

## Editor's Introduction

With the publication of V. A. Il'inykh's "*Zemel'nye organy Sibiri v usloviakh NEPa: vozvyshenie i padenie agrarnykh ekspertov*," *The NEP Era* continues presenting scholarship that addresses the periphery along with the more commonly showcased politics of Moscow and Leningrad. Il'inykh's essay permits us to introduce his expertise on Siberia to a broad audience at the same time that his work suggests the rich holdings of three archives little used or perhaps even known by Western scholars: Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Novosibirskoi oblasti (GANO), Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Krasnoiarskogo kraia (GAKK), and Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Irkutskoi oblasti (GAIO).

Il'inykh addresses the question of the rise and fall of agrarian expertise during NEP in Siberia. He focuses in part on the work of A. V. Chaianov, whose concepts of agrarian organization influenced Lenin in the writing of his essay "O kooperatsii." Chaianov also played a key role as leader of the agricultural theoreticians or "neonarodniki" of the 1920s. He held that "the most stable form of organizing agricultural productivity" was not private farming (fermerskii) or the collective but through family-labor peasant economies (semeino-trudovye krest'ianskie khoziastva). By examining the work of Chaianov and other agrarian experts, Il'inykh seeks to "define the internal dynamic and periodization of NEP." He concludes that "in 1928-1929" with the regime's return to "war-communism," there followed "the removal . . . and then repression of 'petty-bourgeois and bourgeois' experts from the agricultural administrative apparatus . . ." Il'inykh's essay makes a worthy contribution to the extensive literature on the fate of expertise as NEP gave way to the First Five Year Plan.

The works under review in this issue range broadly. Scholars continue to probe literary NEP from new perspectives, resurrecting little noted writers and re-examining the well known. One third of the books reviewed address literature in the NEP era.

In the past twenty years, serious scholarship on Russian Jews has come into its own. Budnitskii explains why Jews gravitated to the Bolsheviks after initially contributing financially and otherwise to the Whites. Elisa Bemporad addresses the rewards of that choice in the form of a thriving Yiddish culture in Minsk.

Among the Bolshevik leadership, works on Lenin, Kamenev, and Bogdanov are discussed. Our reviewers examine Tolz's important and much debated work on late Imperial and early Soviet Orientalists as well

---

1. See *The NEP Era*, vols. 3 and 4 for essays on the Soviet regions in the 1920s, including Voronezh and Ukraine.

as the broadly defined Russian cosmists. A review on work concerning the development of radio as a device for regime control of the populace and an astute assessment of Velikanova's work on public opinion round out the issue.