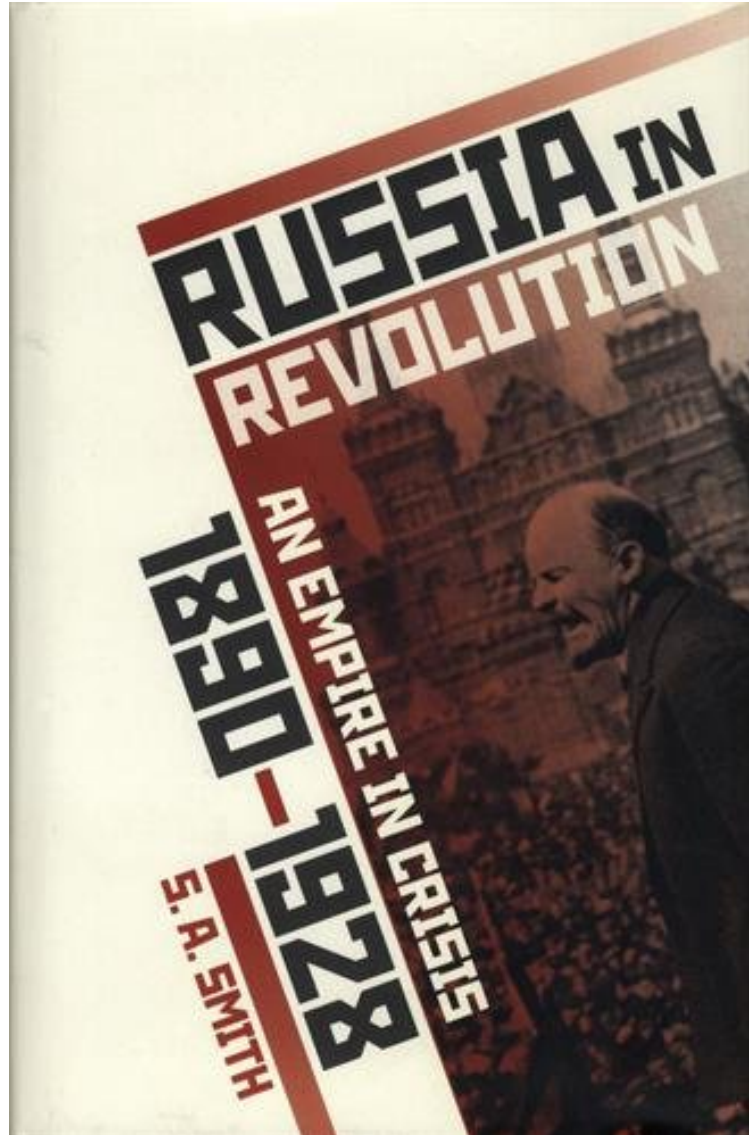


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Russia in Revolution: An Empire in Crisis, 1890 to 1928

S. A. Smith

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S. A. Smith : Russia in Revolution: An Empire in Crisis, 1890 to 1928 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russia in Revolution: An Empire in Crisis, 1890 to 1928:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Reds and WhitesBy Christian SchlectA worthwhile look back at the revolutionary upheavals that the Russian Empire absorbed from the last days of the tsars up to the iron fist of Joe Stalin.I found the final chapters of S.A.Smith's book the most interesting, especially on cultural changes and his conclusion. While I think this English professor is wrong in viewing Lenin and the Old Bolsheviks as rather positive

forces, his ideas on the counterfactual possibilities on events now one hundred years past are thought provoking. Professor Smith comes at the issue from the perspective of one highly skeptical of capitalism. (...as we move through the twenty-first century the compulsion of capitalism to accumulate is fast reaching a point where it imperils the very existence of the planet.") I think he would allow communism another go and hope a new Stalin wouldn't arise. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By John K. Excellent and detailed account of the Russian revolution. 2 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kim Booker Fantastic

The Russian Revolution of 1917 transformed the face of the Russian empire, politically, economically, socially, and culturally, and also profoundly affected the course of world history for the rest of the twentieth century. Now, to mark the centenary of this epochal event, historian Steve Smith presents a panoramic account of the history of the Russian empire, from the last years of the nineteenth century, through the First World War, the revolutions of 1917, and the establishment of the Bolshevik regime, to the end of the 1920s when Stalin unleashed violent collectivization of agriculture and crash industrialization upon Russian society. Drawing on recent archival scholarship, *Russia in Revolution* pays particular attention to the varying impact of the Revolution on different social groups: peasants, workers, non-Russian nationals, the army, women, young people, and the Church. The book provides a fresh approach toward the big, perennial questions about the Revolution and its consequences: why the tsarist government's attempt to implement political reform after the 1905 Revolution failed; why the First World War brought about the collapse of the tsarist system; why the attempt to create a democratic system after the February Revolution of 1917 never got off the ground; why the Bolsheviks succeeded in seizing power; and why Stalin came out on top in the power struggle inside the Bolshevik party after Lenin's death in 1924. A final chapter reflects on the larger significance of 1917 for the history of the twentieth century - and, for all its terrible flaws, what the promise of the Revolution might mean for us today.

"Smith provide[s] some rich illustration and detailed analysis of this process of social change and its impact on society." --James Eaden, *International Socialism* "It is one of *Russia in Revolution's* merits that the author lays out the scope of contending interpretations and leaves it to his readers to make up their own minds." --Robert Service, *Times Literary Supplement* "I can think of no better overview of the period written in recent years ... No one in Britain is better equipped to write about 1917 than Robert Service and Stephen Smith. Both men have devoted most of their scholarly lives to studying the revolution. They bring to their current works not just vast knowledge but also a deep commitment to balanced judgment, intellectual rigour and honesty, and accessible writing." --Dominic Lieven, *Financial Times* "A challenging revisionist history reassessing the ongoing significance of the Russian Revolution Smith's work will be declared a subject standard, sure to stand out for its stellar research." --*Library Journal* "A master historian of the Russian Revolution, S.A. Smith has wrestled the events and personalities, policies and mass politics of the years 1890 to 1928 into a coherent and compelling story of the entrance of ordinary people onto the stage of history and the brutal, violent descent of Russia into dictatorship. Smith explains better than anyone else how a revolution marked by radical democracy and hope for social justice sacrificed many of its ideals to win and hold power and inspire an international movement against capitalism and imperialism." --Ronald Grigor Suny, Distinguished University Professor of History and Political Science, University of Michigan About the Author Steve Smith is a historian of modern Russia and China, who was a graduate student at both Moscow State University and at Peking University. He is the author of many books and articles on the Russian and Chinese revolutions, including *Red Petrograd: Revolution in the Factories, 1917-18* (CUP, 1983) and *Revolution and the People in Russia and China: A Comparative History* (CUP, 2008), and is editor of *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Communism* (OUP, 2014). He taught for many years at the University of Essex, where he is an emeritus professor, and then at the European University Institute in Florence, before being elected to a senior research fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, in 2012.