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БУДЕТ ЖИТЬ!

В.А. МАЯКОВСКИЙ.

# LENIN

Leader of the Russian Revolution

# WARDEN'S INTRODUCTION



This year, we have been marking the 10th anniversary of this hugely respected arts venue. The North Wall has made a significant impression on the cultural landscape in its first decade, building a national reputation for the high quality of its prolific public programme. In 2017, we have witnessed the inaugural Alchymy Festival of New Writing and, those of us who are regular patrons, have been treated to an illuminating programme of performances, exhibitions and talks throughout this celebratory year.

At its outset, The North Wall had a deliberate ambition to deliver alternatives to the mainstream, and a programme which brought these ideas front and centre in the public eye – there is a certain resonance with this exhibition's theme. Equally, in a year in which we are celebrating a significant moment in our School's history, it is perhaps fitting that we should now be welcoming an exhibition marking the centenary of a seminal moment in world history: The October Revolution.

I would like to extend my thanks to our Chairman, Mike Stanfield, who has played an integral role in bringing this exhibition to us, and also to the SCRSS for granting access to their archives and collections.

**Stephen Jones**

This exhibition is organised jointly by The North Wall, St Edward's School, the SCRSS and TopFoto to mark the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution of 1917.

With special thanks to the SCRSS for granting access to their collections and to TopFoto, who together have made this exhibition possible.

Society for Co-operation in  
**SCRSS**  
Russian and Soviet Studies

**TopFoto**

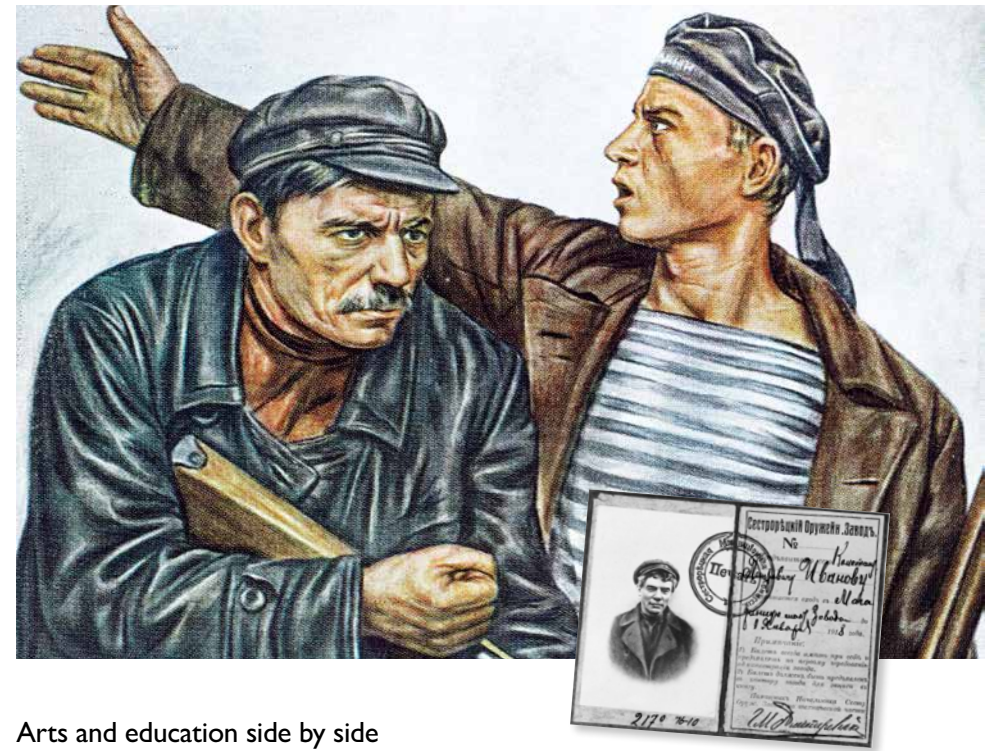
# WELCOME TO THE NORTH WALL

We are delighted to be joining The North Wall as its new Co-Directors. We have enjoyed a vibrant relationship with The North Wall over several years, touring work here, leading ArtsLab residencies, and visiting the gallery and theatre as audience members. It is our absolute pleasure to be overseeing the organisation's next chapter.

We are hugely excited by the organisation's steadfast support for bold work and emerging talent, and we look forward to enhancing its reputation as a centre of excellence. For us, the ethos at The North Wall

is one of innovation, celebration and investigation - and we intend to nurture and build a space and spirit that supports and inspires the next generation of artists from Oxford and beyond.

We have always admired the unique physical environment of The North Wall. A gallery, a theatre, a school. There is a strong and proven link between cultural engagement and educational attainment; and the significant relationship between St Edward's School and the Arts Centre is a fantastic opportunity to constantly interrogate and celebrate this.



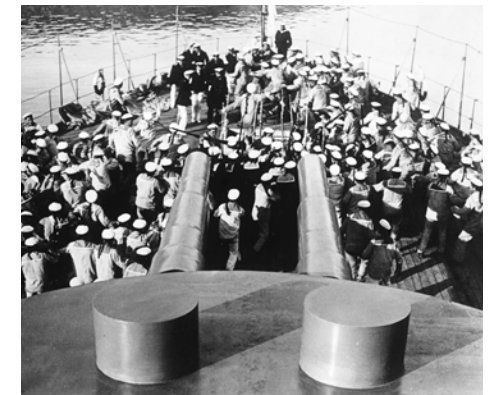
## Arts and education side by side

This exhibition is one such opportunity – *Lenin: Leader of the Russian Revolution* is a joint venture between The North Wall and St Edward's School. It brings together more than 70 rare photographs and other material relating to the revolution's leader, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, otherwise known as Lenin. The exhibition affords students of this period a chance to get a tangible sense of Lenin and his revolution.

Our thanks to the British SCRSS (Society for Cooperation in Russian and Soviet Studies), for giving access to their archive and making this exhibition possible. It is a pleasure to be bringing these rare materials to The North Wall.

We hope that you enjoy your time at the Arts Centre and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

**Ria Parry and John Hoggarth**  
Co-Directors of The North Wall



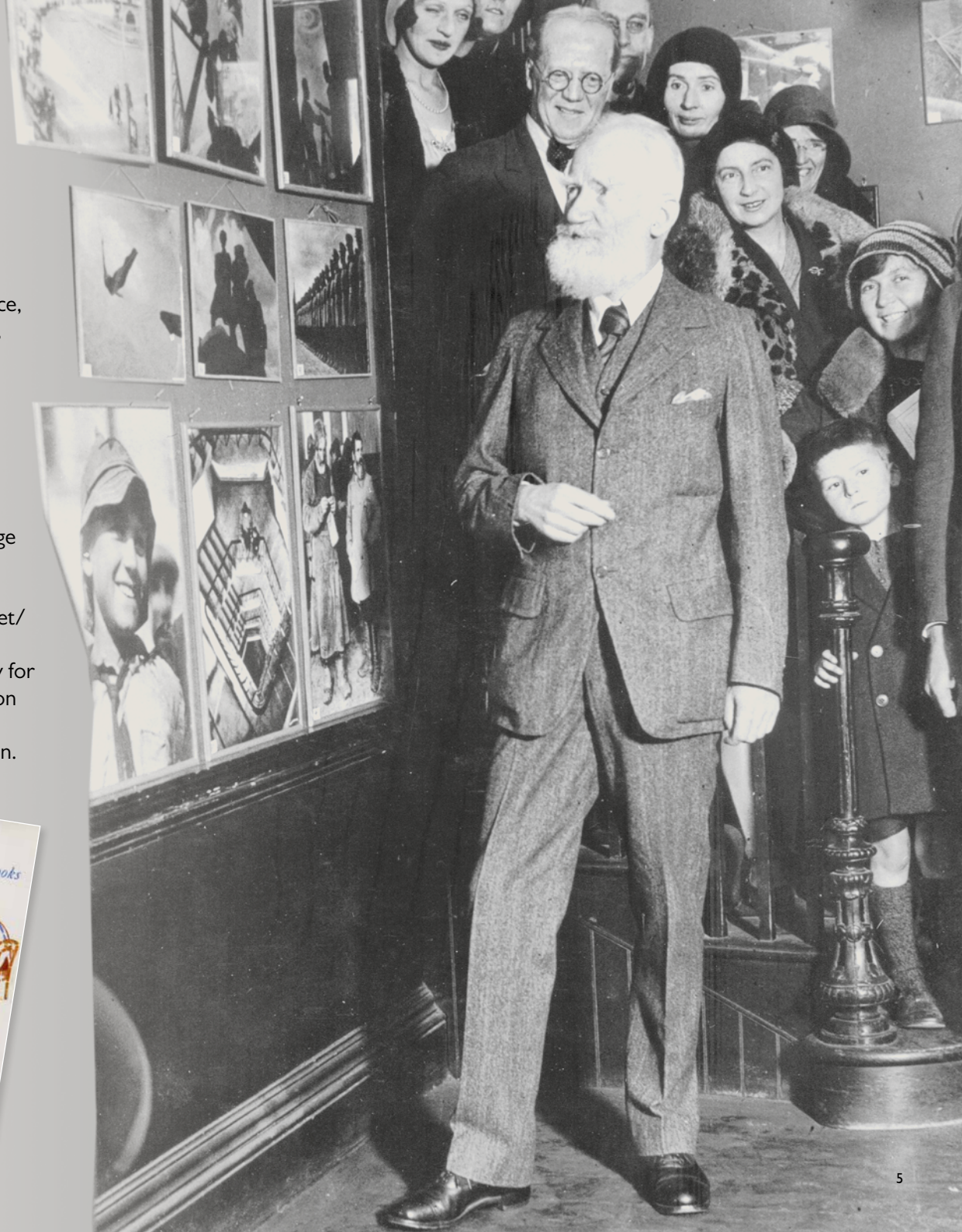
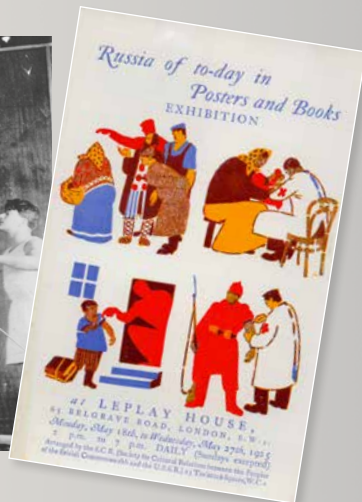
# THE SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATION IN RUSSIAN AND SOVIET STUDIES

Founded in 1924 as the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the USSR, the society took on its present title following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1992.

The Society was formed by a group of key British and Soviet artists and intellectuals of the day following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. These founding members included EM Forster, Julian Huxley, John Maynard Keynes, Bertrand Russell, Sybil Thorndike, Alexei Tolstoy, Virginia Woolf and Konstantin Yuon.

They sought to collect and diffuse information in both countries in science, education, philosophy, art, literature, and social and economic life. The Society continues to adhere to its founding principles of promoting co-operation between the peoples of the UK and Russia, becoming an educational charity in 2004.

The Society promotes Russian language learning, also organising regular film showings, lectures, seminars and exhibitions on various aspects of Soviet/Russian culture. St Edward's and The North Wall are grateful to the Society for their support in opening their collection to this exhibition, marking the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution.



# LENIN – A LIFE IN POLITICS AND REVOLUTION

## 1917: Year of Revolution

Lenin was in exile in Switzerland in early 1917 when political events in Russia began to move rapidly in the direction of significant political upheaval. The February Revolution came after a series of major defeats for the Russian armies on the Eastern Front, which forced Tsar Nicholas II to abdicate. He was replaced by a Provisional Government, desiring social democracy, under the leadership of Aleksander Kerensky. It was only in April, weeks after the first Revolution, that Lenin managed to negotiate with the Germans to allow him and other Bolsheviks to travel in a sealed train back to Russia. The Germans facilitated this because they hoped that Lenin would further destabilise Russia in WWI.

Lenin arrived to a great welcome from the Bolsheviks at the Finland Station and he immediately condemned the Provisional Government. In the July Days the Bolsheviks launched an insurrection against the Provisional Government. Kerensky was able to defeat the attempted coup, and several senior Bolsheviks were arrested, but Lenin escaped to Finland. In August, General Kornilov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, marched on Petrograd and this forced Kerensky to mobilise the Petrograd Soviet, including

the Bolsheviks, as the Red Army, to defend the city. The coup failed to even reach Petrograd, but the Bolsheviks were now returned to the political centre stage. Lenin returned to the city in October and plotted revolution. The Bolshevik coup started with the battleship *Aurora* firing upon the Winter Palace to signal the start of the Bolshevik Revolution. The Revolution was largely bloodless and the Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace, which was only guarded by cadets and women, almost without resistance. The ministers of the Provisional Government were seized and a new government, the Council of People's Commissars, was declared. The American socialist journalist, John Reed, brilliantly captured events in his book *Ten Days That Shook the World*.


## Lenin the Man

Ilyich Ulyanov was born to a wealthy middle-class family of mixed ethnic origins, including Jewish, Swedish and German background, in Simbirsk. The historian Robert Service describes him as “a strange little boy”, opinionated and self-centred. Ulyanov only embraced revolutionary socialist politics after his brother's execution in 1887 for conspiracy to assassinate Tsar Alexander III. Later, Ulyanov was expelled from Kazan Imperial University

for participating in protests against the Tsar, Alexander. Moving to Saint Petersburg in 1893, he became a senior figure among the Marxists. In 1897, Ulyanov was arrested and exiled to Shushenskoye, Siberia, for three years, where he married fellow revolutionary Nadezhda Krupskaya. In these years Ulyanov wrote prodigiously and in 1901 he began to use the pseudonym ‘Lenin’. After his exile, he moved to Western Europe and, in 1903, he took a key role in an ideological split in the Marxists, leading the Bolshevik faction against the more moderate Mensheviks. Lenin then returned to Russia from exile in Switzerland in 1917 to lead the October Revolution. He then led the new Bolshevik government through the Civil War against the “White Russians” and oversaw the formation of the

Soviet Union in 1922, all whilst living a famously austere lifestyle. Lenin also expressed a view towards violence that is, in many ways, shocking. He did not relish violence, but he regarded violence towards his enemies as a necessary tool to be used when needed. At the same time, he was also a proponent of state terror and its use to control the new state that he was creating. Despite this, it is worth remembering that Lenin genuinely believed that everything he did was for the proletariat and he envisioned a long-term future in which there would be no oppression. He died two years after the establishment of the Soviet Union in Gorki in 1924.

**Barnabas Fletcher**  
Upper Sixth



# THE IMPACT OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION ON THE MODERN WORLD

by Dr Alessandro Iandolo

Few events have shaped the course of twentieth-century history as much as the 1917 Revolution in Russia. A momentous upheaval, the revolution spelled the end of a vast European empire, the birth of a new state, and the consecration of an idea that was destined to leave its mark on the rest of the century – communism. Lenin, the political and intellectual leader of the Bolshevik party that led the revolution, was at the centre of these events. Without Lenin and his ideas, the world in which we live today would undoubtedly look very different.

From the ashes of the Revolution and the bloody Civil War that followed, the Soviet Union was born. This new state was different from anything that had existed before. Lenin's original interpretation of Karl Marx's thinking shaped politics and society in the USSR. In pursuit of a 'classless' society, the Bolsheviks

did away with the monarchy and with the concept of aristocracy, ostensibly putting into power workers and peasants. Moreover, Lenin and his comrades targeted private property and inaugurated a new style of economic management. Farms and factories would be controlled by a collective, and the state maintained tight control over the economy as a whole. Not since the French Revolution in 1789 had such a breakdown of traditional hierarchies rocked Europe and the world. Like Lenin himself, the history of the Soviet Union and of communism since 1917 combined lofty ideals with ugly compromises. The USSR mixed the high hopes of the Revolution with the violent repression of millions, the conquest of space with the horrors of Stalinism, and eras of experimentation and avant-garde with periods of economic and cultural stagnation.



Perhaps what is most remarkable, and yet often overlooked, about the 1917 Revolution, Lenin's ideas, and the history of communism was the global scale in which they operated, and the worldwide influence they had. The Russian Revolution happened in a global context of upheaval and confrontation between 'haves' and 'have nots', which ranged from Mexico to China and Turkey. The Soviet Union itself was an incredibly large and diverse country, spanning from Europe to the Far East and from the Arctic to the Middle East. In it cohabited dozens of different peoples, cultures and religions, as different as Russians and Azeri, Koreans and Chechens, Orthodox Christians and Shia Muslims, Buryat Buddhists and German Mennonites. Beyond the vast Soviet space, Lenin's ideas had a truly global impact. His brand of Marxism was founded on a critique of imperialism, which inspired many national liberation struggles in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Lenin

claimed that colonial oppression was the backbone of capitalist exploitation, and that only the elimination of empires would create a more just society. From 1917 to the present day, radicals and revolutionaries declared their allegiance to Leninism in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Chile, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, El Salvador, North Korea, and even North London. The Soviet Union may have ceased to exist, but its legacy and the intellectual tradition of Lenin's approach to Marxism continue to shape the world we live in.

Visiting this exhibition today, and looking at these wonderful photographs, you may be tempted to think that you are looking at a distant past. In fact, you are stepping into the very fabric of our contemporary world at its most exalting and, at the same time, most abject.

## THE PHOTOGRAPHS



Georgian mothers learning to write, 1920s.



Courtesy SCRSS

Poster We won't give up Petrograd by Dmitri Moor [1883-1946].



Courtesy SCRSS

Scene from the film October: Ten Days that Shook the World, directed by Sergei Eisenstein, 1928.



Courtesy SCRSS

Children enjoying salt water baths at Nursery No. 5 at the 8th Tobacco Factory, Moscow, 1930s.

# ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER TO  
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

## St Edward's School: In Progress

A celebration of the fantastic work conducted by St Edward's pupils across all year groups, this exhibition offers a particular platform to the Lower Sixth to showcase their work, produced during their Teddies Foundation Course. The course, which was recently introduced at the School, provides Lower Sixth A Level and IB pupils an opportunity to explore a range of media over a sixteen week programme.

- Free to visit.
- Open 10.00am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday and 12.00pm – 4.00pm, Saturdays

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER  
TO SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY

## A Christmas Carol, Creation Theatre

Creation Theatre's seventh family Christmas show at The North Wall promises to be every bit of the anarchic fun that we've come to expect from the company. Based on Charles Dickens' work, this original take on the classic is written and directed by Gari Jones and promises to be filled with misers, music and Christmas spirits.

- Recommended for age 7+
- Bookings through the Box Office: 01865 766266  
[www.creationtheatre.co.uk](http://www.creationtheatre.co.uk)







## The North Wall and St Edward's School: 10 years of cultivating artistic talent in a pioneering, nationally-important arts centre

Thank you for celebrating with us in 2017



St Edward's is the principal sponsor of The North Wall's innovative public programme and its ArtsLab residencies for young people. The North Wall is central to the School's broad vision for education and is a vital factor in its outstanding drama, art and dance.

[www.thenorthwall.com](http://www.thenorthwall.com)

[www.stedwardsoxford.org](http://www.stedwardsoxford.org)