THE RUSSIAN COLLAPSE A POLITICOECONOMIC ESSAY

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The Russian Collapse a Politico-Economic essay by Boris Kadomtzeff

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BORIS KADOMTZEFF

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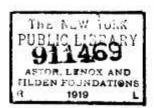
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PREFACE

THE principal part of this essay was written in May, 1918, and was circulated among the author's intimate friends in the form of a memorandum. Since that time many great historic events have occurred, but these have not caused the author to change the ideas which are set forth in this essay, but rather have made him believe in them the more.

The author is glad to see that at last the leading statesmen of the world, like President Wilson, begin to realise that "hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness and all the ugly distempers that make an ordered life impossible." These words of President Wilson may be taken to express the guiding idea of this essay.

The author would like to express here his thanks and indebtedness to Mr. CLIFTON MOORE for his kind assistance in translating this essay into the English language.

LONGFORGAN, WIMBLEDON. 15th November, 1918.



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MR. GLADSTONE, in one of his parliamentary speeches, observed that more nonsense had been uttered about the nature of Money than even about Love,—and we Russians might well express much the same sentiments respecting what has been said of the course of Russian affairs during the last four or five years; but especially of that period which opened with the Revolution in March, 1917, and has continued into a dark and cruel anarchy. . . .

Seldom has the history of mankind witnessed an abundance of stupid stories, of vulgar generalities and of distorted descriptions equal to that which has submerged the name and fame of our country., Newspaper correspondents, journalists, publicists, statesmen, even scholars—all have tried to describe the events in Russia as should best be suited to their respective personal partialities: sympathies and antipathies have played and interplayed ceaselessly.