

## Their Trotsky And Ours

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to lead the working class in a successful revolution a mass proletarian party is needed whose cadres well beforehand have absorbed a world communist program are proletarian in life and work derive deep satisfaction from doing politics and have forged a leadership with an acute sense of what to do next this book is about building such a party notes index

leon trotsky fought to build a movement to advance the revolutionary political course defended by v i lenin against the counterrevolution eventually headed by joseph stalin how do trotsky s ideas and actions fit into the continuity of the movement for communism from marx and engels s time to our own

although trotsky was dramatically assassinated just over eighty years ago he remains a controversial figure he has had many biographers over the decades ranging from the overly sympathetic to the extremely hostile robert service his most recent biographer expressed the hope that his book would finish off trotsky a job he believed the ice axe had failed to do in 1940 this biography as expected deals with those aspects for which trotsky is noted his passionate and fiery oratory which captivated and inspired huge crowds organising the bolshevik revolution of november 1917 masterminding the creation of the red army and ensuring its victory during the civil war becoming the most determined opponent of stalin s creation of a monolithic party and state being a marxist theoretician of socialist revolution and combatting fascism and of course being the originator of the very specific brand of revolutionary socialism that as early as 1906 became known as trotskyism however this biography also explores other aspects of trotsky s life which are not so well known in particular from a very early age his love of writing the world of books and publishing became his first passion it remained his first love and if revolutionary politics had not taken over his life would have been a very literary one immediately after the november revolution he hoped to return to his literary work believing his main practical work as a revolutionary was over his writings on art and literature when compared to the stultifying strictures of the socialist realism associated with stalinism are remarkably sympathetic and open while he also wrote many perceptive articles as a war correspondent covering both the balkan wars and the early stages of the first world war other aspects covered by this biography concern his family life and

his relationships with his children also explored is his love life while it is known he had a brief affair with the mexican artist frida kahlo there are also suggestions he may have had other affairs whatever the truth of such allegations he certainly maintained a passionate relationship with his long term companion natalya sedova and readers should be aware that one proof of that provided towards the end of this book contains very explicit language

trotskyism is not a new movement a new doctrine cannon says but the restoration the revival of genuine marxism as it was expounded and practiced in the russian revolution and in the early days of the communist international in this series of twelve talks given in 1942 james p cannon recounts an important chapter in the efforts to build a proletarian party in the united states

as its first and most daring theorist and later its most penetrating left wing critic leon trotsky will for ever be associated with the fate of the russian revolution yet little of real substance has ever been written about his genuine but unfinished contribution to marxist thought in the twentieth century this volume seeks to fill that vacuum through a critical assessment of his views on political economy the party revolution philosophy and culture this book also contains a number of brief but incisive essays on the turbulent history of the left opposition as well as a lively and iconoclastic discussion of the way his ideas have been interpreted and misinterpreted by both friends and enemies alike the last section of the volume brings to the english speaking world previously untranslated material by trotsky on his mature reflections on the world economy in the interwar period neither crude polemic nor simple minded hagiography the ideas of leon trotsky fills a major gap in our understanding of one of the most controversial thinkers of our age book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

revolutionary novelist historian anarchist bolshevik and dissident victor serge is one of the most compelling figures of soviet history set against some of the momentous events of the twentieth century victor serge reveals dauntless vigor of a man

whose views often reflect the struggles of our own time

participating in the revolutionary workers movement with open eyes and an intense will only this can give the highest moral satisfaction to a thinking being trotsky writes he explains how morality is rooted in the interests of contending social classes with a reply by the pragmatist philosoph

this is the first comprehensive exposition and critical analysis of trotsky s social and political ideas eschewing the polemics which have characterized so much of the literature on trotsky but not abandoning the critical approach the author shows that trotsky s was the most far reaching and original of theoretical attempts to deal with the relationship between marxism and the social democratic movement on the one hand and backwardness and the problems of pre industrial or underdeveloped society on the other the author also deals in detail with the problem of why trotsky once a violent opponent of bolshevism later became one of its most ardent supporters and indeed leaders this book is therefore as much a study of the russian revolution as of the ideas of one man back cover

a discussion on the political contributions of v i lenin and the bolshevik party in the decade and a half prior to the october 1917 revolutionary victory in russia

revised edition of black nationalism and the revolution in music

the huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries and among classes within almost every country are produced reproduced and accentuated by the workings of capitalism for vanguard workers to build parties able to lead a successful revolutionary struggle for power in our own countries says jack barnes in the lead article our activity must be guided by a strategy to close this gap also includes farming science and the working classesby steve clarkcapitalism labor and nature an exchangeby richard levins steve clark

in 1988 the director of state archives in moscow yuri afanasyev declared that in the vital process of re examining soviet history trotsky is the biggest blank spot leon trotsky is certainly one of the most important talented and enigmatic figures in twentieth century world history in the trotsky reappraisal an exciting mix of soviet scholars and western academics offer a pioneering reassessment of trotsky s personality his role in the revolution and the ensuing civil war and his opposition to stalinism soviet historians have been released from decades of what one russian has called ignorant certainty and are now seeking to re examine many key questions including the process by which stalin eliminated opposition and consolidated his power such investigations lead in many directions but must include the exploration of the intellectual richness of marxism long concealed by stalinist dogma in this context too the reappraisal of trotsky is overdue book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

the challenges ranging from literacy drives to land reform confronted by the popular revolutionary governments of radical reconstruction that arose in the united states following the civil war and the counterrevolution that subsequently overthrew them

i find myself unable to praise it too highly it is quite as if a whole culture had been rescued from the dust and all of its inner qualities its half forgotten voices and passions have been brought to hidden life all persons who care about the possibilities of human exaltation and suffering will find this an endlessly absorbing and endlessly tragic book irving howe copyright libri gmbh all rights reserved

this volume examines the bloodiest period of the stalinist repression of political opposition in the soviet union debunking the myth that the great purges were merely the product of stalin s paranoia and had no overriding political logic through a meticulous examination of original sources including archival documents only made available for research in the 1990s professor vadim rogovin argues that the ferocity of the mass repression was directly proportional to the intensity of

resistance to stalin within the communist party of the soviet union cpsu particularly the opposition inspired by and associated with the exiled bolshevik leader leon trotsky far from trotsky being a politically isolated figure as both stalinist and anti communist historians have claimed there was substantial sympathy for his criticism of the stalin regime in the ranks and even in the leadership of the cpsu and support for his demands for inner party democracy greater social equality and an international orientation to the bolshevik goal of world revolution it was this political fact as rogovin demonstrates that accounts for the purge reaching so deeply into the party apparatus the military the komsomol youth movement and the broader layers of the population rogovin bases his analysis on scrupulous research quoting from newly translated or unpublished documents including memoirs meeting minutes newspaper articles and trial transcripts he documents the reaction of different social layers to the purges including workers peasants non party intellectuals and the cpsu rank and file this book includes rarely published photographs of the prison camps documenting the lives of those labeled by stalin enemies of the people chronologically this volume takes up where its predecessor 1937 stalin s year of terror left off with the june 1937 plenum of the central committee that followed the purging of the soviet military command and the execution of marshal tukhachevsky and other leading generals it analyzes such critical events as the bukharin rykov trial last of the infamous show trials the massacre of trotskyists in the vorkuta slave labor camp and the assassination by stalinist agents of leon sedov trotsky s son and other oppositionists outside the soviet union it concludes with an examination of how the purges transformed the cpsu and soviet society as a whole

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