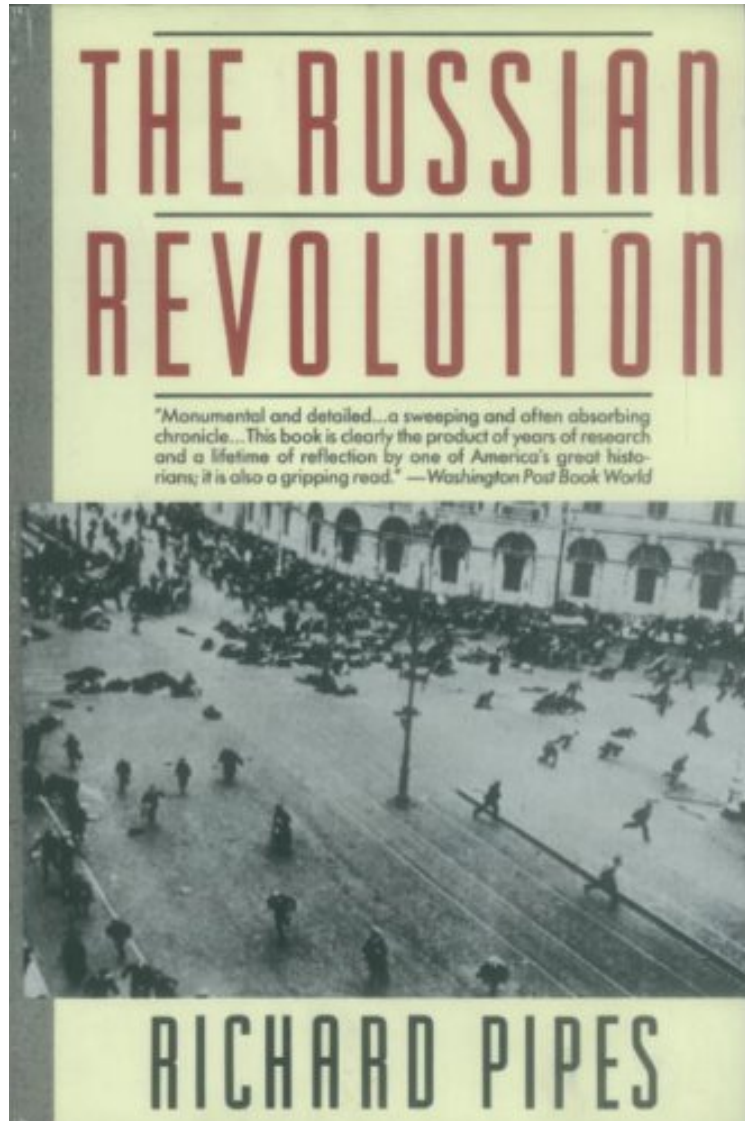


(Free pdf) The Russian Revolution

## The Russian Revolution

Von Richard Pipes

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**Von 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:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good Antidote to Soviet ApologiaVon Allan from San FranciscoIt's amazing how many histories of the USSR or the Russian Revolution will gloss over the waves of terror they initiated, or imply that this terror was "necessary," or speak of it in the same phlegmatic way that one would describe routine events. This makes a stark contrast to the way that moral indignation is NOT withheld from histories of Nazi Germany. Professor Pipes should be commended for

expressing moral indignation about inexcusable and unnecessary tyranny and bloodshed, just as William L. Shirer deserves commendation for telling the story of Nazi Germany the way it really happened. (Did this mean that Shirer was "biased"? If he had downplayed the Nazi terror and devoted hundreds of pages to Nazi "accomplishments" such as full employment, would this have been an accurate and meaningful account of the Third Reich?) Indeed, the fact that Pipes' book attracts criticism from intellectuals for having revealed the true face of Lenin's Bolsheviks and the Soviet government they installed--in all its ruthlessness, depravity, and mendacity--is strong proof that his book's focus on the role of depraved intellectuals and depraved theories in the establishment of the USSR is right on the money. As Pipes pointed out, one of its founding ideas can be traced back to Rousseau--the idea that man is a mere creature of his "environment," and therefore completely malleable. This amounts to an engraved invitation to bloodthirsty monsters like Lenin and Stalin to start thinking that mankind should be forced to become "good," regardless of the human cost. It's sad that intellectuals--those ceaseless announcers of irony--haven't spotted the irony here: policies that necessitate bloodshed are not "good" and cannot lead to "good." Another valuable contribution of this book is that the author is not afraid to show that Bolshevism was the creation of the upper-middle-class intelligentsia, not the workers or the peasants, and served the interests of the intelligentsia, not the lower classes. Pipes' book should be read by every person interested in history who is not afraid to be shown that ideas have consequences, and that these are often inexcusably horrible.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Superb, definitive and poignant in its wisdom  
 Von Ein Kunde  
 As for Russian history, this book is the bible regarding the revolutionary period. For French Revolution fans, here is Russia's version of "citizen" action constructed by diabolical architects who kept France's success always in front of them. As for political science, this book is wise in its interpretation of political action and didactic in its interpretation about this failed experiment in alleged utopianism. Once read one is convinced of Russia's failure in governing and appalled at its deliberate evil perpetrated by a few upon millions who sought and needed true freedom. Prof. Pipes brings home accountability for the actions of a few dangerous men. This book is a brilliant, an enlightening historical study about Russia, history in general and man as a creature who is always seeking power and social control. Pipes clearly reveals that history does repeat itself. And, like Winston Churchill, reveals how good people can understand evil actions if they understand history. Superb, superb, superb.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book is the bible on the topic . . .  
 Von Ein Kunde  
 As a history student majoring in Russia I have to say this book is the bible on the topic of the Russian Revolution. Pipes proves with enough arguments all his points throughout the book. Since the origins of the Russian Revolution to the last chapter on the 'Red Terror' Pipes shows how Lenin destroyed all prospects of the revolution the moment he entered the sphere of politics in Russia. As Pipes argues, the origins of the revolution started with intellectuals protesting for the delay in the implementation of the reforms of Tsar Alexander II. Most of what the ideals of the Russian Revolution were based, was on intellectuals representing the peasants and workers claiming to have political representation in the political decisions of the country, beginning with the 'zemstvo' and concluding in the revolutions of 1905 and of February 1917. As Pipes argues, when the Bolsheviks conquered power, they destroyed all the ideals of the revolution since they triumphed by a coup d'etat and not by a genuine revolution as it took place in 1905 and in February of 1917. The ideals of previous revolutionaries, to live in a country where all sectors of society would have a political voice in the government were all destroyed by the Bolsheviks (who besides betraying and penetrating the 'soviets') they also established an absolute tyranny where only the Bolsheviks could decide the future of the nation, thus prohibiting other parties and establishing a brutal dictatorship based on terror. This of course did not have anything to do with the ideals of previous revolutionaries who fought for a revolution where the ideal of freedom prevailed and not the imposition of one party which won its way to power by a coup organized by Lenin and Trotsky. The book is of course 'communists' worst nightmare'

Kurzbeschreibung  
 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 the Trade Paperback edition. 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. Pressestimmen "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