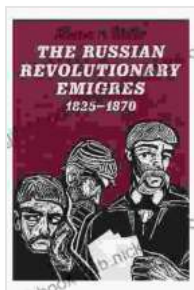


# The Russian Revolutionary Emigres, 1825–1870

By Richard Pipes



**The Russian Revolutionary Emigres, 1825-1870 (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science Book 104)** by Martin A. Miller

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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The Decembrist Revolt of 1825 was a watershed moment in Russian history. The revolt, which was led by a group of young army officers, was an attempt to overthrow the autocratic rule of Tsar Nicholas I. The revolt was brutally suppressed by the government, and its leaders were either executed or exiled to Siberia.

In the wake of the revolt, many of the Decembrists' supporters fled to Western Europe, where they formed a community of political exiles. These émigrés played a significant role in the development of Russian revolutionary thought and practice. They established journals and

newspapers, organized political groups, and engaged in a lively debate about the future of Russia.

The Russian revolutionary émigrés were a diverse group of individuals. They included aristocrats, military officers, intellectuals, and peasants. They shared a common goal of overthrowing the tsarist regime, but they often disagreed about the best means to achieve this goal. Some émigrés favored a violent revolution, while others believed in a more gradual approach.

Despite their differences, the Russian revolutionary émigrés played a vital role in the development of Russian revolutionary thought. They helped to spread new ideas about politics, economics, and society. They also provided a safe haven for Russian revolutionaries, who could meet and exchange ideas without fear of government persecution.

### **The Early Emigres**

The first Russian revolutionary émigrés arrived in Western Europe in the 1820s. These émigrés were largely aristocrats and military officers who had been involved in the Decembrist Revolt. They were deeply disillusioned with the tsarist regime and believed that it was necessary to overthrow it.

The early émigrés established a number of political organizations in Western Europe. The most important of these organizations was the Free Russian Press, which was founded in London in 1853. The Free Russian Press published a number of revolutionary journals and newspapers, which were smuggled into Russia and distributed to a wide audience.

The early émigrés also played a significant role in the development of Russian revolutionary thought. They developed a number of new ideas about the future of Russia, including the idea of a socialist revolution. These ideas would later be adopted by the Bolsheviks, who seized power in Russia in 1917.

## **The Later Emigres**

The number of Russian revolutionary émigrés increased dramatically in the 1860s and 1870s. These later émigrés were largely drawn from the ranks of the intelligentsia. They were disillusioned with the tsarist regime and believed that it was necessary to overthrow it.

The later émigrés established a number of new political organizations in Western Europe. The most important of these organizations was the Narodnaya Volya (People's Will), which was founded in 1879. The Narodnaya Volya was a terrorist organization that carried out a number of assassinations of government officials.

The later émigrés also played a significant role in the development of Russian revolutionary thought. They developed a number of new ideas about the future of Russia, including the idea of a peasant revolution. These ideas would later be adopted by the Narodniks, who were a group of Russian revolutionaries who believed that the peasantry was the driving force of the revolution.

## **The Impact of the Russian Revolutionary Emigres**

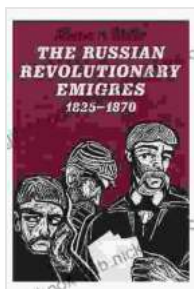
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The ideas of the Russian revolutionary émigrés would later be adopted by the Bolsheviks, who seized power in Russia in 1917. The Bolsheviks implemented a number of policies that were based on the ideas of the émigrés, including the nationalization of industry, the collectivization of agriculture, and the establishment of a one-party state.

The Russian revolutionary émigrés were a remarkable group of individuals who dedicated their lives to the cause of revolution. They played a vital role in the development of Russian revolutionary thought and practice, and their ideas continue to influence Russian politics today.

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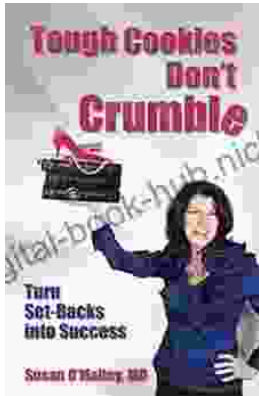
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