

GEORGI V. PLEKHANOV'S CONCEPT OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The work endeavours to make a reconstruction of the views of the first Russian Marxist on key problems in Russian revolutionary movement — question of change of social and political system in Russia. The bulk of Plekhanov's works from the period 1876—1918 is subjected to comprehensive analysis. The majority of considerations is devoted to examination of changes in his concept of revolution in period 1883—1918, i. e. when Plekhanov was already based on Marxist theory of social development. A particular stress is put on enhancement of his works dealing with elaboration of strategy and tactics of working class in its struggle for democratic and socialist change.

The book is composed of four parts corresponding to main phases of development of Plekhanov's political thought. The first one is a presentation of Narodnik's images and visions of socialist revolution in Russia and points out the main reasons for Plekhanov's break with this movement. The second part, the largest one, comprises an analysis of basic assumptions of Marxist concept of Russian revolution as elaborated by Plekhanov in period 1883—1904. The third one is a description of confrontation of the concept created in previous period with the experience of the first Russian revolution 1905—1907 and also is an attempt to determine directions and trends of evolution of his views. The fourth one presents Plekhanov's attitude towards war and demonstrates his proposals considering program of proletariat's activity in the course of 1917 revolution in Russia.

The basic and central point of the work is to characterize political evolution of Plekhanov and to explain its mechanisms. The author makes an attempt to reveal the causes leading in 1917 the Nestor of Russian Social Democrats and strong-minded opponent to revisionism, to the camp of enemies of the triumph-

consideration. Instead he proposed to begin a concordant collaboration of all classes of Russian society in reconstruction of Russian economy within the framework of the bourgeois political system. But in circumstances of aggravating social tensions on agrarian problem, question of continuation of the war, of economic disorganization and famine, such a program could be supported neither by proletariat nor by bourgeoisie. Since the question of the day was the struggle for power between these classes and for establishment of dictatorship of one of them. In such a situation Plekhanov who consistently was defending his views was passing more and more away from the class to whose liberation he had devoted all his life.