

**V. I. LENIN**  
**TOWARD THE SEIZURE OF POWER**



COLLECTED WORKS  
OF  
V. I. LENIN

VOLUME XXI

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# LENIN

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## TOWARD THE SEIZURE OF POWER

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THE REVOLUTION OF 1917:  
FROM THE JULY DAYS TO THE  
OCTOBER REVOLUTION

BOOK I



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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>FROM THE JULY DAYS TO THE KORNILOV REVOLT . . . . .</b>	<b>13-175</b>
<b>What Could the Cadets Count On When Leaving the Cabinet? . . . . .</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Where is Power and Where is Counter-Revolution? . . . . .</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Hideous Slander by the Black Hundred Papers and Alex- insky . . . . .</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Calumny and Facts . . . . .</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Close to the Real Issue . . . . .</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Dreyfusade . . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>In Refutation of Dark Rumours . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Three Crises . . . . .</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>The Question of the Bolshevik Leaders Appearing Before the Courts . . . . .</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>The Political Situation . . . . .</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Letter to the Editors of the <i>Novaya Zhizn</i> . . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Letter to the Editors of the <i>Proletarskoye Dyelo</i> . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>On Slogans . . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>An Answer . . . . .</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>On Constitutional Illusions . . . . .</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>The Beginning of Bonapartism . . . . .</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Lessons of the Revolution . . . . .</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>On Kamenev's Speech in the Central Executive Committee Concerning the Stockholm Conference . . . . .</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>On the Question of the Party Programme . . . . .</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>They Do Not See the Woods for the Trees . . . . .</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Rumours of Conspiracy . . . . .</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Political Blackmail . . . . .</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Paper Resolutions . . . . .</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>On the Stockholm Conference . . . . .</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Peasants and Workers . . . . .</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>On Slanderers . . . . .</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>To the Central Committee of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party . . . . .</b>	<b>137</b>

	PAGE
From a Publicist's Diary . . . . .	140-149
The Root of the Evil . . . . .	140
Serfdom and Socialism . . . . .	147
On the Zimmerwald Question . . . . .	150
On Violation of Democracy in Mass Organisations . . . . .	151
On Compromises . . . . .	152
Draft Resolution on the Political Situation . . . . .	158
One of the Fundamental Questions of the Revolution . . . . .	164
How is the Success of the Elections to the Constituent Assembly to be Assured? . . . . .	171
<b>THE THREATENING CATASTROPHE AND HOW TO FIGHT IT . . . . .</b>	<b>177-218</b>
Famine is Approaching . . . . .	179
Complete Inactivity of the Government . . . . .	180
Universally Known and Easy Measures of Control . . . . .	183
Nationalisation of the Banks . . . . .	185
Nationalisation of the Syndicates . . . . .	190
Abolition of Commercial Secrets . . . . .	193
Compulsory Organisation Into Unions . . . . .	197
Regulation of Consumption . . . . .	200
The Destruction of the Work of Democratic Organisations by the Government . . . . .	203
Financial Collapse and Measures Against It . . . . .	206
Is It Possible To Go Forward While Being Afraid of Socialism? . . . . .	210
The War and the Fight Against Economic Ruin . . . . .	213
Revolutionary Democracy and the Revolutionary Proletariat . . . . .	216
<b>ON THE ROAD TO INSURRECTION . . . . .</b>	<b>219-279</b>
The Bolsheviks Must Assume Power . . . . .	221
Marxism and Uprising . . . . .	224
The Russian Revolution and Civil War . . . . .	230
Heroes of Fraud . . . . .	244
From a Publicist's Diary . . . . .	249
The Tasks of the Revolution . . . . .	256-264
The Tasks of the Revolution . . . . .	256
Agreements With the Capitalists are Disastrous . . . . .	257
Power to the Soviets . . . . .	258



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**CONTENTS**

---

**9**

	<b>PAGE</b>
Peace to the Peoples . . . . .	258
Land to the Toilers . . . . .	260
Struggle Against Famine and Economic Ruin . . . . .	261
Struggle Against the Counter-Revolution of the Land- owners and Capitalists . . . . .	262
Peaceful Development of the Revolution . . . . .	263
Letter to I. T. Smilga . . . . .	265
Postscript to the Book <i>The Agrarian Programme of the Social-Democracy in the First Russian Revolution, 1905- 1907</i> . . . . .	269
2 The Crisis Has Matured . . . . .	271
2 EXPLANATORY NOTES . . . . .	279

## PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION

THE present volume covers the period from July 16 to November 6, 1917, *i.e.*, from the critical July days to the October Revolution. The major portion of this volume consists of Lenin's articles and letters written while he was obliged to seek refuge in illegality on account of the persecutions by the Kerensky government and its agents. Although the volume is large, not everything written by Lenin has been included. Many political letters addressed to the Central Committee or to its individual members, known to have been written by Lenin, are still missing, so that only a part of this highly important correspondence is to be found in this volume. A further careful study of the files of the Party press from July to November, 1917, will probably reveal that many of the unsigned articles and notes, published in these papers, were written by Lenin.

To avoid making the volume too bulky, it was considered desirable to divide it into two books. The first contains articles and letters written between July 16 and September 29; the second, his writings between the latter date and November 6. In addition, Book I includes the larger essay "The Threatening Catastrophe and How to Fight It," and Book II opens with "Will the Bolsheviks Retain State Power?" and closes with Lenin's classic "State and Revolution," which appears in a sorely needed revised translation.

All the appendices are given at the end of Book II with the exception of the explanatory notes relating to the writings included in Book I which will be found at the end of this book. The "Documents and Materials" section is larger than in the volumes hitherto published. The elucidation of the political preparation of the October uprising and the struggle against the Right opposition which fought against the uprising, demanded fuller documentation. In view of the special importance of the October 23 and 29 sessions of the Central Committee of the Party which Lenin attended and at which he made the historic speeches in support of the proposed armed uprising, it was considered advisable to include the proceedings of these sessions, even if incompletely recorded.

The preparation of the "Chronology of Lenin's Life" was fraught with difficulties. Exact information regarding Lenin's illegal ex-

istence and his peregrinations as a result of it from the outskirts of Petrograd to Helsingfors, then to Vyborg and again to Petrograd, is not available. The many reminiscences of participants are to a great extent contradictory and cannot therefore be considered trustworthy. Therefore, the dates are given only approximately.

This volume, which forms Volume XXI of Lenin's *Collected Works*—together with Volume XX, published under the title *The Revolution of 1917*—makes available in English the writings, speeches and correspondence of Lenin which cover the period from the bourgeois revolution and the overthrow of the Tsar in March, to the proletarian revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Government in November, 1917.