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## The Volunteer Army and Allied Intervention in South Russia, 1917-1921

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structures of Western states, and principally those of Western Europe. It is read with ease, the structure is orderly, and the contents are concise and scholarly. An excellent and variegated bibliography is offered at the end of each country's treatment. The short period required to peruse *Eastern European Government and Politics* makes it extremely profitable reading for those unable to devote time to a more detailed study of the states depicted.

D.J. MORGIEWICZ  
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Brinkley, George A. *The Volunteer Army and Allied Intervention in South Russia, 1917-1921*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1966. 446p.

In the turbulent years which immediately followed the Russian Revolution, the Bolsheviks' tenuous grasp on the reins of national authority was challenged from all sides by internal and external forces. Within Russia, such diverse entities as the Ukrainians, Cosacks, Czarists, and Mensheviks, all vied with one another to seize political opportunities created by the revolution. Externally, Imperial Russia's former World War I allies, often working at cross purposes, backed first one, then the other, of these counter-revolutionary groups in a vain attempt to patch together a winning combination. In the midst of this international maelstrom stood the Volunteer Army of General Denikin, a self-styled national army, dedicated to the overthrow of Lenin's regime. The author has chosen to trace the short life-span of the Volunteer Army from its sanguine inception in the south of Russia to its ignominious evacuation and flight into exile in 1920. Although the army represents the thread that lends continuity to the tale, it is treated as a political rather than a military instrument. The book has all of the virtues and vices of a paper written in fulfillment of an advanced degree requirement. The torrents of detail and explanatory footnotes which course through the text indicate a research effort of significant depth. The 36-page bibliography and index should also prove to be an excellent point of departure for any student interested in scouting the subject. Unfortunately, Mr. Brinkley seems reluctant to discard any of his carefully acquired research items. As a result, the reader is forced to climb ridge after ridge of unsynthesized

## PROFESSIONAL READING

facts and side-step rockslides of Slavic place-names. No maps--descriptive or graphic--are furnished. The journey is wearisome.

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Burchett, Wilfred G. *Vietnam North*. New York:  
International Publishers, 1966. 191p.

Written following a seven-week visit to North Vietnam by author Burchett in the early summer of 1966, *Vietnam North*, like his other recent books, has a definite anti-United States slant. It is laced with quotations from North Vietnamese leaders, all of which set the theme for the book: "All is well in North Vietnam." The publication is dedicated to proving by firsthand observation and high-level interview that except for "the daily indiscriminate air raids on hospitals, schools and densely populated areas," the bombing is not bothering the North. Author Burchett claims that he found all types of surface transport normal and that "more traffic was moving than before (1963) and goods and equipment are arriving on time." He quotes Doan Trong Truyen, State Planning Commissioner, as saying, "We ought to be grateful to the Americans. Their bombs forced us to jump ahead and do things that otherwise would have taken years." Everyone with whom Mr. Burchett talked seemed full of enthusiasm and confidence, whether they were from the civil or military side. The author interviewed all of the cabinet-level leaders and those above, including President Ho Chi Minh. All denounced the United States for her "cruel and ruthless aggression against Vietnam." The book loses much of its plausibility because of the compulsive manner in which the author tries to paint a pastoral picture of the Northern countryside. He has too many "peaceful" scenes of quiet rural living that do not match up with the admission of the numbers of people required to repair the interdicted transportation lines. It would appear that Mr. Burchett has tried to sell his story so hard that he leaves a wide "credibility gap."

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