

RUSSIA AT THE CROSS-ROADS

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Russia at the cross-roads by C. E. Bechhofer

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C. E. BECHHOFFER

**RUSSIA AT THE
CROSS-ROADS**

RUSSIA AT THE CROSS-ROADS

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

- (1) FIVE RUSSIAN PLAYS, with One from the Ukrainian: Translated from the originals (two by Evreinov, one by Von Vizin, two by Chekhov, one by Lesya Ukrainka) by C. E. BECHHOFFER. 3s. 6d. net.
- (2) A RUSSIAN ANTHOLOGY IN ENGLISH.
Edited, with an Introduction, by C. E. BECHHOFFER.
[Shortly.]

RUSSIA
AT
THE CROSS-ROADS

BY
C. E. BECHHOFFER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
A. H. MURRAY

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1916

TO
Mr A. R. ORAGE
EDITOR OF *THE NEW AGE*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	vi
^{CHAP.} I. THE HAMLET OF THE NATIONS	3
II. THE RUSSIANS AS THEY ARE	23
III. THE WEALTH OF RUSSIA	51
IV. THE MIR AND THE FUTURE	69
V. PETER THE THRICE-GREAT	83
VI. THE PROGRESS OF RUSSIAN THOUGHT	111
VII. THE RUSSIAN CHARACTER	129
VIII. THE CHURCH AND RUSSIA	149
IX. THE RUSSIAN AT HOME	167
X. THE FUTURE OF RUSSIA	183

INTRODUCTION

IN the following pages an attempt has been made to explain Russia not only to the rest of the world but to herself. The supposition has too readily been made that Russia's policy, both external and internal, has been the fruit of deep-laid schemes of conquest or of autocracy. The author of the present work, with a good deal of daring and most commendable originality, challenges this conception, which, he believes, has imposed as much upon Russians as upon their neighbours; and endeavours to prove that all the while Russia has been an enigma to herself no less than to us. Of such an attempt it would be rash to expect that its success must be equal to its courage. On the other hand, so momentous are the issues now hanging in the balance, both from our alliance with Russia, and from Russia's alliance with ourselves, that almost any competent opinion

must be of value. Having spent an arduous year in Russia, examining at first hand, and with the aid of the language and of Russian friends to whom he had introductions, the author, it must be admitted, is at least as well equipped for judgment as most of the English writers on Russian affairs. The majority of English writers, indeed, appear to many of us (myself as a professional student of social economics among them) to have shirked the really important aspects of their problem, and to have given us rather travellers' tales than the conclusions of practical students of international politics. None of them, if we except such English writers as were once Russian—if the remark may be allowed of Professor Vinogradoff and Prince Kropotkin—has at any rate ventured into the domain of counsel and of prophecy. It is in this department, therefore, that the present work appears to me of considerable value. Here, to be taken or rejected, but plainly and boldly stated, are a competent and sympathetic student's opinions of a chief problem of modern Europe. That the work is timely nobody will deny; for now, in particular,