

**HAMMER AND SICKLE**

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BY

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## FOREWORD

THIS is a remarkable book.

There is no need for Mr. Patrick to excuse himself for adding one more to the many works on Soviet Russia produced in recent years, for he has his own contribution, and a valuable one, to make to our knowledge and understanding of the course of its development and the results, moral and material, which it has so far achieved. Such a book, placing Bolshevism in its historic setting, tracing it through its various phases and recording objectively its gains and losses, its failures and successes, would be certain in any case of a wide public. Recent events, in which the lives and liberties of Englishmen have been at stake, can only give it additional interest for English readers.

I have said that Mr. Patrick's study of Bolshevism is objective. That does not mean that he views its teachings with indifference nor that he has

nothing to say of the consequences which it may entail for us and the rest of the world; but before drawing his own conclusions he places the reader in a position to form his own judgment by a careful and discriminating account of the facts.

This book bears in its pages the evidence of long and careful study and personal acquaintance. It is not the rash outcome of a fortnight's personally-conducted tour. If others find it as interesting as I have done, they will be grateful to Mr. Patrick for enabling them to form a truer picture of the actual conditions of life in Soviet Russia. His survey confirms and deepens in my mind the sense of ugliness and gloom which other accounts have left upon me. How can life be tolerable where everyone to whom you talk—your colleague, housemate, table companion or chance acquaintance—may be an informer or a spy?

It may be thought that I am prejudiced since Mr. Patrick mentions that my effigy has been chosen as that of the typical English (and capitalist) villain, but this would be an error. Seldom has my vanity been so delicately flattered as on learning from a visitor that whilst in the Moscow shooting galleries he could have a shot at my

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friend Mr. Churchill for a copek, it cost him three to have a shot at me. What more can an aspirant to fame desire?

AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

58 Rutland Gate,

May 1st, 1933.

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