

Deutscher, *RP* in 1905

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Turmoil of Jan & Feb fizzled & initiative passed to Liberal middle class
A long series of congresses, conventions, held by industrialists, merchants, bankers, lawyers & others raised cry for constitutional govt regime

BUT LATER IN YR AFTER DEFEAT OF TSUSHIMA, REVOLT OF CREW ON POTEMKIN & end of war with Japan initiative went back to wkrs.

LT's letter to Prof. Miliukov on historical Rubicons in streets not on parchments of paper; in Fr Rev great turns came not with declaration of constitutional principle but WITH REAL SHIFTS OF POWER.--1848 middle class contended itself with Prussian king's promise of freedom

Strike
begin here
Strike began with printers demand for shorter hrs & higher wages & spread rapidly to other industries from Petersburg to provinces, assuming a markedly pol. character & TAKING BY SURPRISE THE LEADERS OF SOC. UNDERGROUNDS. Wkrs demanded constitutional freedom as well as better wages & hrs. AS STRIKE DEVELOPED THERE SPRANG INTO BEING AN INSTITUTION BORN IN BONE OF FEAR: THE 1st Council or Soviet of Wkrs Deputies. The Soviet was not a Bolshevik invention; on the contrary Bol viewed it with suspicion as rival to party. Only in 1st wk of Nov, when Soviet was already at peak did Lenin from Stockholm appeal to followers to follow Soviet. (PRINTED 1ST TIME PRAVDA, 35 yrs. later, NOV. 8, 1940; though it was written to Novyaya Zhizn, 1905)

NUCLEUS
to
NUCLEUS of Soviet was set up by strikes from 50 printing shops, who elected delegates & instructed them to form a council. (1 to 500 rep?) Soon joined by other trades. When Soviet 1st met on Oct. 15 only delegates from Neva district attended. Stimulus then was provided by Mensheviks. The Soviet INSTANTANEOUSLY GAINED EXTRAORDINARY AUTHORITY. It was 1st elective body which represented hitherto disfranchised wkr class. The 1st institution to embody principle morally overshadowed existing administration.

LT 1st appeared in Soviet, assembled Technological Institute Oct 15, day of his return from Finland. 5 Deputies from several districts were present--about 200,000 people, nearly 50% of all works in capital had taken part in elections. LATER, after further elections no. of deputies grew & varied from 400 to 560. Soviet decided to publish its own paper, IZVESTIYA.

AT
same
time
BUT SOCIALIST PARTIES & GROUPS WERE NOT YET AGREED IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SOVIET! Wrangle with pol. parties who wanted exclusive leadership still on when on Oct. 17 Tsar, frightened by general strike, issued Manifesto promising constitution, civil liberties & universal suffrage. Composed by liberal Prime Minister Count Witte; at same time General Trepov, Minister of Interior, gave police order "Spare no bullets". On 17th ET moved with huge crowd toward Technological Institute where Soviet sat previous day. General Trepov's gendarmes on horseback rode into crowd; nevertheless people rejoiced & 1st decored house with white-red-blue flag of dynasty, BUT YOUTH/wkr. tore off wh. & blue strips of cloth & hoisted narrow & ragged red flags. When procession reached Tech. Institute it was halted by a barrier of police & gendarmes. Crowd moved on towards university where meeting was held. LT: "Citizens, Now that we have put our foot on the neck of the ruling clique, they promise us freedom... Is a promise of freedom the same as freedom?" *Our struggle is in ourselves.*