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The whole Tauride Palace ... was brimful of one piece of news: the Victory of the moderate and reasonable Bolsheviks over the extremists.... -- Shliapnikov (Ch. 15)

When that number of Pravda was received in the factories it produced a complete bewilderment among the members of the party and its sympathizers.... -- Shliapnikov (Ch. 15)

The April theses of Lenin not only evoked the bewildered indignation of his opponents and enemies. They repelled a number of old Bolsheviks into the Menshevik camp.... -- Trotsky (Ch. 15)

Workers came to the party committees asking how to transfer their names from the Menshevik Party to the Bolshevik. -- Trotsky (Ch. 17)

When Lenin returned in April, the Tauride Palace had separated, even polarized, from the masses. The Bolsheviks had never been "moderate and reasonable". The Bolshevik representatives at the All-Russian Conference, with the help of Stalin's goal of unification, had negotiated themselves into a please-everybody sort of position. One could describe the theoretical Bolsheviks as Sukhanov described Stalin: "a grey spot which would sometimes give out a dim and inconsequential light." (Ch. 15)

When this new position of the Bolsheviks started to become clear, it is understandable that the Bolshevik proletariat would feel a bit alienated. Here they've been a member of a party with a strong will and purpose, with something to differentiate them from their neighbor, and then the party collapses into a compromising grey spot.

Lenin then delivered his April theses, speaking for all of the

Bolsheviks, but not for long. He quickly evoked surprise and indignation in his fellow party members, and contempt from other parties. Lenin shocked everyone at the conference by representing a position that was much more extreme than anyone who was used to the new-found moderate Bolsheviks would accept. He was almost brushed off as a fantasizer. But his “crazy” speech was enough to eliminate the impression of the identity-less Bolsheviks.

Lenin's theses shocked the workers in the opposite way, but for precisely the same reasons. Just earlier that month, the Bolsheviks had become moderate compromisers, and had alienated the proletariat. But Lenin's theses ran in the opposite direction twice as far, and “detect[ed] the mood of the masses” precisely. “The masses had no intention of getting off the stage,” (Ch. 17) and Lenin had no intention of holding them back (as the other parties are trying). They were not ready to hear it, but they liked it.

All references from:

Leon Trotsky. History of the Russian Revolution, Volume 1: The Overthrow of Tzarism. 1930.

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1930-hrr>