Chapter 5

The Development of Russia in the Early Years of Soviet Power

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ABSTRACT

This chapter discusses the reasons for the victory of the Russian revolution of 1917, as well as the first steps of the Soviet government to reform the country. It is shown that the revolution had a bourgeois-democratic nature. Different opinions of scientists on recognition and non-recognition of the Russian revolution of 1917 are revealed. Historical analysis has shown that Russia reached “a certain height” of capitalism in large-scale industry, in transport, and in the economy, where, as in the West, capitalist monopolies and large banks dominated. As for the village, it was still on the eve of the bourgeois-democratic revolution, and there could be no question of any preconditions for socialism.

INTRODUCTION

It should not be forgotten that after the October Revolution, Finland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Bessarabia declared independence, which joined Romania in February 1918. “Civilized” is all this - another question. But without the consent of the Soviets, the Soviet government is unlikely that these countries would be able to obtain their independence, although it was declared by them.
In the conditions of a complex class, military, diplomatic, social and economic situation in Soviet Russia, a strictly centralized system of power began to be formed (practically forcedly). It had a pronounced non-Western, noncapitalist character. It was directed against the propertied classes, private property, the market. At the same time, the formation of a rigid organization of power took place on the foundation of the Bolshevik party. Why this particular party? The point is not only that it formed a government (although this is an important fact), but rather that in those conditions only the Bolshevik Party retained the All-Russian organization - cells in factories, factories, in the countryside, factions in the Soviets, trade unions and other mass organizations. The Bolsheviks had efficient structures at all levels. The party was strictly centralized and educated in the spirit of rigorous discipline, had at its disposal armed people (revolutionary soldiers, sailors, detachments of the Red Guard) (Semennikova, 1994).

In the publications of contemporary subjective political scientists and publicists, words with an insulting tone towards the revolutionary masses of the people are very often encountered: revolt, lumpen, crowd, ochlocracy. These accusations do not correspond to historical reality. Obviously, they try to give out wishful thinking. Historical facts show the opposite, namely: the October Revolution is the democratic choice of the majority of the Russian people. Let us cite a number of other points of view of domestic and foreign historians on the evaluation and significance of the October Revolution.

HISTORIOGRAPHY AND ANALYSIS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917

Appeal to the works of foreign historians about the economic and social consequences of the industrial and agrarian development of Russia in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, undoubtedly, will allow a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of foreign Russian studies in general in order to reveal its achievements and problems. It is also necessary for a more complete and comprehensive study of the historical experience of the capitalist development of Russia — a topic whose meaning and significance is beyond doubt. But a complete study of the entire foreign historiography of this issue is an extremely complex and diverse task. In view of this, the intercultural way of studying historical literature on this issue seems preferable.
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