

BUILDING SOCIALISM

By placing the party grassroots at the centre of its focus, *Building Socialism* presents an original account of the formative first two decades of the Soviet system. Assembled in a large network of primary party organisations (PPO), the Bolshevik rank-and-file was an army of activists made up of ordinary people. While far removed from the levers of power, they were nevertheless charged with promoting the Party's programme of revolutionary social transformation in their workplaces, neighbourhoods and households. Their regular meetings, conferences and campaigns have generated a voluminous source base. This rich material provides a unique view of the practical manifestation of the Party's revolutionary mission and forms the basis of this insightful new narrative of how the Soviet republic functioned in the period from the end of the Russian Civil War in 1921 to its invasion by Nazi Germany in 1941.

Yiannis Kokosalakis is a Research Fellow in the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology at Bielefeld University. His research focuses on the history of the socialist states of the twentieth century and the experience of revolutionary movements in government and has published a number of articles on Soviet labour relations, ideological instruction and political reform. He has held a European Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship and received a National University of Ireland Early Career Award for his work.



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BUILDING SOCIALISM

The Communist Party and the Making of the Soviet System, 1921–1941

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Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009218849

DOI: 10.1017/9781009218870

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First published 2023 First paperback edition 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data NAMES: Kokosalakis, Yiannis, 1987- author.

TITLE: Building socialism : the communist party and the making of the soviet system, 1921-1941 / Yiannis Kokosalakis.

DESCRIPTION: 1 Edition. | New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2023. |

SERIES: Nseh new studies in European history | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022053366 (print) | LCCN 2022053367 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009218863 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009218849 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009218870 (epub)
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Soviet Union–Economic policy–1928-1932. | Soviet Union–Economic
policy–1938-1942. | Industrial organization–Soviet Union–History. | Industrial policy–Soviet
Union–History. | Kommunisticheskafa partifa Sovetskogo Sofuza–History.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC HC335.2 .K595 2023 (print) | LCC HC335.2 (ebook) |

DDC 338.947–dc23/eng/20221103 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022053366 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022053367

978-1-009-21884-9 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-009-21886-3 Hardback

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ISBN



Дорожка скатертью!
Мы и кухарку
каждую
выучим
управлять государством!
Vladimir Maiakovskii, Vladimir Il'ich Lenin, 1924



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Acknowledgements

Like many first monographs, this book began its journey as a doctoral project. In the several years that have passed since I started my graduate research at the University of Edinburgh, I have accumulated a significant number of intellectual and personal debts to people and institutions. This short note can only hope to address some of those. My doctoral supervisors Iain Lauchlan and Julius Ruiz provided helpful comments and corrections to my work. The School of History, Classics and Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Consortium of Russian Central and East-European Studies provided financial support for travel and training. Without the friendly introduction to the Russian archives provided by Polly Jones and Alexander Titov through the Russian Archives Training Scheme, the primary research that made this book possible would have been a much less pleasant experience.

Many of the following chapters were written during a research fellowship I held at the School of History of University College Dublin (UCD). This was funded by a European Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship for which I am very grateful. This book incorporates adapted material dispersed in various chapters from my articles 'Bolshevik Bargaining in Soviet Industry' and "Merciless War" against Trifles', which were originally published in *The Journal of Modern History* (vol. 93, no. 2) and *Revolutionary Russia* (vol. 28, no. 1), respectively. Many thanks to Chicago University Press and Taylor & Francis for allowing republication.

I am highly indebted to Robert Gerwarth for being the source of invariably excellent advice on all kinds of academic matters, but especially on how to turn a thesis into a book. Emma Lyons, Kate O'Hanlon, Sarah Feehan and Suzanne Darcy offered invaluable administrative support throughout my time at UCD. Lior Tibet, Elisabeth Piller, Ronan Macnamara, Peter Hession and Mark Jones provided a fruitful combination of entertaining conversation, intellectual stimulation and occasional comments on my written work. James Harris has offered much advice and



Acknowledgements

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challenging feedback from the late stages of my doctoral studies to the present day. Roland Boer has kindly shared his encyclopaedic knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of socialist state-building. Bob Chase has generously read and commented on draft chapters of this book.

Personal friendships have been as important as collegial relationships in making this book possible. Many thanks to Veronica Lykou, Richard Yuel and Jaume Miro for putting up with me during my early doctoral years in Edinburgh. Dina Veriutina, Liana Mukhamedzyanova and Sasha Skorobogatova provided not only accommodation, but also the company necessary to prevent me from losing all touch with the twenty-first century during the most immersive phase of my archival work in Saint-Petersburg. Michał Palacz, Chelsea Sambells and Victor Cazares Lira went through the trials of doctoral training at the same time as I did and provided collegial and friendly support without which it would have been much harder to complete the doctoral phase of this project. The ideas underlying my work have been formed over many years in friendly conversations with Andrew Weir, Phil McGuinness, Euan Oliphant, Keir Lawson, Jon Black and Neil Bennet. It is a privilege to have friends that do not regard my interest in the Soviet Union as a curious obsession. On a similar note, there are few people I share more views with than Alexis Synodinos. Our conversations are a great source of pleasure every day.

I have left the best for last. My parents have been a source of infinite support throughout my life in more ways than can be enumerated in this note. Neither this book nor many other things would have been possible without their love and trust. Finally, no contribution to the completion of this work deserves to be acknowledged more than that of Alkistis Elliott-Graves. Her support, patience and constant encouragement have been my greatest source of strength throughout these years.



Abbreviations and Russian Terms

agitprop agitation and propaganda

aktiv activist group

artel' traditional Russian work-crew

CC Central Committee of the Communist Party

edinonachalie one-person management principle city committee of the Communist Party

gubkom province (guberniia) committee of the Communist

Party, obkom from 1929

KP Krasnyi Putilovets, Red Putilovite works in Leningrad kul'tprop culture and propaganda, department and head of province (oblast') committee of the Communist Party

partkom party committee partorg party organiser

partorg TsK party organiser assigned directly by the CC

partsec party secretary

PPO Primary Party Organisation rabkor workers' correspondent

raikom district committee of the Communist Party

RGASPI Russian State Archive of Social and Political History

RGAVMF Russian State Archive of the Navy

spetseedstvo specialist-baiting

TsGAIPD Central State Archive of Historical-Political

Documents, Saint-Petersburg

VKP (b) All-Union Communist Party (bolsheviks), the

Communist Party

zapiska note to speaker, often question

zavkom factory committee