

incorporating recent research about the consequences and significance of the Affair for twentieth-century France. He contrasts the intensity of the Affair at its center in Paris with the relative indifference to it when viewed from the provinces, and deftly analyzes the "degree of social mobilization" that transformed it into a major political battle that threatened the survival of the Third Republic. He also analyzes the changing compositions and commitment of Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards. The former included the Radicals led by Clemenceau, a significant group among the socialists and, eventually, some members of the government, though the author notes that for a considerable time anti-Dreyfusards had the support of "the deliberately silent Republican majority." Other moderate anti-Dreyfusards included many in the military and those traditionally opposed to the Republic, while the "violent" anti-Dreyfusards were driven by a virulent antisemitism to which the politicized elements of French Catholicism contributed. Cahm is particularly effective in discussing the emergence of the modern intellectual in the course of the Affair, on the political Right as well as the Left. While the tight narrative sections may be difficult for students unfamiliar with French history, the interpretive sections are excellent both for the general reader and for the teacher.

The book's technical production could have benefitted from closer proofreading and the avoidance of far too many one-sentence paragraphs that lend an unnecessarily telegraphic quality to the account. The author provides a helpful chronological chart and a valuable bibliography.

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Christopher Read. *From Tsar to Soviets: The Russian People and Their Revolution, 1917-21.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pp. vi, 330. Cloth, \$45.00 ISBN 0-19-52124-28. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-19-52124-1X.

Christopher Read states in his introduction that his purpose in writing this book is to examine the role of ordinary Russians in the 1917 revolution and its aftermath. He adds that "the tragedy of the revolution lies in the Bolsheviks' failure to recognize the real revolution of the time and instead to pursue their own highly structured presuppositions about what the revolution *should* have been like and what the chief actors *should* have been doing." To develop his thesis, Read takes us through a chronology of the revolutionary era in Russia. He examines the position and politics of the peasantry and the industrial laborers in the pre-1917 period and at regular intervals through 1917 and the era of the Civil War. He contends that peasants were interested primarily in the communal ownership of land and the availability of goods in exchange for crops. The industrial workers were most concerned about wages, working conditions, and control within the factories.

Peasants and workers found the Bolsheviks appealing in 1917 because Bolshevik rhetoric matched their concerns. As the Civil War raged, the government resorted to forced requisitioning of food from the countryside and a diminution of worker control in

industry. The peasants and workers remained supportive of the Bolsheviks to stave off the worse threat of a White victory, but their initial enthusiasm had been replaced by expediency. When the Civil War came to an end, the natural concerns of peasants and workers reemerged, thus separating them from the increasingly authoritarian Bolshevik Party. Read contends that Lenin and his followers ignored the concerns of their constituency, stressing ideology over reality. Consequently, the chasm between the peasantry and the workers and the government widened. Even the advent of the New Economic Policy was not able to restore the earlier alliance.

The thesis is a very interesting one. Its development, however, presents several problems. As the author frequently acknowledges, research into peasant and worker attitudes is scanty. Much of his argument is based on perceptions rather than solid evidence. What may be merely coincidence is given the appearance of cause and effect. The paucity of primary source material cited suggests that the author has relied very heavily on a few studies done by others. There is relatively little reference to the archival material that has become available since the end of Communism.

The presentation is at times somewhat choppy. Sections on peasant and worker attitudes are interspersed within a general chronology of the period from 1917 to 1921. At times this chronology elaborates on facts that are well known. At other times, however, it assumes a sophisticated knowledge of the revolutionary era. Long introductory clauses are rarely set off by commas, making ideas hard to follow. The solid pages of text, interrupted only by an occasional map, make reading tedious.

There is much useful and interesting material to be found in this book. Faculty might easily and beneficially incorporate pieces of it into lectures on the revolution or on social history. However, I suspect that only the hardest graduate students will be sufficiently motivated to persevere to the end of the book.

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Michael Burleigh, ed. *Confronting the Nazi Past: New Debates on Modern German History*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. 198. Cloth, \$35.00. ISBN 0-312-16353-3.

Confronting the Nazi Past is a collection of eleven essays on the social history of Nazi Germany, covering such relatively neglected topics as forced labor, the persecution of "gypsies" and homosexuals, and high society during Nazi rule. Although the essays are uneven in quality, the book is nonetheless a valuable resource for both students and teachers.

Michael Burleigh, Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Wales, is the author of several acclaimed works on the Nazi period. In *Death and Deliverance* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), a study of the Nazi "euthanasia" program, Burleigh argued that the study of the Nazi period had entered a new era, characterized by the abandonment of various Marxist schools of thought and a turn away from "circular,