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**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OF RUSSIA**

THE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
RUSSIA  
1905-1914

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND  
FINANCE

BY

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TO

J. M. MILLER

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

OF Russia it may truly be said that no country has inspired more profound or sustained interest, and no country has been less clearly understood by her neighbours. International understanding is never particularly easy of attainment. In the case of Russia, several factors combine to make especially difficult—the fundamental differences in historical and cultural development which divide her from Western Europe, the language barrier which comparatively few foreigners ever surmount, the geographical inaccessibility of many parts of her vast domains.

In consequence, Russia has always tended to loom somewhat mistily on the horizon of Western European thought, and to be presented to the popular imagination there under various grotesque disguises, the long-haired Anarchist of pre-war days giving place to the still more fearsome apparition of the fire-and-slaughter-breathing Bolshevik. Very little attention has been directed towards the careful study of the soil which nourished these exotic plants, in spite of the intense interest which they themselves aroused.

To present a study of Russia's pre-war economic development may seem a round-about method of satisfying the prevailing interest in modern Russia. It is, however, based on the conviction that the

story of Russia is a story of continuity, in the economic sphere at least ; however profound may have been the cleavage in her political development introduced by the events of 1917. With minor modifications consequent upon post-revolution changes in frontiers, land policy, and so on, the economic problems confronting the Soviet régime remain essentially the same as those which the Tsarist Government had to face. It is, therefore, only possible to view the present situation in proper perspective through a study of the immediate past in which it has its roots : one result should be to show that Bolshevism is at least an entirely comprehensible, although perhaps not inevitable, outcome of Russia's previous development.

The obvious omissions in the book, such as the absence of any reference to internal trade, or to the interesting development of the co-operative movement, the inadequate references to agriculture, must be ascribed simply to lack of time. Since so very little work has been done in this field, it is hoped that even an incomplete study may prove useful.

In the task of collecting material I have come under a debt of gratitude in many quarters. At the London School of Economics, I have to express my gratitude to Professor Lilian Knowles for her stimulating guidance of my work throughout, and to Professor A. J. Sargent for helpful criticism in its later stages. At the School of Slavonic Studies, London, I owe much to the sustained interest and encouragement of the Director, Sir Bernard Pares, and very much indeed to Baron A. Meyendorff, without whose guidance it would have been extremely difficult to handle the masses of material available in Russian sources.

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

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For access afforded to valuable Russian material not available elsewhere, I have to thank Mr. A. M. Onou, previous Russian Consul-General in London, and also Sir M. de Rutkowski, who very generously placed his private library at my disposal: for useful material on the Finance side, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. C. B. Crisp. The final shaping of the book owes much to the helpful criticism and advice of Professor J. S. Nicholson and Mr. A. S. Wade. For the preparation of maps I have to thank Miss D. Wilfork of the London School of Economics.

My thanks are due to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for their assistance towards the publication of this book.

M. S. MILLER.

LIVERPOOL,

*December 1925.*

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THE widespread interest in modern Russia has been responsible for a flood of impressionist books and pamphlets, the majority of which do more honour to the imaginative powers of their authors than to their patience in unravelling the tangled skein of Russia's economic and political life. It is to be sincerely hoped that Dr. Miller's study of Russia's Economic Development during the decade preceding the war, based as it is on years of detailed research, will prove to be a welcome relief from this type of literature.

A possible disadvantage of her treatment from one point of view is that it is based on estimates and statistics, which, while tolerably correct, make little appeal to the retributive imagination of the impressionist school of writers, who tend rather to proclaim sweeping generalizations. The counterbalancing advantages are, however, a sufficient justification. Here we have presented to us, in very small space, a great variety of important subjects, with some solid foundation in the statistical appendices at the end of each section, together with a comprehensive and lucid exposition of the main currents and tendencies which underlie the economic facts. As a result, the serious student of Russian affairs should be guided into useful channels of study, and the gifted impressionist should be provided with a somewhat more secure foundation for his general statements.



A particularly interesting element in Dr. Miller's present contribution to the subject is afforded by the diversity of the sources upon which she has drawn—French, German, English, Italian, even American, as well as Russian—thus enabling the reader to view Russian development, not in isolation, but in its relationship to the concepts and understanding of Western Europe.

It is unfortunate that the pathway of academic research remains a method of approach to the Russian problem which comparatively few writers have the capacity for, or the opportunity of, utilizing. This book will serve a useful purpose if it emphasizes the necessity for preceding the formation of decisions and opinions, particularly in international affairs, by a painstaking and searching analysis of available facts.

*(Signed)* A. MEYENDORFF.

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### COMMERCIAL WEIGHTS.

1 Berkovets . . . . .	3·224 Cwt.
1 Pud (Pood) . . . . .	36·112 Lbs. (Avoir.)
1 Funt (Pound) . . . . .	0·902 " "
1 Lot . . . . .	7·222 Drachms
1 Solotnik . . . . .	2·407 "
1 Dolia . . . . .	0·025 "

### MEASURES OF LENGTH.

1 Verst . . . . .	0·663 Mile
1 Sazhen . . . . .	2·333 Yards = 7 Feet
1 Arshin . . . . .	28 Inches
1 Fut . . . . .	1 Foot
1 Inch (Duim) . . . . .	1 Inch
1 Vershok . . . . .	1·75 Inch

### SQUARE MEASURES.

1 Square Verst . . . . .	0·439 Square Mile
1 " Sazhen . . . . .	5·444 " Yards
1 " Arshin . . . . .	0·605 " "
1 " Vershok . . . . .	3·063 " Inches
1 Dessiatine . . . . .	2·700 Acres

### WET MEASURES.

1 Bochka . . . . .	108·279 Imperial Gallons
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### DRY MEASURES.

1 Chetvert . . . . .	5·775 Imperial Bushels
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<sup>1</sup> *Vide* "Comparative Table of British, Russian and Metric Weights and Measures." Issued by the Editorial Department of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in London, 1917. Only those measures are given which are used in this book.

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