

**ZYGAR., M. *The Empire must Die: The history of the Russian revolutions in the faces. 1900 – 1917.* Moscow, Alpina Publisher, 2017. ISBN 978-5-9614-6495-5.**

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Just in last year there were the days of the great jubilee - the 100th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. This event, which gave rise to the Soviet era, for many years remained the starting point of Soviet official history, and each of its anniversary was celebrated in the USSR as the main state holiday. One can only imagine with what scale and pompousness this round date would have been feasted if the socialist regime had survived to the present day!

Now, really, people are beginning to forget about this fateful event, even though it really changed the fate of hundreds of millions of people on the planet. I have watched the thematic program *Historie.cs*, which the Czech television has prepared specifically for this occasion. The historians participating in the discussion were in general agree that the Russian revolution (along with external and internal resistance - *odboj*) played the role of one of the three most important key factors that made possible the emergence of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918. At the same time, they talk on curiosity about students' reaction when they tell them about the Bolshevik revolution and its impact on the creation of the Czechoslovak state. Under socialism, this was mentioned at every opportunity, but now such statements cause students bewilderment, surprise, and mistrust. For several decades the accents in the perception of historical events have completely changed, they are fully reinterpreted.

Nevertheless, interest in the events of a hundred years ago has not disappeared. It's the past where people are repeatedly looking for the answers for the questions of the present. The same goal was most likely pursued also by Mikhail Zygar in his new book "The Empire Must die. History of Russian revolutions in faces. 1900-1917".<sup>1</sup> The book's name explains immediately much enough. It covers the period of Russian history from the early 20th century till the Bolshevik Revolution victory. It describes the events of not one, but three Russian

<sup>1</sup> In Russian original М.Зыгарь. Империя должна умереть: История русских революций в лицах. 1900 – 1917. – Москва, Альпина Паблшер, 2017. – 909 с.

revolutions occurred during this period: the revolution of 1905-1907, the revolution of February of 1917, and the revolution of October of 1917. Finally, this documentary is based on memories, memoirs, diaries, letters of participants and eyewitnesses of events. We see what has been happening like as by their eyes. The author writes in the foreword explicitly: "I am not a historian, but a journalist. And I wrote this book on all the rules of journalism: as if all the characters were alive and I could interview them. "