IHS Book Roundtable: The Moderate Bolshevik: Mikhail Tomsky from the Factory to the Kremlin, 1880-1936

The Moderate Bolshevik: Mikhail Tomsky from The Factory to The Kremlin, 1880-1936
Brill Publishing (Hard Cover): 2022; and Haymarket Books (Paperback): May 2023
by Charters Wynn
in early Soviet history, including the stormy debates over the role of unions in the self-proclaimed workers state. Charters Wynn’s compelling account illuminates how the charismatic Tomsky rose from an impoverished working-class background and years of tsarist prison and Siberian exile to become both a Politburo member and the head of the trade unions, where he helped shape Soviet domestic and foreign policy along generally moderate lines throughout the 1920s. His failed attempt to block Stalin’s catastrophic adoption of forced collectivization would tragically make Tomsky a prime target in the Great Purges.

“This is an excellent, deeply researched, and well-written book that will be required reading for those interested in Soviet history and will be useful for others in labor history.”
—J. Arch Getty, The Russian Review

Dr. Charters Wynn is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Frank Denius Normandy Scholar Program on World War II at the University of Texas at Austin. The American Historical Association awarded his book, Workers, Strikes, and Pogroms: The Donbass-Dnepr Bend in Late Imperial Russia, 1870-1905 (Princeton University Press, 1992), the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize.

Discussants:
The views and opinions expressed in this article or video are those of the individual author(s) or presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the editors at Not Even Past, the UT Department of History, the University of Texas at Austin, or the UT System Board of Regents. Not Even Past is an online public history magazine rather than a peer-reviewed academic journal. While we make efforts to ensure that factual information in articles was obtained from reliable sources, Not Even Past is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

Posted September 2, 2023

More Institute for Historical Studies, Watch & Listen

RECENT POSTS

“Texas, Our Catholic Texas”?

A Lager Beer Revolution: The History of Beer and German American Immigration

Teaching about Colonial Latin America through Objects
Last Seen: Teaching about Slavery through the Lens of the Domestic Slave Trade and Family Separation

NOT EVEN PAST is produced by

The Department of History

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

We are supported by the College of Liberal Arts

And our READERS

DONATE

CONTACT

All content © 2010-present NOT EVEN PAST and the authors, unless otherwise noted