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Becoming British? Russian Revolutionaries in Britain before 1917'

Many prominent Russian revolutionaries lived or passed through Britain in the years before the Russian revolution including those who took part in the October Revolution. While most had few deep ties in Britain, the same was not true of the group of Russian radicals in the 1890s and 1900s who coalesced round the journal *Free Russia*. Building sympathy for the Russian radical cause in Britain was central to the activities of figures including Feliks Volkhovskii, Nikolai Chaikovskii and Stepniak. Their campaign was in part one of simple propaganda (in practice they often subtly misrepresented their political views and activities to win support). Yet they also carefully constructed their public personas in a way designed both to conform to orientalist conceptions of Russia while at the same time clothing themselves in an aura of British 'respectability'. The influence of emigres like Stepniak and Volkhovskii rested on their ability both to articulate and embody radical ideas in a way that made them acceptable to a spectrum of British society.