

Naval War College Review

Volume 12
Number 1 *January*

Article 4

1959

The Russian Revolution

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Recommended Citation

Moorehead, Alan (1959) "The Russian Revolution," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 12 : No. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol12/iss1/4>

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- Title:** *The Russian Revolution.* 301 p.
- Author:** Moorehead, Alan. New York, Harper, 1958.
- Evaluation:** Written in a clear, orderly manner, this story on the nature of the Bolshevik rise to power in Russia holds the reader's interest from beginning to end. The main emphasis is oriented towards the individuals involved, and their relationship to each other, in the origin and growth of the Communist Party. From a setting showing the conditions in Russia under the Czars of the late nineteenth century, this book briefly describes the effects of the important events in Russian history, such as the assassination of Alexander II, the Revolution of 1905, and the First World War, and their consequences — which led to a weak central government. Under such conditions, the assumption of power by the professional revolutionaries was politically easy; but only by terrorism and violence could they maintain their grasp. The author contends that the Germans played an important role in bringing Lenin and the Bolsheviks to power, and makes it clear that the revolution itself was not quite the uncorrupted epic the Communists have made it out to be. By the time the Bolsheviks had essentially completed their seizure of control by the brutal breaking-up of the Russian Constituent Assembly, the wheel had almost turned the full cycle from Nicholas to Lenin, from autocracy back to autocracy. The Bolsheviks had now betrayed, or were about to betray, nearly every political slogan that had brought them to power. They had promised freedom to the individual and, instead, had censored the press, forbidden strikes, and set up a secret police. Also, they had cried for a freely elected Constituent Assembly —and now they had abolished it by force. The author's stated purpose was to make available to the general reader a book with a dispassionate and objective description of a great political upheaval. A discerning reader must inevitably reach the conclusion that the present-day techniques of the Communist leaders differ little in pattern from those of the Bolshevik leaders forty years ago.

- Title:** *The Silent Victory.* 206 p.
- Author:** Grinnell-Milne, Duncan. London, The Bodley Head, 1958.
- Evaluation:** *The Silent Victory* is the story of Germany's preparations to invade England in the summer of 1940 and the deterrents to this mission. Mr. Duncan Grinnell-Milne has documented his book with extracts from many authori-