

## Soviet Power and Fairy Tales

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## Outline

- Soviet culture
- The critique of fairy tales
- Soviet Fairy Tales
- *The Flower of Seven Colors*

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## Marxism ≠ Communism

- *Marxism* is a system of analysis based on a theory of history and economics
- *Communism* is an idealized political model

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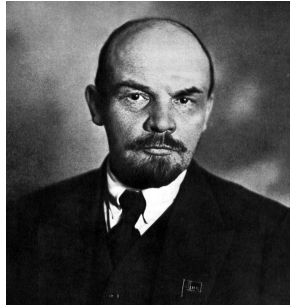
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## Soviet Power

- Revolution in November 1917 brings Bolshevik Party to power.
- Head of Party is V.I. Lenin
- Bolsheviks seek to establish proletarian state



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- Bolsheviks exclude “Bourgeois” Parties from government
- 1917-1920 Civil War
- Other socialist parties gradually excluded as well

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## Soviet Culture

- Base and Superstructure
- A new organization of the means of production will produce a new culture
- Bolsheviks thought that, because they were actively building a new economic organization, they should promote a new culture to support it

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## Soviet Culture

- Proletarian
- Didactic
- Rational
- Urban
- Modern
- Militaristic/ Adventurous
- Utopian

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## Proletarian



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## Didactic



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## Rational



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## Urban



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## Modern



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## Militaristic/Adventurous



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## Utopian



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## So What about Fairy Tales?

- Nadezhda Krupskaya– Lenin's Wife
- Major figure in Soviet Education
- Fairy Tales reinforce Bourgeois and Feudal Values
- Kings, Princes, Princesses or Wealth as reward, individual achievement

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## Critique of Fairy Tales part 2

- “Harmful influence on fragile consciousness of a child.”
- Teach superstition and mysticism
- Obscure the “materialist picture of the world.”
- 1924– Fairy tales banned from children’s libraries: “It is better to be overzealous than negligent.”

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## But--

- Fairy tales are grounded in creativity of people
- Folk fairy tales re-enter library circulation
- But they should be accompanied by discussions intended to “inculcate a critical attitude toward fairy tales.”

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## Soviet Fairy Tales

- Also new literary fairy tales were written



- Arkady Gaidar. *The Tale of the Military Secret* (1935)
- Lazar Lagin. *The Old Genie Khottabych* (1938)
- Valentin Kataev. *The Flower of Seven Colors* (1940)

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### New Tales Reflect New Values

- Proletarian-- Heroes, Selflessness
- Rational--Magic?
- Urban-- Setting
- Modern--Skyscrapers, Automobiles, Soccer, the Metro
- Militaristic/ Adventurous-- Heroism, Polar Exploration
- Utopian-- Children in the lead

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### *The Flower of Seven Colors (1948)*

- Directed by Mikhail Tsekhanovskii
- Watch Backgrounds
- What kind of city are we in?
- What has been added to the story?

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### Homework for Wednesday

- CW: Read Katerina Clark's *The Soviet Novel*

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