

Alan Moorehead THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Narrated by Nelson Runger

"I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia," announced Winston Churchill to the British people; "it is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." In 1917, after eons of misrule and repression, the "enigma" presented a solution—a populist revolution. At the opening of the year, Nicholas II was afield with his armies, a sovereign in name only. Even the most patriotic elements—the Duma, the United Nobility, and the Council of the Empire—wanted him gone. The Bolsheviks, most numerous in industrial areas, suddenly found allies in the most unlikely quarters. But it was the army, despising their inept leader, who first began the chant: Bread and Peace. The Bolsheviks later added the revolutionary password: Land.

Large-scale street rioting in Petrograd began in late February. The rioters demanded bread. Cossack patrols sided with the rioters. Troops mutinied and the Duma's President announced: "Anarchy reigns. Government is paralyzed. It is absolutely necessary to invest someone with extraordinary powers to form a new government." The Czar did nothing and the fire spread to other cities. On March 16 the Romanov Dynasty died when Grand Duke Michael, regent to the now-abdicated Czar, renounced Ulyanov. An exile had told his wife only a few days before: We may not live to see the battles of the revolution. The exile now saw that he was to lead them. His name—Lenin.

Narrator Nelson Runger became famous for his voice while he was still in high school. As a radio broadcaster for KDKA in Pittsburgh, the world's first commercial broadcasting station, he attracted a wide audience. His success in radio, and then acting, led him to New York to become a narrator for Recorded Books. His special talent is to convey difficult, specialized material with eloquence and ease. His readings have been exuberantly received by listeners and reviewers alike. *Library Journal* praises "the cheerful, sonorous timber of Nelson Runger's voice and the unflinching, even pace of his delivery ..."

Recorded Books

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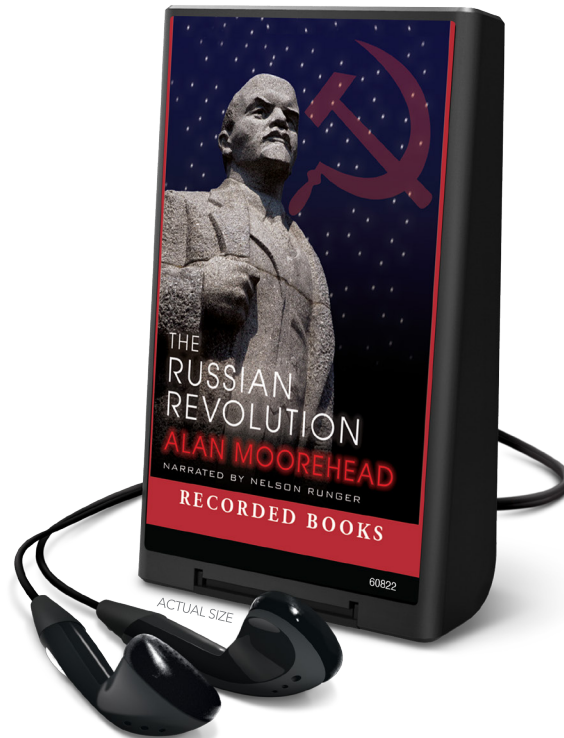
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