

**RUSSIA & THE  
STRUGGLE  
FOR PEACE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649145805

Russia & the struggle for peace by Michael S. Farbman

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**MICHAEL S. FARBMAN**

**RUSSIA & THE  
STRUGGLE  
FOR PEACE**



RUSSIA  
& THE STRUGGLE  
FOR PEACE

BY

MICHAEL S. FARBMAN

LONDON :  
GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN, LTD.  
RUSKIN HOUSE  
40 MUSEUM STREET  
W.C.

1918

*To Maxim Gorky*

DK  
265  
F22r

# THE CONTENTS

## PART I. INTRODUCTORY :

CHAPTER I. THE REVOLUTION AND THE ALLIES. P. 3.

CHAPTER II. SHIRKING THE TRUTH. P. 14.

## PART II. THE DISORGANISATION OF INDUSTRY :

CHAPTER III. THE ECONOMIC ISOLATION OF RUSSIA. P. 23.

CHAPTER IV. THE EXHAUSTION OF RUSSIA. P. 30.

CHAPTER V. THE MOBILISATION OF INDUSTRY. P. 36.

CHAPTER VI. THE REVOLUTION AND THE EXHAUSTION OF INDUSTRY. P. 43.

CHAPTER VII. THE DISORGANISATION OF AGRICULTURE. P. 52.

CHAPTER VIII. SPECULATION AND PROFITEERING. P. 59.

## PART III. DISINTEGRATION OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY :

CHAPTER IX. THE RUSSIAN SOLDIER. P. 69.

CHAPTER X. THE ARMY AND THE WAR. P. 81.

CHAPTER XI. THE PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION. P. 90.

CHAPTER XII. THE ARMY AND THE REVOLUTION. P. 99.

## PART IV. THE REVOLUTION :

CHAPTER XIII. THE PEOPLE. P. 111.

CHAPTER XIV. THE GOVERNMENT. P. 118.

CHAPTER XV. THE CLASH. P. 125.

CHAPTER XVI. THE GREAT TRIUMPH. P. 135.

PART V. THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE :

CHAPTER XVII. THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRACY. P. 141.

CHAPTER XVIII. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. P. 151.

CHAPTER XIX. THE ALLIES. P. 163.

CHAPTER XX. THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. P. 173.

CHAPTER XXI. THE OFFENSIVE AND DISASTER. P. 180.



## PREFACE

**T**HIS book is not an apologia for Russia or the Revolution. I do not intend to plead for Russia or to beg that she should be judged with mercy or that her conduct should be forgiven. Nor do I intend to blame anyone for Russia's misfortunes or to engage in controversy with the many severe and contemptuous critics of the Russian Revolution. But at this terrible hour when enemies and friends alike are blaming Russia for their misfortunes, when old and friendly ties are being displaced by new distrust and active hatred, I feel I must do my best to dispel the fundamental misunderstandings and calumnies. My sole intention is therefore to give a truthful and objective account of the Russian Revolution and what it stands for—so far at least as objective truth is accessible to one who is filled with enthusiasm for the Revolution, and is deeply convinced that the Revolution is not only a magnificent opportunity for the free development of the true genius of Russia, but also the greatest victory of the human spirit.

I do not pretend that everything in Russia is good and that the Revolution has to answer for no sins, nor do I intend to hide its failures or to be silent about them.

The time has come to speak about Russia, it may be with regret, but certainly without bitterness or passion.

\* \* \* \* \*

It will be for the future historian of the Great Russian Revolution to trace its beginnings. Such an historian will no doubt go back many decades into the past. He will begin its story at least from the date of the liberation of the Serfs in 1861 and will record the causal chain of events from that point.

We, as contemporaries of the Revolution, have another task, and are face to face with other and more actual problems. We are too near to the scene; we see the actors too clearly and ascribe to them a far greater rôle than will history. We are active to praise and to condemn. In short, we are at this stage unable to judge the Revolution historically.

The main questions of interest, to friends and enemies of the Revolution alike, are these: *First*, how far was the Revolution the result of the War and how far was the struggle for peace which followed the Revolution inherent in it? In other words, did the peace policy of the revolutionary democracy express the true purpose of Russia at the time; or were the Soviets, with all that they stand for, really alien to the people and to the Revolution? *Secondly*, was the disintegration of Russia and the dissolution of the Russian Army inevitable, or was Russia torn to pieces and made helpless by the very acts of the leaders of the Revolution?

I do not think I am far wrong in thus reducing all the bitter controversy which has raged around the Revolution to these two single questions.

M. F.

- *St. John's Wood, March 21, 1918.*

## Part I: Introductory

1

2

3