

The Unknown Revolution

1917–1921

Voline

Introduction: Iain McKay • Foreword: Rudolf Rocker

This is the untold story of the Russian Revolution: its antecedents, its far-reaching changes, its betrayal by Bolshevik terror, and the massive resistance of non-Bolshevik revolutionaries. This in-depth, eyewitness history written by Voline, an outspoken activist in the Russian Revolution, contains a biography of the author by Rudolf Rocker and a contemporary introduction from anarchist historian Iain McKay

Significant attention is given to what the author describes as “struggles for the real Social Revolution”; that is, the uprising of the sailors and workers of Kronstadt in 1921, and the peasant movement that Nestor Makhno led in Ukraine. These movements, which sought to defend the social revolution from destruction by the politicians, provide important material for a clearer understanding of both the original objectives of the Russian Revolution and the problems with which all revolutions with far-reaching social objectives have to contend.

Drawing on the revolutionary press of the time, Voline reveals the deep cleavage between the objectives of the Libertarians and those of the Bolsheviks, differences which the latter “resolved” by ruthlessly eliminating all who stood in their way in the struggle for power.

This edition is a translation of the full text of *La Révolution inconnue*, first published in 1947. It reinstates material omitted from earlier English-language editions and reproduces the complete text of the original volumes.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Voline (Vsevolod Mikhailovich Eikhenbaum, 1882–1945) writer, educator, poet, and anarchist, was an outspoken activist in the Russian Revolution. Exiled by the Tsarist tribunal, then sentenced to death by Trotsky and rescued amid protests, he never ceased to live up to his chosen nom de guerre based on the Russian word for freedom.

Iain McKay is an independent anarchist writer and researcher. He was the main author of *An Anarchist FAQ* as well as numerous other works, including *Mutual Aid: An Introduction and Evaluation*. In addition, he has edited and introduced *Property Is Theft! A Pierre-Joseph Proudhon Anthology*; *Direct Struggle Against Capital: A Peter Kropotkin Anthology*; and Kropotkin’s 1913 book *Modern Science and Anarchy*.

Rudolf Rocker (1873–1958) was one of the most prominent writers, speakers, and activists of anarchism’s classical period. His works include *Nationalism and Culture* and *Anarcho-Syndicalism: Theory and Practice*. Rocker was an outspoken critic of the suppression of individual freedom and anarchism under Russian communism and a supporter of the Kronstadt uprising and Nestor Makhno’s peasant movement in Ukraine.

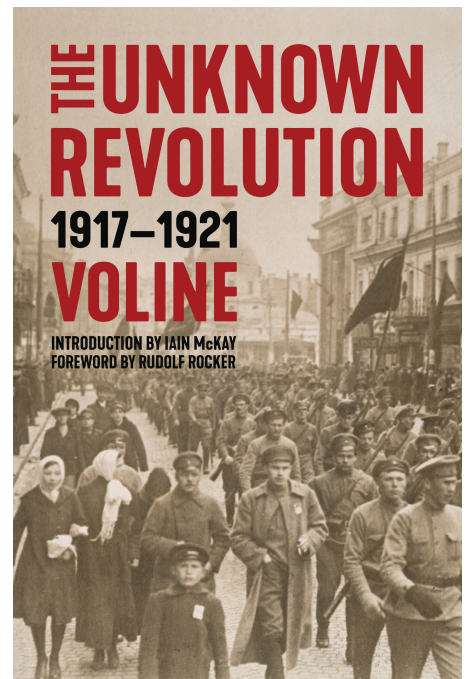
ACCOLADES

“A fascinating and valuable book—a combination of history, eyewitness account, and partisan advocacy about the Russian revolution of 1917–21.”

—Stephen F. Cohen, author of *Bukharin and the Bolshevik Revolution*

“In rich detail Voline documents the efforts of workers, peasants, and intellectuals to inaugurate a free society based on local initiative and autonomy. . . . It should be read by every person interested in the anarchist movement and the Russian revolution.”

—Paul Avrich, author of *The Russian Anarchists*



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