



The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky

Vladimir Lenin

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Anarchy In Petrograd. The War: 4th Year 1908th. Aided by the garrison of Petrograd, the Maximalists under Lenin have deposed the Kerensky Government, and have assumed office. They announce that this was accomplished without bloodshed, that several Ministers have been arrested, and that M. Kerensky is a fugitive. In a proclamation to the Army Committees they state that authority of Government has been taken over by the Military Revolutionary Committee until the creation of a Government of Soviets. At the head of their programme is " the offer of an immediate democratic peace." They charge their adherents in the Army to arrest officers who do not join the movement immediately, and not to allow uncertain military detachments to leave the front for Petrograd. There has been fighting in Petrograd for possession of the Winter Palace, the headquarters of the Kerensky Government, in which a cruiser took part. The Palace is now in possession of the Maximalists. The Livonia has been crossed, and the enemy are pursuing the Italians towards the line of the Piave. Between the two rivers, the Italian report says, brave covering troops succeeded in detaining the enemy's advance. The larger units retired without molestation. Prisoners, says the German report, now number over 250,000, and captured guns to over 2,300. Part of the large increase is from the battles on the Tagliamento line. A large Italian force was cut off in the arm of the upper river between Tolmezzo and Gemona. Part of it is still holding out, but 17,000 men have had to surrender. Mr. Lloyd George, M. Painlevé, and Signor Orlando, with their advisers, have concluded their conference in Italy. General Maude has fought another brilliant action up the Tigris.

The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky Details

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From Reader Review The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky for online ebook

Thodoris Patsatzis says

Ο Λ?νιν περιγρ?φει με σκληρ? και δ?καιη γλ?σσα προς τον Κ?ουντσκι τις βασικ?ς διαφορ?ς επαν?στασης και μεταρρ?θμισης. Τις βασικ?ς διαφορ?ς του επαναστατικο? μαρξισμο? απ? τον προδοτικ? για την εποχ? εκε?νη και ?χι μ?νο ρεφορμισμ?. Βασικ? βιβλ?ο για να κατανοηθε? και η δεξ? στροφ? του Τσ?πρα και ?ποιου δεν ε?ναι αποφασισμ?νος να ?ρθει σε ρ?ξη με την ΕΕ, το ΔΝΤ και τη λιτ?τητα υπερασπιζ?μενος το λα?!

Aitor Merino Vázquez says

Muy interesante y con una polémica perfectamente transportable a hoy en día.

Eren Bu?lal?lar says

Hiç eskimeyen ve eskimeyecek bir kitap. Günümüzde Türkiye'de yap?lan soyut, s?n?fs?z demokrasi tart??malar?na dair de söyleyecek çok ?eyi var. Lenin genel bir demokrasi sorunundan bahsetmenin yanl?? oldu?unu, bir s?n?f?n demokrasi olarak uygulad??? rejimin di?er bir s?n?f için diktatörlük anlam?na geldi?ini ve burjuvaziye kar?? ?iddet uygulaman?n zorunlulu?unu aç?kça ortaya koymu?. Bir siyaset tip olarak Kautskyleri anlamak için elzem.

Audrey Bee says

Great work by Lenin! through criticism of Karl Kautsky the reader will not only learn about Marxist political strategy but also about various contexts, events, circumstances, and structures in relation to the German left and the early soviet union (i.e. despite "State Capitalism" getting thrown around a lot there was a national economic council whose officials were workers elected by trade unions).

Recommended.

Juan says

No sé si tener fiebre es lo mejor para leer este tipo de libros: por una parte no te concentras de la misma forma (y mi concentración ya es mala de por sí) y, por la otra, se te pueden ocurrir cosas raras y hacer ciertas interpretaciones equivocadas.

Este libro es una contestación a un escrito de Kautsky, ideólogo de la II Internacional, en el que Lenin critica su paso desde el marxismo a posturas burguesas, abandonando la revolución proletaria armada en pro del reformismo de la Asamblea Constituyente y resto de órganos del estado liberal clásico. Es por ello que no

hay que entender la obra directamente como un ensayo sobre lo que hay que hacer al estilo de El Estado y La Revolución, sino más bien una crítica concreta desde su postura a una persona que ha divergido del camino que Lenin consideraba correcto. Aún así, viene a desgranar de una forma bastante pasional (rayana en lo dogmático) todas sus teorías sobre el paso del estado capitalista/burgués/liberal a una sociedad comunista/anarquista (no olvidemos que comparten el fin pero no los medios) mediante la exposición contrastada de lo que dice Kautsky y lo que él propone.

En realidad es un libro tan válido en su exposición ideológica como el anteriormente mencionado (a pesar de ser menos conocido), pero cambiando el estilo pedagógico del primero, mucho más centrado en las posturas de Karl Marx y Friedrich Engels, por un estilo agresivo y visceral contra quién él creía que era el lobo disfrazado de oveja de la Revolución.

Steven says

3 stars for entertainment value.

Bhaskar Sunkara says

Written with such fire (and surprising wit) you can sense the immense respect that the author had for Kautsky pre-1914 (see Lars Lih's body of work). Lenin's analysis here is dead-on, but his view of the state, like that of Engels before him, is a crude instrumentalism. "The state is nothing but a machine for the suppression of one class by another," and other expositions of the Tsarist state and the one that emerged out of the February revolution are generic and fails to delimit the feudal aristocracy elements in the Russian state from that of more advanced bourgeois forms. In the same way, Trotsky's view in the 1940s of the blurring between types of bourgeois state forms (fascist, liberal democratic) is also unhelpful. More contemporary Marxist theorists handled this with more sophistication, admittedly aided with the gifts of hindsight and not writing in the midst of revolutionary ruptures. Socialists in advanced capitalist nations would do well to explore the political form of bourgeois society more before accepting Lenin's dicta and moving on. That's not to say fundamentally he's wrong. Essentially, Lenin is right to say that the bourgeois state cannot be transformed into a proletarian one and needs to be "smashed" at some point in the revolution struggle and, needless to say, his crude instrumentalism is of a lot more use than Kautsky's opportunism. Besides for the same aforementioned flaws that haunt "State and Revolution" this is a classic text that's actually a pretty breezy read.

pplofgod says

lenin the bolsheviks #rechts liberal kautsky

Aung Sett Kyaw Min says

This is a fiery response to the pamphlet "The Dictatorship of the Proletariat" Kautsky published in 1918. Here Lenin takes Kautsky to task for bending over backwards for the Mensheviks and bourgeoisie democrats

and in general failing to theoretically formulate the crucial questions pertaining to the nature of the state (an instrument by means of which one class suppresses the other). In Lenin's view, Kautsky's misplaced concerns with formal, "pure democracy" devoid of class content and class character, where the amorphous category of "people" is substituted for the concrete class content, and his accusation that the Soviets betrayed democracy, mistakenly seized state power, and made too many concessions to the small land-holding peasants, reveal the latter to be a bankrupt marxist, barely being a "marxist" in theory, while in practice he beholdens to the thought and practice of mensheviks and right socialist revolutionaries who wanted to prevent the bourgeoisie-peasant revolution from being carried out all the way through to its conclusion. Hence, the label "renegade"-someone who has lost his way.

In any case, Lenin's polemic has obviously piqued my interest in Kautsky's "pre-renegade" works.

Martin Empson says

Lenin notes at the end of the last chapter, that his last few lines were written on the same night that news reached Russia of the seizure of power in numerous German towns, including the capital by Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. For Lenin this in itself was the final rebuttal of Kautsky's politics and offered new hope for the Russia Revolution itself. Sadly this was a false dawn, but this neglected book of Lenin's remains a powerful declaration of the hopes of the revolution and a defence of the revolution itself.

Full review: <http://resolutereader.blogspot.co.uk/...>

Aaron Crofut says

A vile screed against a man who pointed out holes in the Soviet system and mainstream Marxist thought. Kautsky asked how a violent revolution could be prevented from collapsing into an oligarchical dictatorship, rather than the rule of the people. Lenin does not address that problem but rather accuses Kautsky of betraying Marxist thought. Marx is basically treated like prophets in the Old Testament, infallible.

Ironically enough, the all mighty History has proven Lenin wrong. Mankind will always have factions, and so long as the iron law of oligarchy remains, there will always be a distinction between those who have political power and those who do not. The larger the group of people, the more necessary it is. Marx never described the post revolution time in any detail for a reason: it ain't possible.

Alex Harris-MacDuff says

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Lenin is so salty in this, it's incredible.
