution. I particularly like how he highlights various and sometimes conflicting arguments made by other scholars regarding the motives of some of the people involved, and gives the generally accepted views. He doesn't have an apparent axe to grind, but Mr. Ascher unwaveringly states the failures of the people and policies along the way, which is appreciated. Finally, he effectively uses (often horrifying) statistics to illustrate different points, like the vacillation of the economy or the casualties of Stalin's purges.Overall I'd recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding the essentials of the Russian Revolution and basic Russian sociopolitical history from 1900-1930. Very readable and concise, but thorough enough to help one understand the main topics!

1917: the year a series of rebellions toppled three centuries of autocratic rule and placed a group of political radicals in charge of a world power. Here, suddenly, was the first modern socialist state, "a kingdom more bright than any heaven had to offer". But the dream was short-lived, bringing in its wake seventy years of conflict and instability that nearly ended in nuclear war.How could such a revolution take place and what caused it to go so very wrong? Presenting a uniquely long view of events, Abraham Ascher takes readers from the seeds of revolution in the 1880s right through to Stalin's state terror and the power of the communist legacy in Russia today. Original and shrewd, Ascher's analysis offers an unparalleled introduction to this watershed period in world history

"The best, most concise and most reliable introduction." - Walter Laqueur - Former director of the Institute of Contemporary History and Emeritus Professor, Georgetown University"Perfect for the general reader. Original and insightful. Highly recommended." - Guenter Lewy - Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst"Erudite and engaging. Ascher's gems of insight will make it required reading for all students of the Russian Revolution."Seymour Becker - Professor Emeritus of History, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey"Few readers can fail to come away armed with invaluable knowledge after dipping into Oneworld's Beginner's Guides series. Insightful and informative, they make mind-boggling concepts simple and stimulate further inquiry." — Christina Borg, Sunday Times