

Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution

When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, they announced the overthrow of a world scarred by exploitation and domination. In the very moment of revolution, these sentiments were put to the test as antisemitic pogroms swept the former Pale of Settlement. The pogroms posed fundamental questions of the Bolshevik project, revealing the depth of antisemitism within sections of the working class, peasantry and Red Army. *Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution* offers the first book-length analysis of the Bolshevik response to antisemitism. Contrary to existing understandings, it reveals this campaign to have been led not by the Party leadership, as is often assumed, but by a loosely connected group of radicals who mobilized around a Jewish political subjectivity. By examining pogroms committed by the Red Army, Brendan McGeever also uncovers the explosive overlap between revolutionary politics and antisemitism, and the capacity for class to become racialized in a moment of crisis.

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A Note on Translation

I have followed the Library of Congress system for Russian transliteration, except where the more familiar form is otherwise (for example, I use Trotsky, not Trotskii). For cities and provinces, I generally use the typical or most common usage in the primary sources and secondary literature, which in most cases is Russian. However, for towns and cities in Ukraine, I have transliterated from the Ukrainian spelling (Kyiv, not Kiev; Zhytomyr, not Zhitomir). In one or two cases, the more commonly known Russian transliteration has been followed (Grigor'ev, not Hryhor'iev).

Terms and Abbreviations

Cheka	Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counterrevolution and Sabotage
Comintern	Communist International
d.	<i>delo</i> , a file within a fond (archival term)
Evkom	Jewish Commissariat of the People's Commissariat of Nationalities
Evobshchestkom	Jewish Social Committee for the Relief of Victims of Pogroms
Evseksiia	Jewish Sections of the Russian Communist Party
f.	<i>fond</i> , document collection (archival term)
guberniia	province, large administrative-territorial unit of the Russian empire/Soviet republics
(pl. gubernii)	
Ispolkom	'Executive Committee' – a local organ of Soviet government
kulak	Soviet term for 'wealthy peasant'
l.	<i>list</i> , page (archival term)
Narkomnats	People's Commissariat for the Affairs of the Nationalities
oblast'	large region, or district, an administrative-territorial unit in the Soviet republics
op.	<i>opis'</i> or inventory (archival term)
Revkom	Revolutionary Committee
RKP(b)	Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik)
Sovnarkom	Soviet of People's Commissars
VTsIK	All-Russian Central Executive Committee (of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic)

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