

Chapter 1 : Essential Works of Lenin: "What Is to Be Done?" and Other Writings by Vladimir Lenin

For anyone who seeks to understand the twentieth century, capitalism, the Russian revolution, and the role of Communism in the tumultuous political and social movements that have shaped the modern world, the essential works of Lenin offer unparalleled insight and understanding.

Edited by Henry M. Christman This review is part of my ongoing investigation into the roots of Soviet activity theory. I did not anticipate having to read Lenin, but he is cited extensively by Ilyenkov and less so by Leontiev, and his legacy certainly impacted the Soviet Union. Below, I attempt a thumbnail sketch of the following works in this volume: What is to be done? Lenin strenuously argues that any divergence from socialist ideology bolsters bourgeois ideology p. The class political consciousness, he says, can only be brought to workers from the outside p. All of these claims suggest a revolution centrally controlled by intelligentsia, by professional revolutionaries p. In the repressive climate of prerevolutionary Russia, he argues, we must create a conspiracy p. But it was only published in September , after the February revolution and at the eve of the October revolution. According to my research assistant, Mr. Whereas Lenin regarded imperialism to be the natural end of capitalism, Schumpeter regarded imperialism as a sign that feudal aspects survive in capitalism. In any case, Lenin uses data from the US and Europe to argue that entrepreneurship rises when the number of competing enterprises is low p. He also argues that rapid technological process leads to more disturbances in coordination across industry true , and this leads to more monopolies as firms try to get a handle on these disturbances p. When Lenin accuses monopoly as penetrating into every sphere of public life, I imagine him eagerly taking notes p. Here, Lenin argues against democracy, saying that it is fundamentally incompatible with Leninism. The argument goes like this: The State is a manifestation of the irreconcilability of class antagonism p. It is set above and alienated from society; liberation requires the destruction of the apparatus of state power p. So even socialists such as the Mensheviksâ€”who supported a democratic socialismâ€”were playing into the hands of the bourgeoisie by insisting on a "modern" state; democracy was simply another way of prolonging the state and the class antagonisms that manifested it p. When class struggle is abolished, Lenin argues, the state will wither away p. Lenin draws from Engels for this account, but he corrects? After all, "The state is a special organization of force; it is the organization of violence for the suppression of some class"â€”in this case, "the exploiting class, i. Only when the bourgeoisie had been eliminated as a class could the state wither away. Obviously, then, the dictatorship of the proletariat was irreconcilable with reformism p. How will this happen? Building on what capitalism has established, the workers will organize production, relying on their own experience; "establish strict, iron discipline supported by the state power of the armed workers"; and reduce the role of state officials to mere management p. Eventually, that managerial work Lenin says will die out as a stratum of the population, replaced by a rotation of workers who take on this task p. As the state is abolished, so is organized and systemic violence p. Until then, workers should remained armedâ€”p. Max Weber published his work on bureaucracy, Economy and Society , posthumously in â€”five years after Lenin published this text. But it was only a matter of time before the proletariat arose against the bourgeoisie internationallyâ€”this was not a matter of utopianism, Lenin declared confidently, but science p. Individual countries became socialist and even communist, but the worldwide revolt against capitalism never happened. So the Soviet Union remained stuck in the dictatorship of the proletariat, growing a new bureaucracy rather than letting it die out. Workers were certainly not allowed to stay armed. Should you read this book? If you are interested in the Soviet Union, yes.

Chapter 2 : Spinuzzi: Reading :: Essential Works of Lenin

Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the 20th century and beyond. With the benefit of hindsight Lenin's works are textbook examples of the road to hell being paved with good intentions.

In this volume, comprising the four works generally considered his most important publications, Lenin presents the goals and tactics of Communism with remarkable directness and forcefulness. His first major work was *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, written in prison after Lenin had been arrested for anti-government activities in 1897. Represented here by key sections, the book developed a number of crucial concepts, including the significance of the industrial proletariat as a revolutionary base. *What Is to Be Done?* Also presented complete is *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, in which Lenin examines the final "parasitic" stage of capitalism. For anyone who seeks to understand the twentieth century, capitalism, the Russian revolution, and the role of Communism in the tumultuous political and social movements that have shaped the modern world, the essential works of Lenin offer unparalleled insight and understanding. Taken together, they represent a balanced cross-section of this revolutionary theories of history, politics, and economics; his tactics for securing and retaining power; and his vision of a new social and economic order.

Customer Book Reviews Quite a good book. By Caligastia on Sep 11, This is the book to start with if you wish to understand the great man who was Vladimir Ilych Lenin. It also includes *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, which explains what the title states. My only disappointment with this book is that it did not contain *Left-wing Communism: Read this book and get to know the real Vladimir Ilych Lenin*. The book then, is a good one, but introductory exposure to Marxist thought will help. It does provide a valuable, concise biography of Lenin in the introduction. Lenin was a very intelligent critic of capitalism, with many penetrating insights into the function and abuses of a capitalist economy. It is not that Marxism was based on a complete illusion, but that it was based on a partially-true, compelling illusion that perhaps makes it so seductive, and so dangerous. I dissent, for example, in thinking that only the "dictatorship of the proletariat" can supplant the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, and that somehow a freer, fuller democracy will result from a worker-managed society in which the state will subsequently "wither away. That Lenin or Marx possessed a real historical "science" of political-economy I think has been disproved. People remain people, inherently biased, often selfish, not concurring, and striving to realize two very difficult things: Do not be mistaken, however. Just because Lenin as Marx made serious errors in their theory, does not excuse the student of ethics, politics, or religion from treating these writings of Lenin with the serious academic study they deserve. Lenin may have been wrong about much, but right about a great deal too. Understanding his thought will be important for any student of history and politics. That said, this book does very little to comment on religion. Famous for their antipathy towards religion, choose another book if you are interested in their ideas about religion. Lenin also draws quite considerably on Engels, considering him and Marx to be the only true interpreters beside himself of the doctrine. A final note - the book also does not mention Adam Smith - it is just assumed that capitalist theory is wrong, and Lenin spends much of its time battling the "false" or "opportunist" Marxists Bernstein, Kautsky, the anarchists. See Marx or perhaps another volume on Lenin for a more direct confrontation of Smith and classical economists. A new review-dotted the is. Mendon on Jan 21, I made an earlier jokingly one-liner that does not justice to the book- or to Lenin. What I think should look for in this book is exactly the following: Therefore the necessity for politics - specially party politics - to take precedence in marxist analysis over pure economic analysis. One may think whatever one wants of the solutions found by Lenin - above all the party of professional revolutionists, disciplined and centralized, but one may not deny him the fact that it was him who first made a new kind of marxist approach to issues that is still very much with us. Topics discussed are trade unions, the new role of banks, imperialism, the decay of capitalism, and a Marxist view of the state. Walsh on Jun 09, This is a fine introduction to the thinking of one of the few people in the world who really influenced the tide of history. Along with Leon Trotsky and the Bolshevik Party, Lenin helped establish the first state that was ruled by and for the working class. What went wrong with the revolution is best dealt with by reading Trotsky. The basis of modern Communism By Antonis

on Jul 22, Lenin was a dedicated revolutionary, the leader of the Bolshevik Party and a Marxist, who gained power and influence by sieging the control of Russia from the Provisional Government of Kerensky in , thus creating the Soviet Union, the first so called communist state. Lenin was not a mainstream Marxist, and thus his political ideas and contributions have formed a sub-branch ideology, called Leninism or Marxism-Leninism. The works contained in this book express the main ideas that differentiate Lenin from the mainstream Marxism of his time, mainly, that a revolution can be achieved by a small group of "professional revolutionaries" instead of the proletariat class, and that the capitalist phase of human society theorized as necessary by Karl Marx to reach Communism, can be surpassed. Every communist state that has emerged in the 20th century draws some significant influence from Lenin rather than Marx , and subsequently, ideologies such as Trotskyism, Stalinism and Maoism, were heavenly influenced by Leninism often claiming to be its continuation. No matter where you stand on Lenin and Communism, read this book, and have a better understanding of an idea that has affected modern history, possibly more than any other in the last century. If there is a single book to read by Lenin, read this one. His greatest works are included, giving a clear understanding of Leninism to the reader, and although the book can be dense, hard, and even boring at times, it is in my opinion, best to read these ideas from Lenin himself rather than from an author that may misrepresent him. The Dover Edition, is again, simply excellent. Unfortunately most books on him are biased. So i finally decided that it best to read his own writings. This book has some of his greatest work and it really gives you a lot of detail and what he really wanted to do. My favorite part of the book is "Imperialism: By Blake Krawczuk on Aug 19, This book requires a excess amount of knowledge of Russia circa ish. If you know nothing of Russi around the time of Lenin, this book will be confusing. You may have to read another book to understand it. That being said, this is a great book. It gives a lot of insight on Leninism as it was then; a growing school of thought. A lot of writings and speeches for someone whose life ended at 54 and he was totally incapacitated by a stroke for most of the year before that. Lenin cannot be understood outside of the world he lived in, nor can he be understood without also reading the writings of his collaborators and other contemporary revolutionaries like Trotsky and Rosa Luxemburg. At the time Lenin wrote this, his model of a party was still the German Social Democratic Party, which once had to function underground, and still was able to make enormous gains during that period. But most of "What Is To be Done? Those he took up in other publications. The Bolsheviks combined underground work with legal and semi-legal work, taking advantage of every opportunity to advance their idea in trade union struggles, elections to the Duma, and everything else see Left-Wing Communism: It is a book that is central to understanding the fundamental structural changes that had been taking place in the advanced capitalist countries. But this book just takes you up to the October Revolution. To read his writings in the course of the revolution, see if you can get a hold of his Collected Works vols 25 and There are no decent biographies of Lenin, but many good books about him. I suggest starting with Reminiscences of Lenin by Nadezhada Krupskaya by his widow, an important figure in her own right, and The Young Lenin by Trotsky. We are reading here a translation of Russian words which By Ronald Slade on Mar 21, We are reading here a translation of Russian words which were spoken years ago. Over time the definitions of some words have become mystifying and the glossary does not take them into account. The author, Lenin, does not make efficient use of language and tends to speak in " word salads. The Essential Works of Lenin: By Razhian on Aug 18, Some of the material was heady. The Final Stage of Capitalism was fantastic, and is relevant to this modern era post The last book contained within "The State and Revolution" summed up what is to be done, how and why. The other work assist with building up to the two I mentioned above, but are still good reads for one who has a curiosity of communism. The book also assists with understanding capitalism, and how the East views the West. The main problem that Leninism ran into, was that an oligarchy of the communists can became as insentive and remote from the laboring masses, as a czarist monarchy had been before. Lenin felt the peasants did not have the savvy intellectual prowess to keep the socialist-labour movement going forward. And also that the peasants would be prone towards nostalgia for the czar and his church beliefs. Regicide did little to stop the peasants human need for a spiritual superman figure and Joesf Stalin fit the bill. Yet this lead to another problem with Leninism. The faulty idea that a large supply produced would induce a large demand for the product. The need and value of the product is driven by

market-demand. Whose tastes and values are subject to ready change. Regardless, of what laws and penalties the bureaucrats impose upon them. Good Lenin Bad Editor By Communism on Apr 14, This is good because it is a collection of Lenin works, although the editor is an anti-communist and interprets and teaches Lenin dogmatically. Essential Works of Lenin By Kassad on Feb 17, The book was in incredible shape and it came well before the estimated delivery time. This is also an updated version of the book and frankly, it just looks more appealing to me. Quite a good book. By Mary Simone on Jul 12, An edition aimed at those who still want to know what is to be done. This particular edition is in a Paperback format. It was published by Dover Publications and has a total of pages in the book. To buy this book at the lowest price, [Click Here](#).

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Essential Works of Lenin: "What Is to Be Done?" and Other Writings by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin Among the most influential political and social forces of the twentieth century, modern communism rests firmly on philosophical, political, and economic underpinnings developed by Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, later known as Lenin.

Chapter 4 : Table of Contents: Essential works of Lenin :

Creator of the former Soviet Union, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (family name Ulianov) was born on April 10, in Simbirsk (later Ulianovsk), Russia, the son of a schools inspector.

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New data for V. I. Lenin's "Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism," by: Lenin, Vladimir IIÉ'ich, Published: () The triumph of Bolshevism; revolution or reaction?

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