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Pravda Digital Archive 1912 - 2009



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About the Newspaper

Pravda (or “Truth”) was the official voice of Soviet communism and the Central Committee of the Communist Party between 1918 and 1991. Founded in 1912 in St. Petersburg, Russia, *Pravda* originated as an underground, daily workers’ newspaper, and soon became the main newspaper of the revolutionary wing of the Russian socialist movement.

From 1912 to 1914, *Pravda* was subjected to constant persecution, fines, penalties, and prohibitions by the government. To avoid censorship and forced closures, the name of the newspaper changed eight times. In 1914 when the Russian Empire entered World War I, the Russian government moved to close down all subversive newspapers and military censorship was reimposed.

After February 1917, when Tsar Nicholas II was deposed and replaced by the Provisional Government, *Pravda* became the official organ of the Bolshevik Central Committee and was allowed to reopen. When Lenin strongly condemned the Provisional Government and editorials in *Pravda* soon called the government “counter-revolutionary”, *Pravda* was once again subject to censorship and was forced to change names, as in tsarist times.

When the Bolsheviks seized power during the October Revolution in 1917, *Pravda* became the official publication, or “organ”, of the Soviet Communist Party.

Throughout the Soviet era, party members were obligated to read *Pravda*. The paper’s primary role was to deliver the official line of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Pravda remained the official voice of Soviet communism up until 1991, when Boris Yeltsin signed a decree closing *Pravda* down. After the collapse of the USSR, nationalist and communist journalists intermittently published a print newspaper and an online newspaper under the name *Pravda*. Today, *Pravda* represents the oppositional stance of the Communist Party in the Russian Federation.



ПРАВДА

Орган Центрального Комитета и МК ВКП(б).

№ 151 (3022) Поведелник, 25 июня 1945 г. ЦЕНА 20 КОП.

Вчера в столице нашей Родины—Москве, на Красной площади состоялся ПАРАД ПОБЕДЫ.

Советский народ славит воинов доблестной Красной Армии, армии-победительницы, славит творца победы великого Сталина.



Screen shot from UDB-Pravda Digital Archive

От редакции.

Нужно ли доказывать, что русскому рабочему необходима своя политическая газета?

Нет, это уже доказано. Этот вопрос, поставленный на обсуждение в «Звезде», вызвал самый горячий отклик в рабочей среде. Суждение вопроса на местах, публикации в газеты шли непрерывно в течение двух-трех месяцев. Объявление намерения приступить к изданию новой газеты вызвало поразительно дружный отклик в фонд газеты от рабочих.

Правда, вып. 1, 1912 г.

East View translation of article

From the Editors.

Must it be proven that the Russian worker needs his own political newspaper?

No, it has already been proven. This question, posed for discussion in *Zvezda*, summoned a most ardent response among workers across all of Russia; on the spot discussions, correspondence and letters to the editor have been flooding newspapers for the past two or three months. The announcement of our intention to undertake publication of *Pravda* has incited a strikingly amicable influx of donations to the newspaper from workers, it can be said, from almost every plant, factory, and workshop of St. Petersburg.

And so it falls to us not to prove the necessity of a workers' paper; but rather to carry out the demand of the Russian proletariat. And *Pravda* is the answer to that demand. The gentry, the clergy, industrialists, investors, and merchants all have their own newspapers; there they illustrate life according to their own views, measuring by their own yardstick; in their own newspapers they defend their class, social, and group interests and, on the other hand, they fight against the worker, resorting to trickery and slander. How does one deal with this spider web of hypocrisy, deceit, lies, and slander?

The working class must know the truth! The workers' paper *Pravda* must earn its name; by doing so it shall fulfill its purpose.

[from *Pravda*, issue 1, vol. 1, 1912]

Stalin, one of *Pravda's* earlier editors, said, "The press is the only instrument whereby the party can speak daily and hourly with the workers in its own language."



Why Pravda is Important to Researchers Today

Pravda has been a newspaper of record since the dawn of the Soviet era, and remains a prominent news source in today's Russia. With access to over 90 years of valuable primary-source material, researchers now have the means to search through the chief chronicle of Russian and Soviet history, from the beginnings of the Russian Revolution through World War II, the Cold War, the fall of the Soviet Union, and everything in between. Just as news articles can subtly reveal changes in society, *Pravda* delivers insight to cultural and historical changes during its publication through the entire Soviet era and beyond.

As the Soviet state newspaper and central source of information and education, *Pravda* offered well-written articles and analyses on science, economics, cultural topics and literature, as well as communist theory. Conceived for the mass proletariat, *Pravda* was accessible to everyone and was the premiere example of a new style of mass media and official literary Russian.

Lenin, as leader of the Bolshevik Party, wanted a newspaper to air differences and debates, reporting not only on local struggles, but also presenting commentary on the central political and theoretical questions facing communism. As an important contributor to the newspaper, Lenin wrote articles and provided direction to the editors. *Pravda* significantly shaped public opinion through its mass reach, using militant slogans, tales of heroic feats of production, and denunciation of class enemies.

Average Soviet workers were also able to voice their opinions in the pages of *Pravda*. They wrote to the newspaper with reports on daily life or complaints about shoddy consumer goods, public wrongs, or difficulties with bureaucracy. Many of the articles publicized labor activism and exposed the working conditions in Russian factories.

The unprecedented level of access made possible by the *Pravda Digital Archive* offers views essential to understanding the span of Soviet history, from purges to thaws, and from all segments of society. From one easy search, this primary source offers a rich repository for researchers of language, history, international relations, economics, social sciences, and so much more.





Now the Soviet newspaper of record is available online in a complete archive, in full-text and full-image

East View has created an online, digital and searchable archive of Pravda, from its inception in 1912 through the end of 2009.



[1912](#), [1913](#), [1914](#), [1917](#), [1918](#), [1919](#), [1920](#), [1921](#), [1922](#), [1923](#), [1924](#), [1925](#),
[1926](#), [1927](#), [1928](#), [1929](#), [1930](#), [1931](#), [1932](#), [1933](#), [1934](#), [1935](#), [1936](#), [1937](#),
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<http://dlb.eastview.com/browse/publication/9305>

The deep backfile of *Pravda* has previously been difficult to access, very rarely in a complete collection and only in microfilm or rare and fragile print. *Pravda Digital Archive* encompasses this entire, vast archive. East View has indexed the data and loaded full-image, text-searchable files onto its Universal Database platform, allowing researchers to navigate and find the articles they need quickly and easily, and export images and text for use in other applications.

Users may also:

- Browse and view articles, up to 90 years after publication, in the original layout and design



The *Pravda Digital Archive* is full-image with text, so the convenience of browsing full pages is similar to working with print originals, allowing users to browse, search and focus on graphic images and text.



ПРАВДА

Коммунистическая партия Советского Союза
Орган Центрального Комитета
Коммунистической партии Советского Союза

Газета основана
5 мая 1912 года
В. И. ЛЕНИНЫМ

№ 32 (16253) Пятница, 1 февраля 1963 года Цена 2 коп.

ПАТРИОТИЧЕСКИЙ ПОЧИН ТРУЖЕНИКОВ ДЕРЕВНИ

Многочисленные массы труженников деревни охвачены горячим стремлением сделать в этом году ошеломительный шаг вперед на пути резкого увеличения патриотическое начинание сельских труженников Кубани найдет широкий отклик у всех работников сельского хозяйства страны и послужит залогом успешного

Крепить и развивать дружбу и сотрудничество

АНТОНИН И
в Уф

ТАШКЕНТ

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Ленина, уста
ного Совета
дворца.
Но вред ли кому
обстоятельства в созн
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Перевод мая 1919 года.
Красная площадь
Казалось, что
важную
улицу

Ordering Information

Acquire the entire 1912-2009 collection of the *Pravda Digital Archive* for a one-time cost plus an annual maintenance fee, which is waived with a current subscription to *Pravda* online or a current subscription to East View's UDB of Russian Central Newspapers.

Any portion of the collection may also be acquired in sections.

Please contact your East View account representative or email info@eastview.com for a quote.

For more details

Download our online brochure at
www.eastview.com/files/EastViewPravdaDigitalArchive.pdf.



Company Headquarters
East View Information Services, Inc.
10601 Wayzata Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55305-1515 USA
Telephone: 1.952.252.1201
Fax: 1.952.252.1202
US Toll-free: 1.800.477.1005



info@eastview.com | www.eastview.com

Europe Office
East View Information Services BV
Paul Verhaere, Office Director Europe
PO Box 5370, 6802 EJ Arnhem
The Netherlands
+31(0) 26 4425258 office
+31(0) 26 4456624 fax