LIBERAL IDEAS IN TSARIST RUSSIA

Liberalism is a critically important topic in the contemporary world as liberal values and institutions are in retreat in countries where they seemed relatively secure. Lucidly written and accessible, this book offers an important yet neglected Russian aspect to the history of political liberalism. Vanessa Rampton examines Russian engagement with liberal ideas during Russia’s long nineteenth century, focusing on the high point of Russian liberalism from 1900 to 1914. It was then that a self-consciously liberal movement took shape, followed by the founding of the country’s first liberal (Constitutional-Democratic, or Kadet) party in 1905. For a brief, revelatory period, some Russians – an eclectic group of academics, politicians, and public figures – drew on liberal ideas of Western origin to articulate adistinctively Russian liberal philosophy, shape their country’s political landscape, and were themselves partly responsible for the tragic experience of 1905.

Vanessa Rampton is a Branco Weiss Fellow at the Institute for Health and Social Policy and Department of Philosophy at McGill University. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow at ETH Zurich’s Chair for Practical Philosophy. Trained as a historian of ideas, she has a long-standing interest in how empirical examples can challenge commonly held assumptions about ideologies.
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IDEAS IN CONTEXT

The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

A list of books in the series can be found at the end of the volume.
LIBERAL IDEAS IN TSARIST RUSSIA

From Catherine the Great to the Russian Revolution

VANESSA RAMPTON

McGill University
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgements</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note on Dates, Transliteration, and Other Conventions</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Introduction: Conceptions of Liberalism in Imperial Russia

- Western Theories | 6
- Western Practices | 20
- Liberalism between Freedom and Justice | 24
- Making History | 29
- Conclusion | 34

1 Inside Out: Freedom, Rights, and the Idea of Progress in Nineteenth-Century Russia | 38
- The Emergence of Russian Liberalism | 40
- Individual Freedom and Social Justice in Russian Thought | 53
- Religious Liberalism and Positive Liberty (Vladimir Solov’ev) | 59

2 Progress, Contested: Positivist and Neo-Idealist Liberalism | 63
- Positivist and Anti-positivist Conceptions of Freedom in the European fin de siècle | 65
- Epistemologies of Liberal Freedom in the Russian Silver Age | 70

3 Freedom, Differently: Liberalism in 1905 and Its Aftermath | 85
- The Liberation Movement | 87
- Concepts of Freedom Revisited: 1905 | 93
- Freedom and Liberal Politics, 1906–1914 | 101

4 Liberalism Undone: The Loss of Cohesion on the Eve of 1917 | 111
- Outlines of a Debate: 1905–1909 | 115
- The Liberalism of Landmarks | 118
- The Debate around Landmarks | 130
## Contents

5 Conversations with Western Ideas I: Conflicts between Values

- Individual Freedom and Social Justice: Bogdan Kistiakovskii’s Lawful Socialism 135
- Tensions between Freedoms and Liberal History: Pavel Novgorodtsev 137

6 Conversations with Western Ideas II: Progress and Freedom

- ‘A Chapter in the History of Progress’: The Thought of Maksim Kovalevskii 161
- Between History and Politics: The Liberalism of Pavel Miliukov 163
- Conclusion 174

Conclusion 185

Bibliography

- Unpublished Works 190
- Russian Primary Sources 190
- Other Published Sources 200

Index 222
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Note on Dates, Transliteration, and Other Conventions

Throughout this study I have used the Library of Congress system of transliteration without diacritics. I have preferred transliterated names to translated ones, except in the case of monarchs and other members of the Russian royal family (Catherine the Great, not Ekaterina II). In general, the Ukrainian form of the names of individuals who clearly self-identified as Ukrainians has been used. For Bogdan Kistiakovskii and his family, Russian transliterations have been used as a compromise because even though Kistiakovskii identified as a Ukrainian, he did not publicly use the Ukrainian form of his name. Russian terms are given in the new orthography introduced after the orthographic reform of 1917–18 (Russkie vedomosti, not Russkiia viedomosti).

Dates referring to Russian events have been given according to Russian usage prevailing at the time, unless otherwise noted. The Julian calendar, used in Russia until 1 February 1918, was twelve days behind the Gregorian calendar in the nineteenth century, and thirteen days behind it in the twentieth.

Throughout this book, translations of Russian and other non-English texts are mine unless otherwise indicated. When referencing non-English titles (such as those of publications), I provide the reader with a translated title followed by the original and date of publication in parentheses.

The following titles of books and journals have been abbreviated as follows:

Osvobozhdenie O
Poliarnaya zvezda PZ
Problems of Idealism, ed. and trans. Poole PI
Russkaia mysl’ RM
Vekhi, ed. and trans. Sharz and Zimmerman V
Voprosy filosofii i psikhologii VFP