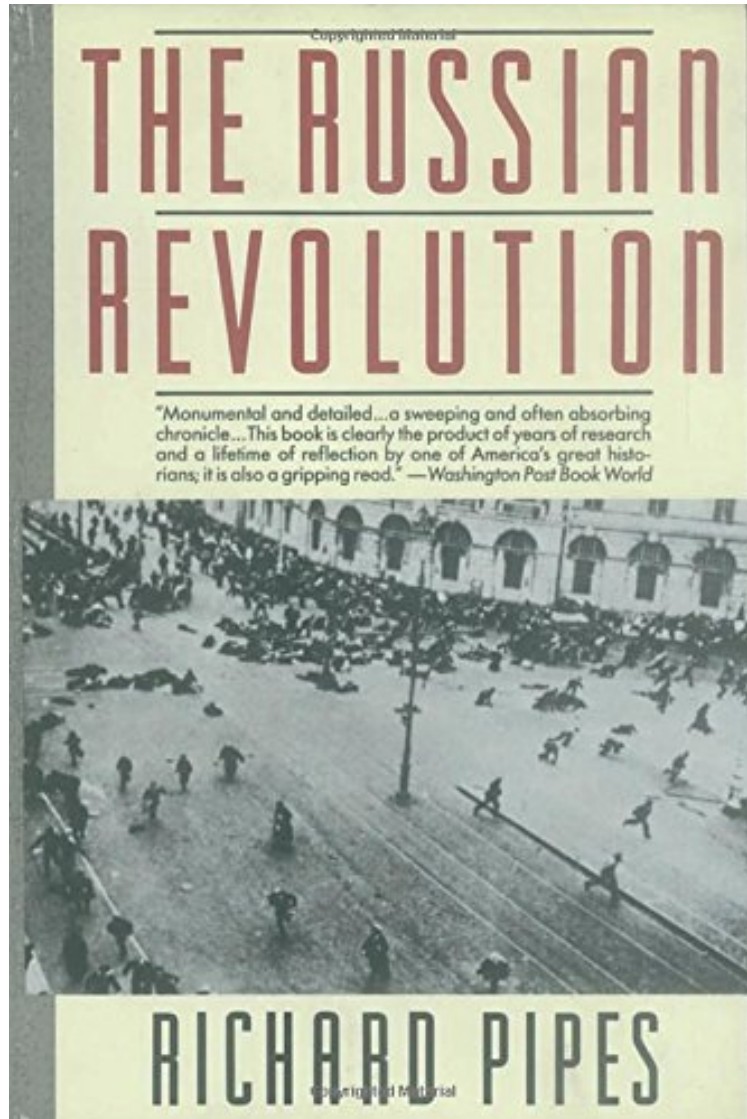


The Russian Revolution

Richard Pipes

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#152826 in Books 1991-11-05 1991-11-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x 1.95 x 6.13l, 2.91 #File Name: 0679736603976 pages | File size: 18.Mb

Richard Pipes : The Russian Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Russian Revolution:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Tragic HistoryBy Ellery GreenThis, the second volume in the authors trilogy, is a detailed description of a relatively brief period. Even so, some events are left to the third volume, consequently sacrificing some sense of chronology. For anyone interested in Russia this book and its companions are an excellent resource. My only reason for laying the book down occasionally was that I needed time to digest the

surfeit of information. For example, the reasons for the murder of the royal family were fully explained. The story, though familiar, was made more shocking and reasonable from the Bolshevik point of view. The thesis that the Russian government was indeed patrimonial was further proven by Lenin's concern that the family could serve as a rallying point. Perhaps the chaotic character of events is well defined by the fact that I was left confused concerning things like Kerensky's failure, Rasputin's role, and the Bolshevik view of the peasants. Evidently the author's opinion that there was a Bolshevik coup, not a revolution, is now generally accepted. The book naturally leads the reader into the third volume. I am glad that I read it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Zach A complete history of the Russian Revolution from 1871 through 19201 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Stan Oakes Chapter 4 on "The Intelligentsia" leading to the formation of the social sciences. Rare expose.

Mr. Pipes writes trenchantly, and at times superbly....No single volume known to me even begins to cater so adequately to those who want to discover what really happened to Russia....Nor do I know any other book better designed to help Soviet citizens to struggle out of the darkness."-- Ronald Hingley, The New York Times Book Review Ground-breaking in its inclusiveness, enthralling in its narrative of a movement whose purpose, in the words of Leon Trotsky, was "to overthrow the world," The Russian Revolution draws conclusions that have already aroused great controversy in this country--and that are certain to be explosive when the book is published in the Soviet Union. Richard Pipes argues convincingly that the Russian Revolution was an intellectual, rather than a class, uprising; that it was steeped in terror from its very outset; and that it was not a revolution at all but a coup d'etat -- "the capture of governmental power by a small minority."

From Publishers Weekly With erudition lightly worn, Harvard historian Pipes, in this massive, wonderfully vivid, gripping chronicle, stresses the role of liberals both in the Russian revolution of 1905, for which the Communists later claimed credit, and in the upheavals of 1917. He attributes the failure of the February 1917 revolution to Alexander Kerensky's rash actions, his doctrinaire vision of democracy and his dissolution of the police and the provincial bureaucracy, which plunged the nation into anarchy. He argues persuasively that the Bolsheviks' October 1917 putsch was not a true revolution, but a classic coup d'etat. His portrayal of the backward Russian peasantry, scarcely touched by westernization, and of the intelligentsia, "self-appointed spokesman" for over nine-tenths of the populace, lays the groundwork for his discerning analysis of how Lenin built a one-party dictatorship. No other book so brilliantly clarifies the inner dynamics of the Russian Revolution. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The author, a distinguished Harvard historian, seeks to present a comprehensive view of the Russian Revolution, tracing its roots in the half century before 1917, a period he has already examined in *Russia Under the Old Regime* (LJ 3/15/75). His new book, which will also be published in the Soviet Union, should provoke lively debate in the age of glasnost, for it is an unsparing indictment of Bolshevism. Wide ranging in its coverage, based on a profound knowledge of the Russian past and of relevant Western and Soviet scholarship, the work analyzes the direction of Russian development to the Revolution (without whitewashing prerevolutionary figures such as Nicholas II), then goes on to examine the origins and entrenchment of Bolshevism, which Pipes sees as a savagely amoral force. If Soviet power in its first years brought any benefits at all, they are, in this evaluation, insignificant compared to the ghastly price paid for them by the Russian people. This is an important book.- Robert H. Johnston, McMaster Univ., Hamilton, Ontario Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A monumental study...of absorbing interest [by] the distinguished historian of modern Russia ...Lucidly written, unsurpassed in detail and comprehensiveness."-- Wall Street Journal "Mr. Pipes provides invaluable background to today's headlines....Few efforts have been made to create such a comprehensive work.... Pipes is a pathfinder."-- The New York Times