twentieth century. The writings of Lenin's political opponents would be required in order to establish a well-rounded, objective assessment of the situation immediately before, during, and after the Revolution of 1917. These would include not only Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries like Julius Martov or Alexander Kerensky, but also other Bolsheviks such as Leon Trotsky and Grigory Zinoviev.

Lenin's work is radically different from other revolutionary accounts as it completely throws out the romantic ideas of uprising such as storming palaces and instead replaces it with the day-to-day monotony of bureaucratic management. In this fashion, *The Soviets at Work* is less a dramatic account of the people taking power than it is a step-by-step outline of the problems facing management of the Soviet system and the policies needed to solve them. Nevertheless, it does strengthen the idea of the Revolution as a worker's revolution, an attitude that may have been lost in the subsequent years following Lenin's death in 1924, and the reorganization of the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin.

In stark contrast to the New Economic Policy implemented by Lenin, Stalin moved for a much more immediate development of the economy through forced collectivization of agriculture and centralized planning. Stalin's policies abolished the small-scale free enterprise that characterized much of the New Economic Policy, opting instead to focus on rapid industrialization of the Russian economy through his "Five Year Plans." Many of these plans involved massive increases in Russian heavy industry to compete with nations like Germany, and despite the significant toll that they had on the Russian population, their success in advancing the industrial production of the Soviet Union is hard to dispute. Indeed, one can only wonder how different the fate of the Soviet Union would have been had Lenin and his policies survived into the 1930s, especially considering the events of the Second World War.

Nevertheless, *The Soviets at Work* is unique in that it touches upon a subject that few secondary sources even consider when discussing revolution: internal bureaucratic management. History prefers to look at events through the lens of the dramatic. Historical accounts are filled with wars and battles and blood, but rarely are they concerned with the efficient delivery of troop movement orders, or the official decrees and appropriate channels for executing a King or a Czar. These are the issues that The Soviets at Work considers while secondary

sources on the Russian Revolution barely delve beneath the surface of the tumultuous events in 1917 that changed the course of European and World history forever.

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