

Russia's

"Third Revolution"

The Inside Story of the Kronstadt Rising

by I. Mett

While the Kronstadt rising has long been recognised by revolutionaries as a genuine manifestation of the revolutionary and libertarian aspirations of the Russian people against the iron dictatorship which the Bolsheviks had imposed on them by force and fraud in the years immediately following 1917, it has always been difficult to obtain adequately documented information on this event with which to counter the deliberately falsified accounts, put forward by Stalinists and Trotskist Communists alike, and the less obvious misrepresentations which have emanated even from the pens of such writers as Victor Serge. Up to the present the only readily available and relatively objective history of Kronstadt in England has been Ciliga's small pamphlet, but reasons of space did not allow this to be either complete or adequately documented. Now, however, in I. Mett's work, *Russia's Third Revolution*, these needs are amply supplied by a volume which combines an adequate narrative of events with copious quotations from contemporary manifestoes and newspapers, from official Bolshevik historians as well as insurgent sources, showing clearly the real nature of the rising as a genuine working-class manifestation, and the true rôle of the Bolsheviks, including Trotsky, as military oppressors.

The book begins with a summary of the history of the Russian fleet's participation in the revolutionary movement from 1904 onwards, and this is followed by chapters describing the condition of Russia emerging from the civil war and the particular causes of discontent in Petrograd which precipitated the Kronstadt rising. There follows an account of how the revolt began by the sailors of the Baltic fleet taking up the cause of the maltreated Petrograd strikers and indicting the Bolshevik ruling class for betraying the revolution.

A copious chapter deals with the ideological warfare that ensued between the sailors and the Government, and this is followed by a description of the military assault on the insurgents and the fall of Kronstadt, last major stronghold of the revolution in Russia.

The last two chapters are devoted to an analysis of the political influences which were at work among the rebel sailors, and a final summary of the information given, specifically answering a number of questions that have often been raised by critics of Kronstadt.

The whole book presents such an admirable picture of this too often ignored portion of revolutionary history, and provides such a useful source book for the student of Russian affairs, that Freedom Press has decided to publish it in the near future. However, as the appeal of such a work will necessarily be restricted, it has been decided to issue it in a limited subscription edition of 500 copies, and the object of this notice is to invite readers who are interested to write to us and reserve their copies. Printing will not commence until we have received reservations for the 500 copies.

Russia's Third Revolution, which contains nearly 40,000 words, will be priced at 5/- post free, and reservations should be sent, on the Order Form provided below, as quickly as possible to Freedom Press, 27, Red Lion Street, London W.C.1.

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