



The anarchist Mikhail Aleksandrovich Kropotkin (March 13 1881, Minusinsk – October 2 1935, Moscow) was the younger nephew of Peter Kropotkin. While a student at the gymnasium in Tver, he took part in illegal youth groups. In 1900 he and his fiancée N. T. Povalo-Shveikovskaya were arrested and charged with "terrorist intentions" in relation to members of the government, but they were released due to lack of evidence. In 1901 he took part in student demonstrations, and headed the Tver student society, was a member of a strike committee, and published leaflets on a hectograph. He was arrested and locked up in Butyrsky Prison. Upon release, he was barred from Moscow University and exiled to Novotorzhsky County (near Tver) for two years. In 1903 he began studies in the law faculty of the University of Geneva, where he became close to the SRs. After meeting with Peter Kropotkin in 1903, he became an anarcho-communist, although he didn't formally join any organization. Upon returning to Russia, he organized the delivery of illegal literature to Novotorzhsky County, for which he was subject to ongoing persecution. In December 1905 he arrived in Moscow with the intention of taking part in an armed insurrection, but he was too late – the revolt had already been crushed. In 1906 he was administratively deported for "political unreliability" to France, where he studied at the Sorbonne while taking part in the emigrant anarchist movement. In 1909 he returned to Russia and was elected to the Novotorzhsky Zemstvo Council. During the First World War he was a defencist (oboronets). In May 1916 he volunteered for the army. In 1918 he was elected chairperson of a bureau for organizing a provincial council for cooperatives and he chaired this council until the dissolution of cooperatives in 1919. Subsequently he worked in the cooperative section of the provincial economic council and taught at the Tver Industrial-Economic Institute. In the 1930s he worked as a legal advisor in Moscow.

– Sergei Ovsianikov (translated by Malcolm Archibald)