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Strange Bedfellows
How Russian Philosophers and the YMCA Topped Communism

Atlanta—Revolution from Within: The YMCA in Russia's Ascension to Freedom from Bolshevik Tyranny, by Catherine Baird, Ph.D., is a narrative about 160 of Russia's top intellectuals who were rounded-up, forcibly loaded onto steamships, and exiled from the country in 1922 by the new Bolshevik government. Lenin was determined to get these thinkers out of the country to extinguish any chance of their continued influence among the Russian people.



YMCA Logo c.1896

Support for "The 160" came from an unexpected quarter—the YMCA—which was banned from Russia in 1918, their members arrested by the Bolsheviks. The length to which the YMCA was prepared to go in their Russian initiatives is unparalleled: They set up a completely new division, a Russian publishing house called the YMCA Press, schools and academies, journals and societies, along with a host of other initiatives needed to sponsor the work and dissemination of the ideas of The 160.

Revolution from Within reveals an unfamiliar side of the YMCA and philanthropy—personalized service to others in the cause of unity. It offers a fresh perspective of the ideas that were prominent in Russia prior to the 1917 Revolution—a native, alternative tradition forged on the basis of freedom, human rights, and the rule of law that advocated creativity, compassion and freedom. Tracing the ensuing battle for the hearts and minds of Russian people and the convoluted paths by which these ideas survived and thrived underground, the book celebrates their magnificent return to Russia along with *perestroika*, *glasnost'*, and the fall of Communism almost 70 years later in a ringing testament to the truth that "Tyranny never survives!"

The book is available in paperback and digital formats at [Amazon](#), [Booklogix](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Kobo](#) and [iTunes](#) as well as the [book's website](#). For more information on **Revolution from Within** or Catherine Baird, please visit www.catherinebairdbooks.com.

"Faced with adversity at every corner the American Young Men's Christian Association has for well over 100 years found ingenious ways to pursue the goals of its Russian work...Unlikely partners, the YMCA and the Intelligentsia of the Russian diaspora collaborated to continue a thread of Russian thought that was divergent from the Soviet line. The story of the creation and eventual repatriation of this intellectual gift is harrowing, heartwarming and should serve as inspiration for those in pursuit of big

ideas." ~ **Ryan Bean, Reference and Outreach Archivist, Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries**

"When 160 of Russia's most promising intellectuals were exiled, YMCA Director Dr. John Mott and the YMCA Press supported their continuing development of ideas and philosophy. The Y was committed to preserving the individual freedom of Russia's leading spiritual philosophers along with their culture, education and literature. From the Bolshevik Revolution to the fall of the Soviet Union, *Revolution from Within* tells a true story of intrigue, politics, religion, and uncertainty." ~ **Kristen Obaranec, APR, Communications Director, Marketing and Communications, YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta**

"Overall, this is an astounding and little-known story about a remarkable moment in time—about two or three years in the early 20s when an extraordinary conflux of historical events, outstanding individuals, and big ideas came together to help lay the groundwork for one of the greatest historical events of the 20th century—the fall of Communism. Wow!" ~ **Beth Haddon, Journalist and former Broadcast Executive of CBC**

"Until I read this work I was completely unaware of the integral and vital part played by the YMCA in this quest for freedom or the power and reach of the YMCA Press. I had no idea that the YMCA played such a pivotal role in Russia and other nations with respect to political transformation" ~ **Lisa Moore, The Moore Firm**

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