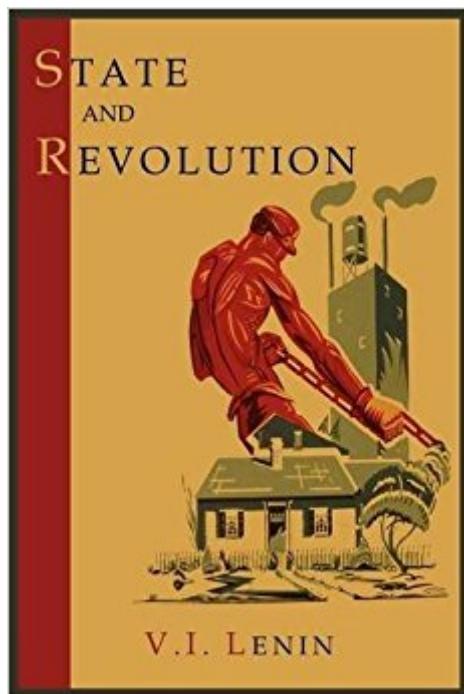


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State And Revolution



Synopsis

2011 Reprint of 1932 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. "State and Revolution" (1917) describes the role of the State in society, the necessity of proletarian revolution, and the theoretic inadequacies of social democracy in achieving revolution. It describes the inherent nature of the State as a tool for class oppression, a creation born of one social class's desire to control all other social classes. Whether a dictatorship or a democracy, the State remains in the control of the ruling class. Even in a democratic capitalist republic, the ruling class will never willingly relinquish political power, maintaining it via various strategies. Hence, according to this view, communist revolution is the sole remedy for the abolition of the state.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

V.I. Lenin was a leading member of the Bolshevik party in Russia from 1912 until his death in 1924, and is widely considered to have founded a distinct tradition in the struggle for revolutionary socialism, built from below. He is the author of celebrated works of theory such as State and Revolution, as well as widely misunderstood polemics like What is to be Done? Todd Chretien is a frequent contributor to Socialist Worker and the ISR. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Lots of paragraphs seem jumbled or out of order or perhaps even missing entire words, not sure

what was going on but it made it difficult to read in places.

Lenin wrote 'The State and Revolution' as the task of achieving socialism in modern industrial society. He focused on the relationship between the state and classes both in the past and in the future. He asserted that the government and their subordinate agencies were not impartial in handling conflicts amongst classes. For him history was largely a record of class struggle and that the state in every society pursues the interests of the ruling class at the expense of society. The state for Lenin was a vehicle of exploiting the oppressed. No ruling class allows its rule to be abolished without armed struggle therefore revolutions should be expected to be violent. He professed the working class would have to engage in such struggle if it ever was going to gain power. The objective for this struggle would be for the eradication of all class based discrimination. After this privileges and antagonisms and conflicts, which they engendered, would be eliminated classes themselves would disappear. Lenin affirmed the workers should dismantle the bourgeois state once power was seized; and then the state should be re-constructed after the bourgeois overthrow. The dictatorship of the proletariat would follow. An entire intermediate epoch would separate the destruction of the power of the capitalism and the inception of the fully classless and communist society. He believed to rid the tyrants a violent struggle was needed. Contrary to the beliefs of Karl Marx that socialist may be able to gain power peacefully. Lenin professed that the bourgeoisie state machine must consequently be smashed; this would be achieved with the removal of the standing army, the police, the civil service, the judiciary and the clergy. For him it was a campaign of through repression. He believed that the freedom established in the freest capitalistic democracies was fully enjoyable only by the rich, who were not exhausted by the material and spiritual grind of poverty. Lenin contended that the economies of capitalism prevented most people from influencing the politics of any capitalistic society. Under socialism with the inception of dictatorship of the proletariat, the majority of the population would at least gain as distinct from purely formal enfranchisement. The majority would benefit from policies ending mass poverty and would take their unprecedented opportunity to engage vigorously in politics. The means of economic production would have stopped being privately owned. Lenin denied that the material equality was achievable in the first phase of transition to a communist society. The phase would be the dictatorship of the proletariat and would be typified by a pattern of wages rewarding individuals strictly in recompense for the work done by them for society.

great edition, useful information

This book outlines the Marxist/Communist view of the state as enunciated by V.I. Lenin, a leading Marxist theoretician. According to Marx, the state, itself, is oppressive and is used by the ruling powers against the working class. Lenin notes that even the corrupt bourgeois has abused Marxist views for their own ends, but the state needs to be demolished by revolution and seized by the working class. This book also critiques the views of anarchists and of fellow revolutionaries as Kautsky and Pannekoek.

As always with Penguin Classics, "The State and Revolution" is beautifully introduced, this time by Robert Service. It is a must have for any Marxist-Leninist as well as anyone interested in the rich history of Russia and the path Lenin saw as the way forward.

Obviously this is a great and important book, but the kindle formatting is terrible. Instead of having footnotes on the bottom the footnotes are the same size as the regular text and just cut in mid paragraph. You'll be reading one statement only to have it cut off, replaced by something seemingly unrelated, and only return to the original statement paragraphs or even pages later. Buy the actual book.

One of the best books I've ever read. Not for those who don't wish to be wrapped in deep thought and question many things.

Any review of subject matter like this is a reflection of the author's political leanings, so is to be taken with a healthy grain of salt. I believe this is Lenin's best work, but also believe his ideas were more diverse than most of his followers do. It stands in marked contrast with his ideas near the end of his life (see his essay on the need for shifting power away from soviets and toward the workers' and peasants' inspections). Because of Lenin's inconsistency on the ideas he expressed in this work, I only give it four stars.

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