Daniel Stambler Journal 1

Lenin

Lenin understood the Russian Civil war and the war with Poland as necessary for fulfilling the Communist destiny. A follower of the Marxism, Lenin, welcomed the war as a bloody clash with capitalism from which would emerge a new socialist regime. (Brooks and Chernyavskiy, 20)

Lenin saw the Civil war as an opportunity to rally the country behind the Bolshevik party. Although the Bolshevik policies of war communism and crop seizures from peasants were highly unpopular, the white armies were even less popular amongst the masses (Fitzpatrick, 80). The cruelty of the white army is shown in Babel’s work, *Red Cavalry*. In his book, Babel describes the bloody nature of the Russian Civil War from the perspective of a Red Army soldier. The text shows how father and son turn on each other while members of the Polish army brutally murder Jews. It also secretly implies that neither the White Anti-Bolshevik Army, the Communist Red Army, nor the various Green armies were morally justified in their actions. (Babel) For this reason, Lenin would have regarded this conflict as an opportunity to prove that the White Armies and capitalist nations cannot be trusted. In addition, the war gave him an excuse to crack down on what he deemed as enemies of the people, the remnants of the nobility, and the Russian Orthodox Church. Lastly, Lenin saw this war as a general threat to the Soviet Union and the Bolshevik regime (Brooks and Chernyavskiy, 97-100).

All these reasons point to Lenin understanding the Russian civil war as necessary and encouraged. In addition, these readings indicate that Lenin was in favor of this brutal conflict to gain popular support and to legitimize the rule of his party. (Brooks and Chernyavskiy, 20-21)

Teffi

Teffi, despite being of noble birth, represented a more liberal part of Tsarist Russia. She sympathized with certain Soviets, as she was critical of the Tsarist regime. She also expressed individual freedom throughout her writing profession. In “Rasputin,” she portrays herself as the only character unwilling to submit to Rasputin’s demands. (Teffi, 90-130).

After the Bolsheviks took power, Teffi left the country because she despised the new regime. Because Teffi was a writer who disagreed with him, Lenin would not have liked her. Teffi was horrified by the civil war despite seeming unaffected in her writing by routine murder. (Teffi)

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