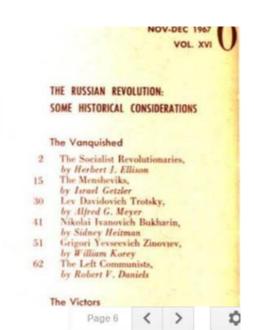


PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM

Problems of Communism is a bimonthly publication. Its purpose is to provide analyses and significant background information on various aspects of world communism today. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Government. Editorial office: U.S. Information Agency, 1776 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C., 20547.

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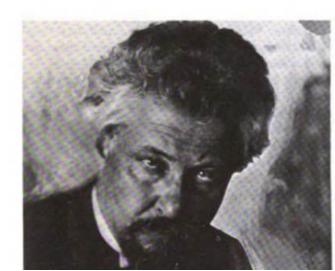
wishes, while the party leadership temporized and Lenin stood by prepared to exploit the consequences.

The Bolshevik Revolution initiated a series of events which led rapidly to the division and destruction of the SR Party. The Bolshevik coup found the party's Center once again incapable of a united initiative. The Right-Center leadership continued to favor a government and a policy little different from those which Lenin had shattered, while Chernov's Left-Center group, though opposed to Bolshevism, was intent upon forming an alternative regime far more radical than the Provisional Government. The stalemate in the party's Center had been, of course, an all-too-familiar element in the inglorious history of the SRs since February.

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he break of the Left SRs with the rest of the party occurred at the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets (October 25-26). The Left SRs had already rejected the Provisional Government, agreeing with the Bolsheviks that it must be replaced by a revolutionary socialist government. However, they had felt that it was preferable to wait for the Constituent Assembly to create such a government, counting on the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, meanwhile, to defend their cause. They had also rejected Lenin's idea of a power seizure in October as premature and dangerous, a plan likely to fail and thereby to encourage a Right-wing counter-revolution.





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When the Bolsheviks nonetheless succeeded in overthrowing the Provisional Government, the Left SRs were quick to join them. Feeling that the revolution was now in Bolshevik hands, the Leftists favored collaboration as a means of moderating Bolshevik policy. The rejection of this course by the rest of the party initiated a break which became final when the Leftists refused to join the rest of the party delegation in a walkout from the Congress in protest against the Bolshevik coup." Subsequently read out of the party by the Rightist leadership, the Left SRs moved toward closer collaboration with the Bolsheviks. By an agreement reached on November 15, the Left SR-controlled peasants' soviets were merged at the top administrative level with the Bolshevik-dominated workers' soviets. Three days later a Left SR, and former head of the Peasants' Soviet of Kazan province, A. L. Kalegaev, became Commissar for Agriculture.

(The Socialist Revolutionaries, Herbert J. Ellison. In: Problems of Communism, US Information Agency, Abraham Brumberg, November-December 1967, Vol. XVI, p. 6) https://books.google.ca/books?id=wlRXj8GklKcC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

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And Now, No More Problems of Communism - The New York Times

The New York Times

WORLD | And Now, No More Problems of Communism

As Communism has died out around the world, so have the cottage industries that owed their existence to it. The latest victim is Problems of Communism, the leading journal of Communist affairs, which has been published since 1952 by the United States Information Agency. The final issue is due toward the end of June.

 $\underline{https://www.nytimes.com/1992/05/31/world/and-now-no-more-problems-of-communism.html}$

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The crux of the problem was the certainty that in any free election throughout Russia the majority of the votes would go to the anti-bolshevik Socialist Revolutionaries. The left wing of this party only became a separate entity after 19 November when its first congress met, less than a week before the date fixed for the elections to the Constituent Assembly. The lists of candidates for the elections had been prepared some time before the party had split. Moreover, such indications as there are do not suggest that the new Left Socialist Revolu-

("The Origin of the Communist Autocracy: Political Opposition in the Soviet State First Phase 1917–1922", Leonard Schapiro, 1954, p. 81)

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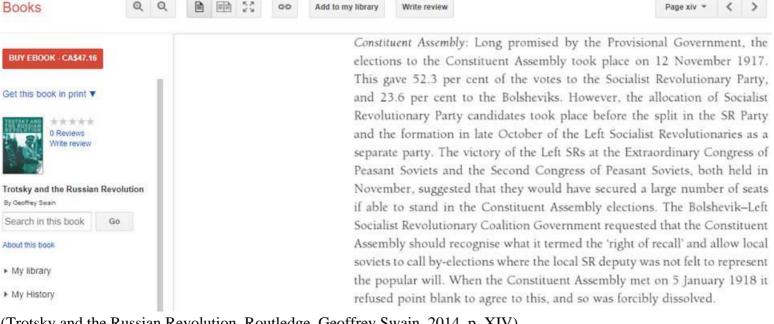
By Peter Reddaway

Fellow Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars German, French, and Italian soon, in 1940, took him to work in the BBC's Monitoring Service at Caversham. Two years later he moved to the General Staff at the War Office, and in 1945-46 he served in the Intelligence Division of the German Control Command, attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

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https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/op170_leonard_bertram_schapiro_reddaway_1984.pdf



(Trotsky and the Russian Revolution, Routledge, Geoffrey Swain, 2014, p. XIV)

tandfonline.com

Full article: Introduction



Geoffrey Swain's interest in Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe more generally originated from the period of his career in the 1980s when he was a report writer for the BBC's Monitoring Service at Caversham. During those years there were two dominant stories https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09668136.2016.1259876

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Lenin's policy, if successful, would be far more dangerous to the stability of Europe than Trotski's.

Closely linked up with Lenin's international policy is his present internal policy. Here again he differs from Trotski. It has recently been announced by the Bolshevik wireless that several Mensheviks have accepted the Bolshevik régime, and that their paper "Vperyod" ("Forward") has again been allowed to appear in Moscow. (In this connection it is interesting to note that in Petrograd, where Zinoviev is Dictator, not even Maxim Gorki's "Novaya Zhizn" has had permission to reappear.) At the same time several social revolutionary members of the Constitutent Assembly from Ufa have come to Moscow and entered into relations with the Bolsheviks. Though their terms were not fully accepted by the Bolsheviks they have agreed to compromise, and offered them. It is stated, though there has been no confirmation of this, that Chernov was due in Moscow on the 3rd February—with the exception of Chernov no other well-known names have been quoted as having come to terms with the Bolshevik Government.

Already a good deal of use has been made of the above facts by the Socialist press abroad to show that the Bolshevik Government is now becoming more moderate and that it is receiving more widespread support. Those, however, whether Englishmen, Frenchmen, Italians, or Russians, who have lately left Petrograd and Moscow are unanimous in saying that these political manœuvres have not made the slightest impression in Russia. They are solely intended for propaganda abroad. The hatred felt by the overwhelming majority of the population—by workmen and peasants as well as by the bourgeoisie—cannot be in the very least affected by political agreements between certain more or less obscure party leaders, when such agreements effect no improvement in the conditions of life. The Bolsheviks are hoping by these devices to keep up their credit among Socialists in Western Europe who, without knowing the real conditions in Russia and the real state of feeling of all classes of the population, are still arguing in terms of Western European Socialism.

February 14, 1919.

(MEMORANDUM ON TWO TENDENCIES IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, Political Intelligence Department, Foreign Office, Russia /020, February 15, 1919. In: Foreign Office (1917-1918), p. 58)