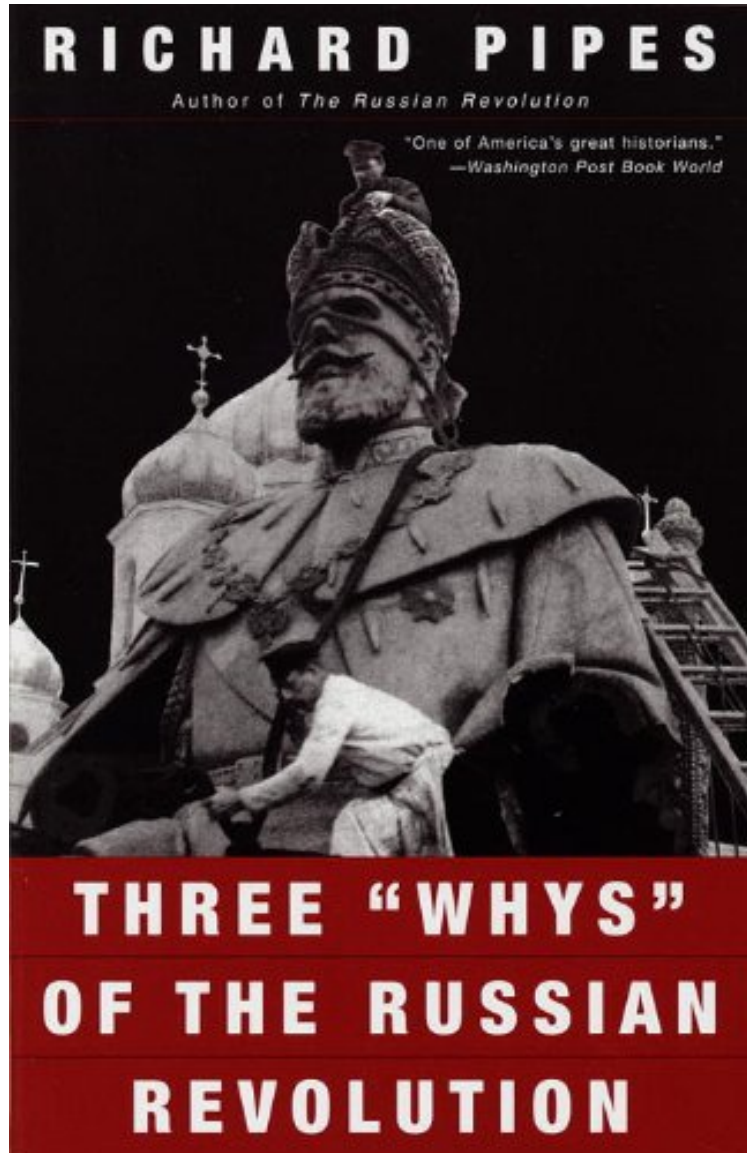


(Mobile ebook) Three "Whys" of the Russian Revolution

Three "Whys" of the Russian Revolution

Richard Pipes

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Richard Pipes : Three "Whys" of the Russian Revolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three "Whys" of the Russian Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it seems like most people don't care for Pipe's writing despite that ...By CustomerFrom my class discussion on it, it seems like most people don't care for Pipe's writing despite that most unwillingly agree with what he says. He seems a bit wishy-washy at certain points and seems to contradict himself regarding the "inevitability of history." Pipes looks at why the Russian Tsar need not have fallen, why the Tsarist

government did fall, how our perspective of the Bolshevik revolution changes by labeling the events as a coup d'état rather than a revolution, and why the rise of Stalin was inevitable. Pipes seems to make arguments that taking the next logical steps could provide support for horseshoe theory, and given the geopolitical context of when the book was published (i.e. the fall of the USSR), the book is politically opportune for the author to slight the Soviets/Russians. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quick and fun read on Russia. By jjstiv02 Pipes is just fabulous. He's a huge expert and yet he keeps his writing understandable. It was a quick read, something for a chilly afternoon with a cup of tea. Even for those who've been in the Russian history field for a while, this book offers new ideas on heavily studied events. All in all, it was a wonderful book for a Russian history student (as I am) and I highly recommend it to those interested in Russian history, the USSR, the Russian revolution, ect. 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A revolutionary rethink By K Scheffler As well as completely changing the political and geographical structure of Europe, the demise of the Soviet Union has significantly altered the approach of historical scholarship about the Russian Revolution. In *Three Whys of the Russian Revolution*, the eminent scholar of Russian history, Richard Pipes, confronts the challenge of assessing the causes and course of the Russian Revolutions from a post-Cold War perspective. Pipes explains that for 70 years prior to the 1990's, historians in the West adopted a "revisionist" perspective of the Russian Revolutions that was largely influenced by Communist scholarship. The events of 1917, these Communist scholars concluded, were nothing but revolutionary activity. Western scholarship's acceptance of this conclusion stems, Pipes explains, from a lack of source material, much of which was deemed classified by the Soviet regime. But access to this information is now open, and Pipes, among others, has utilized this opportunity in an attempt to re-evaluate the Revolutions, with the product being two extensive works (on which these essays are based). Not surprisingly, his understanding of the events of 1917 has changed somewhat, and thus the three essays in the book are a continued attempt to debunk much of the "revisionist" perspective with less radical conclusions. Among the notions that Pipes challenges is the very insistence by the "revisionists" that the Revolutions were in fact revolutions. As the author clearly outlines, the events of 1917 were actually the work of a small group of intellectuals headed by the idealist Lenin. His overthrow of the Czarist regime is argued by Pipes as being a coup d'etat which involved the people as a whole in only a small degree. This brings Pipes to his second major argument. Were the people ready, willing, or even a part of the coup d'etat process? It has often been a marvel to historians that the agrarian based nation of Russia was the one nation to take heed of Marx's dialectical writings. But, as Pipes explains, the people (that is, peasantry) indeed had little reason or precedent to desire a change in the ruling regime, and the radical writings of Lenin and his cohorts had little impact on them, since it offered little in the way of a betterment of lifestyle. Lastly Pipes addresses the post-coup d'etat events surrounding the ascension of Stalin as the next leader of the Soviet Regime. Several years after the events of 1917, Lenin's failing health allowed Stalin to enter the scene, a man who Lenin recognized as having an unstable personality, one unviable for effectively continuing the Communist programmes as Lenin had planned. This opposition to Stalin was glossed over by Communist scholars to maintain a healthy image of the leadership, and thus was subsequently adopted by Western scholars. It is easily said, then, that there is much of value in *Three Whys of the Russian Revolution* to history students and others interested in the events of 1917. Pipes' three essays present sound, articulate, and compelling arguments as to the causes and course of the Revolutions, and is thus an important asset for future scholarship on the subject.

America's foremost authority on Russian communism--the author of the definitive studies *The Russian Revolution and Russia Under the Bolshevik Regime*--now addresses the enigmas of that country's 70-year enthrallment with communism. Succinct, lucidly argued, and lively in its detail, this book offers a brilliant summation of the life's work of a master historian.

From Kirkus sFor those without the energy or leisure to digest Pipes's magisterial history of revolutionary Russia (*Russia Under the Bolshevik Regime*, 1994; *The Russian Revolution*, 1990), the author has distilled his arguments concerning several key questions: Why did tsarism fall? Why did the Bolsheviks triumph? Why did Stalin succeed Lenin? The book, based on lectures given at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, has a nicely colloquial feel, clarity, and vigor. At the heart of the answers to the first two questions is Pipes's assertion that, far from being the product of large, impersonal forces of history, the fall of the tsar and the rise to power of the Bolsheviks (in, he reminds us, a coup d',tat largely unsupported by the Russian people) were the result of the old regime's clear failings and Lenin's genius for manipulation and appetite for total power. Stalin succeeded Lenin, Pipes asserts, because Lenin had so successfully suppressed all elements of democracy that no alternatives were possible. There's little new here, but the volume does offer a concise and eminently straightforward summary of current research on the rise and nature of Communism in Russia. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From the Inside Flap America's foremost authority on Russian communism--the author of the definitive studies *The Russian Revolution and Russia Under the Bolshevik Regime*--now addresses the enigmas of that country's 70-year enthrallment with communism. Succinct, lucidly argued, and lively in its detail, this book offers a brilliant summation of the life's work of a master historian. From the Back Cover Richard Pipes conducts a succinct inquest, asking: Why did tsarism fall

virtually overnight? Why did the Bolsheviks - the smallest of the three main Russian radical parties - triumph? Why did Stalin succeed Lenin? In answering these questions, Pipes gives us our clearest picture yet of the vulnerability of the tsarist system as well as of the ruthless opportunism that enabled Lenin to seize the reins of power. Dispelling years of revisionist mythology, Pipes demonstrates the extent to which Stalin was the logical heir to a party that had assumed control over every aspect of Russian life.