



LENIN'S BABY: WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

by

Frank Paine



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Last, but not least, I acknowledge the contribution of Vladimir Ilyitch Ulyanov (Lenin) to the title. What is to be Done? is the title of one of his best-known works.



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“Volodya!”, cried Nadia Krupskaya. “Pero is here!” There was no response. It was 8:00 A. M. in their London apartment, and, as Nadia well knew, her husband, who had nocturnal inclinations, was seldom awake before noon.,

“Volodya!”, she repeated, sounding louder as she swept down the hall to their bedroom. Pero, which was a code name for Leon Trotsky, remained at their front door. He, Nadia, and Volodya (Vladimir Ilyitch Ulyanov, codename Lenin) had never met, though they had heard of each other. Pero was very excited to be meeting his revolutionary hero but was exercising proper revolutionary caution about identities. He didn't know whether Lenin would see him and given Lenin's night-owlish habits (which Pero was not aware of), the meeting might not actually take place.

“What is it, Nadia? It's only ...” Lenin apparently looked at his watch, “8:00 A. M.”

“Pero is here.”, Nadia said once again from just outside their bedroom door. “And wants to see you.”



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Lenin groaned. He hadn't come to bed until 4:00 A. M., having gotten caught up in his reading of the first volume of Das Kapital, complete with extensive footnotes and commentary. "Ugh!", he finally replied. "Tell him I'll be out in ten minutes. Are you sure that it's him?"

Nadia hesitated, and patted her abdomen. "Yes, it's him. His face matches the photo we were sent. He says that he's on his way to New York."

"OK. I'll just visit the bathroom, and then come out." And Lenin did come out, although it was fifteen minutes later. Lenin had gotten dressed in his usual black suit, white shirt and black necktie. He was strongly built, as he had the exercise habit, but not tall: about 5' 10". He had little hair—just some kept short on the sides—and he did have his famous goatee.

"Well, Pero, we finally meet," Lenin said by way of greeting. Nadia was in the kitchen, preparing coffee for the two men. As she emerged with the coffee, it was apparent that there was some degree of swelling at her waist. She was no longer able to hide her pregnancy. Lenin was aware of it, but it was a surprise to Trotsky. The Ulyanovs had deliberately avoided any publicity on the matter: their focus was to remain on the revolution.

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It was late 1902, and the Revolution of 1905 was not yet in sight, much less the Revolutions of 1917. Nevertheless, discussion among the revolutionaries tended to focus on the strategy, tactics, philosophy, and funding, always the funding, of revolutionary operations. Both Lenin and Trotsky were fervent Marxists, tending to favor the notion of revolution by violence if necessary, opining that waiting to be elected was a waste of time.

“So, what brings you to London?” Lenin asked Pero.

“Well, first and foremost, the opportunity to meet you. Your location outside Russia makes that very difficult—your physical presence is sorely missed.”

“The political situation makes it premature for me to return to Russia,” Lenin responded. “As soon as I got to the Finland Station, you know the Cheka would arrest me. It’s hard to do much from inside the Tsarist dungeons. I think that for now, I’m much more useful in Europe. But I think that you told Nadia that you were on the way to New York. Is that true? What can you do from there?”

“Not much”, said Trotsky, “but I have run out of money. My cousin in New York sent me a steamer ticket and said he could get me a job until it’s

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time for a coup in Russia. I'll be driving a taxi for a while, but you know that you can rely on me to return as soon as I'm needed. How soon will that be?"

"Don't know yet," Lenin replied. "There seems to be some activity in Saint Petersburg, but the Tsar still has too good a hold on political operations. Every time we think we're getting somewhere, another senior person gets taken by the Chekists. I sometimes think we have more traitors than real revolutionaries. What can I tell you?" And he shrugged.

"Forgive me if this is impertinent, but I can't help noticing that there will soon be another member of your family."

Lenin frowned, and started to speak. Nadia interrupted him, though. "Pero, that is impertinent, but if you believe that Lenin can be put off the revolution by the fact of having a child, you simply don't know him. This man has far more revolutionary focus than anybody you have ever met, or even imagined."

"That's OK, Nadia", said Lenin. "I can understand what Pero is thinking. I've thought that way a lot myself. But be assured," Lenin asserted strongly, "that this child will have absolutely no impact on the outcome of the revolution. The revolution will happen—it's a scientifically supported fact—

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as the result of economic and social factors, not as the result of anything to do with human decisions. You're a Marxist, no? Then you should know this."

The conversation among the three revolutionaries continued for another half hour, carefully avoiding the subject of Nadia's pregnancy, focusing mainly on revolutionary propaganda efforts that were underway. As Trotsky prepared to leave, the two men shook hands in the English manner. As Trotsky went out the door, though, Lenin stopped him. "Pero," he said, "if something happens to me, I would favor having you step into my shoes. But beware of Stalin, keep an eye on him. He badly wants power, so badly that there's nothing he wouldn't do to get it. Ally yourself with Bukharin and others to block him. He'd ruin the revolution."

"I understand," said Trotsky, and left.

As soon as Trotsky was out of earshot, Lenin turned to look at Nadia. "The cat is out of the bag now," he said. "We have to decide what to do about the baby."

The baby was to be born the following spring, and given the name Vladimir, like his father. The question of the child's future had already been

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under discussion for some months, but now it became a political question. Those supporting Lenin's approach to revolution began immediately to question his ability to lead. Lenin had no intention of giving up leadership.

But Lenin was a complicated man. To begin with, he was not from a working-class background. Technically, he was nobility. His father had worked in the educational field and built a career by supervising schools. As a reward for his performance and loyalty, he was granted by the Tsar the status of a grade of nobility reserved for high performance bureaucrats. Lenin inherited that status, though after the revolution of 1917, that was no longer relevant. Still, the status definitely affected his standing in the community and how he was educated.

Educated as a lawyer, he was an intellectual. Intellectuals are not generally well suited to be politicians, and yet Lenin had ambitious political goals. He read voluminously and not just light reading material. He had read everything written by Marx, making extended notations in the various volumes as he went along. He recognized the difficulties of understanding Marx's writing. "The best way to understand Marx", he was quoted as saying, "is to first read Hegel's Logic", itself not an easy assignment. And he didn't always agree with Marx. Marx, especially in his later works, would lead one to expect a revolutionary result along the lines of the Paris Commune of

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1871. Lenin, by way of contrast, felt that looking to the working man as the basis of a revolutionary movement, was hopeless. The working man, he felt contemptuously, was not capable of anything more than a trade union consciousness. No, it needed elite leadership to be the "vanguard" of the proletariat, to lead the proletariat forward. It was not accidental that the Soviet Union came to be officially guided not by Marxism, but by Marxism-Leninism.

But all that was philosophical. Lenin was also a great lover of literature and drama, not to mention music. He wrote extensively, mostly for revolutionary publications. He especially loved the music of Beethoven, who had no Marxist inspiration whatsoever. Likewise, he was a linguist, having mastered English, French and German in addition to his native Russian, and was studying Italian at the time of his death.

He was known for his addiction to exercise. When he was in exile in Siberia, he skied as much as weather allowed, and walked extensively. After he left Russia for Europe, Lenin continued his habits, particularly hiking with Nadia in the mountains of Switzerland.

Lenin had strong attachments to certain people, especially his own family. His brother was implicated in a plot to assassinate the Tsar and was

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executed by hanging in 1887. This event more than any other seems to have precipitated him on his revolutionary course. He also had a sister to whom he stayed close. He married Nadia in 1898, before leaving Russia, and was demonstrably upset when she had to undergo some serious surgery. When his mother died in 1916, he also reacted very emotionally. Papers she left behind revealed to him for the first time that he was partly Jewish by blood, and that fact plays a role in this story. And then, of course, there was his lover, Inessa Armand. Nadia was aware of their affair and appears to have approved of his relationship with Inessa—the three even lived together in Galicia in 1914. Inessa and Lenin had some political differences a few years later, but when she first became seriously ill and then died (1920), he was emotionally devastated, at least for a while. Last, but not least, he and Nadia called upon Marx's illegitimate son, who was residing in France with his mother and step-father. Lenin commented afterwards that the visit was one of the great thrills of his life.

On the other hand, he appeared to have had Machiavellian instincts. He left Russia for Europe shortly after completing his three-year Siberian exile, mainly in order to have the freedom to write. He produced various revolutionary publications, probably being best known as the editor of *Iskra* ("Spark"), writing about revolutionary tactics, strategy and philosophy. He

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was definitely a believer in the end justifying the means. Funding was always an issue of interest, and he worked hard to organize a series of bank robberies for that purpose. Stalin (also a code name meaning "Steel") was to be his agent for these, despite his low opinion of the man, and despite Stalin's being a Georgian rather than a Russian. He was well aware of Stalin's anti-Semitic tendencies, which may have caused the warning to Trotsky, who was also at least partly Jewish by background.

There is little doubt that despite Russia's being at war with Germany as of 1914, Lenin accepted German funding for his movement. Germany was anxious to see Russia leave the war effort so that it could focus its efforts to the west. Germany's hope was that by supporting insurrection in Russia, Russia could be induced to stop fighting. It was Germany that paid for and expedited the famous sealed train in which Lenin, Nadia and several of his supporters (including Inessa) returned to Russia in the spring of 1917. Legally, this was treason, but Lenin did not hesitate to accept the German support, and to promise in return to remove Russia from the war effort if he was successful in taking power.

But that wasn't all. For one thing, he must have authorized the murder of the Tsar and his family. More importantly, he authorized the promulgation of the "Terror", a deliberate program of intimidation by fear accomplished by

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widespread murder and execution, without much attention to guilt or the lack thereof. Lenin did not fire the guns—most of that was done by cohorts commanded by Trotsky—and so he wasn't personally a murderer, but he made it very clear that he thought a terror was necessary for political purposes.

And then he led the effort to spread the revolution internationally. His first move internationally was to end the Russian participation in World War I by arranging the appointment of Maxim Litvinov as the country's senior diplomat, with instructions to give Germany whatever it wanted so that Russia would no longer be involved in the war. This was ultimately accomplished with the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in early 1918.

The end of the war effort enabled Lenin to focus on suppressing the opposition in a civil war that erupted in Russia in late 1917. Simultaneously, he organized the Communist International (usually referred to as the Comintern), with the Soviet Union taking the leadership role in trying to spread his form of communism around Europe and elsewhere. Needless to say, this didn't thrill the other European countries, and the efforts had only limited success.

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Because of all this, Lenin had a conflicted personality, with various instincts at war with each other inside himself. Add to this that he was a bit of a physical coward. Unacknowledged cowardice can result in immense feelings of guilt. The bottom line was that he evidenced a number of stress symptoms, including a trigger-happy temper, migraine headaches, and other neurological tendencies that ultimately killed him by way of strokes when he was only in his 50s.

So, what were they to do about the baby? Abortion? Killing off a member of his own family was a bit much, even for Lenin, and for Nadia, tough as she was. Give up his focus on the revolution? The revolution was far and away the most important thing in his life, even more important than Nadia and (later on) Inessa. That was out of the question, especially when his opponents were beginning to try to use the issue of his wife's pregnancy against him.

Nadia and Lenin had many conversations about the baby problem, and both consulted with their revolutionary colleagues about their options. They not only didn't want Lenin's focus to be diverted by offspring, but they really didn't want a child present in their lives when they returned to Russia. A child

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could become a political hostage, and when older, possibly even a competitor.

In the end, Nadia contacted a colleague in France, who came up with an idea. "Come to Paris," she said, "have the baby here. Inessa [Armand] has a contact in a secret society called La Société des Sept Epées (The Society of the Seven Swords). Perhaps they could arrange an adoption."

In reply, Nadia wrote: "Ask Inessa if this would be feasible, and if it is, I'll come over to Paris early in the new year, and we'll take things from there." Inessa, who had strong feminist instincts similar to Nadia's, said that it would indeed be feasible, and in fact encouraged it. So, in February of 1903, Nadia traveled to Paris, had the child, and placed it immediately with an American family named Sleighton that had a connection to the Society. The child, a boy, was re-named Alexander by his new parents.

Problem solved, they thought, and moved on with their lives. What could possibly go wrong? And for a number of years, nothing did go wrong. But then, in 1916, Lenin's mother died, leaving behind some papers about the Ulyanov family's genealogy, which revealed that the family had Jewish blood. By itself, Lenin did not find this upsetting, but after the October Revolution of 1917, he developed some health issues. He had suffered from

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migraine headaches for years, which Nadia had treated usually by getting him to take some time off, hiking in the mountains with her. Inessa, whom Lenin finally met in person in 1908 and fell in love with, did the same. He had always been a very intense man and often suffered from insomnia as well. And then he began to have other neurological symptoms, particularly trembling in his hands.

Lenin began to worry about his longevity. He was physically strong, but neurologically weak, and though he was only in his 50s, he wondered who would succeed him if he were to die suddenly. He looked around at prospective successors and saw mainly Stalin as having the political strength to assume his position. He knew that Stalin had no use for people with Jewish blood but saw no one but Trotsky that was well-enough connected to block Stalin. And, to be sure, he was not confident about Trotsky.

What was to be done? He was not even confident about the success of the Revolution. The Terror had done away with much of the opposition but had depleted the country's cadre of managerial talent. The economy was literally and figuratively speaking in tatters, and in order to restore at least some economic activity, he promulgated something he called the New Economic Plan ("NEP"). What this meant in practical terms was that he allowed some of the Russian commercial class to re-emerge. It was a

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compromise with true socialism, and he paid a political price for it. He was far from confident that the Revolution he had ignited would survive, though, of course, he said nothing about his doubts to anybody, not even to Nadia and Inessa.¹

Inessa and Nadia both became concerned about Lenin's state of mind, not to mention his body, and talked solely between themselves about their concerns. Nadia was used to the neurological aspect of his health, but it was a new thing to Inessa. Inessa, in particular, wondered if his condition was genetic. Unfortunately, of Lenin's family, only his sister was left alive, so there was no satisfactory way of evaluating the genetic factor. His sister showed no symptoms, but she was, obviously, of a different sex. Did that matter? Maybe not, but on the other hand, maybe. And she thought about the son.

¹ In 1964, while attending Stanford University, the author attended a screening of the movie "Ten Days that Shook the World", directed by the famous Russian film director, Eisenstein. In the audience was Alexander Kerensky (introduced as "The villain of the piece."), who had been the head of the Russian Government after the first Revolution in the spring of 1917. In 1964, he was a very old man, and was heard to comment: "How could Lenin do that to us?" That was all he had to say.

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Inessa took it upon herself to write to one of her contacts in Paris. Though she was a Russian citizen, she had been born in France, and still communicated with friends there.

"My dear Eduard," she wrote in French. "We have a situation here, and I'm wondering if you might be able to help, or at least connect me to someone else who can help. The Revolution here has taken a toll on all of us, and particularly on our revered leader, to the point that he is showing very strong stress symptoms. We are trying very hard to see how we can help him.

"As I'm sure you remember, Volodya and Nadia had a child about fifteen years ago. You were instrumental in helping to find a family that could take the child in and see to his education and upbringing. Would it be possible to inquire of that family as to whether the child has shown any such symptoms? My thinking is that if he has, then perhaps the symptoms that we see in Volodya are genetic rather than just stress-induced.

"Mind you I am writing only for myself. Neither Volodya nor Nadia are aware that I am writing to you on this subject.

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"Much love, Inessa"

Inessa did not trust the international mail system for this letter, and instead had it hand-carried by a personal friend. About two weeks later, she received a reply, by cable.

"My very dear Inessa," the reply began. *"I am most intrigued by the letter that was delivered to me by your honest messenger, and I must say that I totally understand your concern, and the need for confidentiality.*

"Not knowing how to immediately respond, I took the liberty of explaining the contents to my friend, Philippe, whom I'm sure you remember. Philippe, as you know, is, like me, a poet, and active in the society through which the adoption was made.

"What a coincidence!" Philippe cried. 'The young man himself is on his way to Paris by ship at this very moment. I wonder if it would be possible for him to be examined by someone knowledgeable while he is here in Europe.' Apparently, the boy has just finished his pre-university education. He demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, just like his birth father, and finished a year earlier than would be normal. He does not know who his birth father is, but his adoptive family felt that it would be good for him to work

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for a year prior to starting at Harvard. Through the Society, it was arranged for him to come to Europe to work on some sort of engineering project.

"It sounds as if his visit is very timely for the issue that you are trying to address. Please let me know by return message (given the pressure of time, maybe a cable?) how you would like this to be handled.

"As always,

Eduard Chevalier"

"Oh, mon dieu!" thought Inessa. "What an opportunity!" And she sent a cable back to Eduard, asking him to arrange for a neurological specialist to examine Alexander Sleighton when he arrived in Paris. *"Think up an excuse," she wrote, "and I will pay for the examination."* Unlike most of her revolutionary acquaintances, Inessa was well provided with money, for which fact she was never heard to apologize.

A few days later, Inessa received another cable from Eduard, telling her that the engineering contract that accounted for the boy's being in Europe had been cancelled. What would she like him to do?

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“Eduard,” she cabled back, “this is indeed fortuitous. I think I would like him to be examined here in Moscow. My friend, the one that brought you my original letter of inquiry, is still in Paris, but will be returning to Moscow very shortly. Ask Philippe to offer Alexander Sleighton a unique opportunity to visit Russia and see the Revolution first hand. My friend, who speaks excellent English, will accompany him to Russia, and while he is here, I will find an excuse to have him examined here. That way the results will be accepted here, and just possibly give us some clues as to how Volodya should be treated by the doctors. I will provide whatever money will be required—does the young man have money?”

“Many thanks for all your help! Much love, Inessa.”

It was late 1919 when the young Alec Sleighton arrived in Paris, only to find that the employment that brought him there no longer existed. Since he was an enterprising young man, he immediately gave thought to how he could best take advantage of the time that he now had available. To be sure, he could turn around and return home, but his instinct was to expand his horizons by traveling in Europe. To cover possible future emergencies, his family had provided him with a letter of credit drawn on a Parisian bank, so he was not short of money.

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Eduard's friend, Philippe, who had been instrumental in arranging the employment, was aware of the situation, and cabled Alec's parents to advise them of what had happened, including the idea of the trip to Russia under the guidance of Inessa's messenger friend, Nicolai. With his adoptive parents' (they were not aware of the identity of his birth parents) approval, and Nicolai's assistance, Alec booked tickets on the train to Moscow.

Alec and Nicolai traveled together uneventfully. Alec spent the time trying to learn some basics of the Russian language and probing his companion about how he could most productively spend his time in Moscow. He didn't know Inessa or have any conception of her agenda in getting him to come to Moscow. For him, it was all just an adventure.

When they arrived in Moscow, Alec learned from Nicolai that someone named Inessa had arranged accommodations for him at what was for those times a very decent hotel. Once he had settled in at the hotel, Inessa and Nicolai took him to dinner. This was his introduction to Russian cuisine. Despite being so young, he was plied with quite a lot of vodka. Inessa had a hidden agenda for this. The next morning, Alec woke with a horrendous headache and severe nausea. We would all recognize this as a hangover,

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but having never had the experience, all Alec knew was that he felt awful. This gave Inessa the excuse for his having a complete medical checkup, which she arranged to include the neurological factors that she and Nadia were concerned about.

The time required for the medical examination was only a day, and predictably enough, he felt much better after some sleep and the ingestion of aspirin. Then, for the next two weeks or so, he was given an extended tour of Moscow under the guidance of his new friend, Nicolai. While this was going on, Inessa and Nadia considered the medical reports they had received, including the neurological workup, which Alec wasn't even aware of. All he knew was that the examination had been incredibly thorough.

What they learned was that young as he was, Alec had a history of migraine headaches, something he was aware of, and which later proved to be a major disability for him. What he wasn't aware of, though, was that he had other neurological symptoms that almost exactly mirrored those of his biological father. The two women debated whether he should be told of this, and ultimately decided not to tell him, as this would have forced them to reveal his biological parentage. They did disclose to Lenin what they had learned, and this touched Lenin's heart, as it was a sign of the ladies' devotion to him.

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“You know,” he said at the end of their discussion, “I think I would like to meet this young man, though I would prefer that he remain ignorant of our blood relationship. What do you think?”

“Why not?” replied Nadia.

“Indeed, why not?” Inessa echoed.

Nadia and Lenin had a dacha about thirty miles outside Moscow, and via Inessa, they invited Alec to come there on the second Saturday evening that he was in Moscow. They represented that there was an important government official that wanted to meet him before he left to return home the following Monday. Alec readily accepted the invitation, and on the day, Nicolai picked him up in a car, and drove him to the dacha.

Alec was more than a little nervous, as he had very little confidence in his ability to speak Russian. “Oh, do not worry,” Nicolai said. “Both Mr. Ulyanov and his wife speak very good English, and you will have no trouble communicating with them. And they are very nice people!” Nicolai chuckled to himself as he said this, because he was well aware that Lenin had a reputation for periodic outbursts of anger. Perhaps Alec was in for an

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unpleasant surprise. In the event, though, Lenin was in a good mood that evening, and there was no such outburst.

When they arrived at the dacha, Nadia met them at the door. "Hello," she greeted Alec. "I am Nadia Krupskaya. It's a great pleasure to meet someone from America. We haven't had the opportunity to meet many people from your country. Fortunately, though, we lived in England for a good while, and I think you'll have no trouble understanding us. What is the joke about the English and the Americans? Two countries separated by a common language?" And she chuckled. "Our friend, Trotsky, is here as well, and he lived in New York for a while," she continued. "My husband is here, as is Inessa, whom you've already met. Unfortunately, my husband is still at work in his office, but perhaps we can interrupt him just to say 'hello'".

Nadia guided Alec by the arm to the door of Lenin's office, knocked twice, and heard Lenin respond with "Yes?"

She opened the door. "Volodya", she started, "Here is the young man you wanted to meet, Alec Sleighton, from America."

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“Oh, come in, Alec,” replied Lenin. “I have so wanted to meet you. We’ll talk more over dinner, but sit down for a few minutes now, and give me a picture of who and what you are.”

Alec sat as requested and gave Lenin (whom at this point he only knew as a high-level official, not as the leader of the country) a quick summary of what he had done so far in his short life, his plan to attend Harvard, and then, probably, the Harvard Law School. “Oh, that’s excellent,” responded Lenin, clearly impressed. “I was trained as a lawyer. Well, let’s talk some more in a short while. I need to call Litvinov now, and then I can join you.”

Over dinner, and then afterwards over coffee, Alec astutely turned the tables, and queried Lenin, who he only knew as Mr. Ulyanov, about his plans for the Soviet Union. Lenin spoke quite openly to the young man about his disappointments with how the Revolution was progressing: the poor performance of the economy, the struggle with the Whites, and his worries about the political succession. Lenin was quite knowledgeable about American history and politics, and astutely observed that America had been successful in dealing with the political succession challenge. “With the exception of the ‘War Between the States’ as you call it, the U.S. has been the democratic country that has done the best at avoiding violent political transitions, with the various parties using force against each other. The U.S.

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has many other shortcomings which I'm sure you don't wish to hear about," Lenin said, "but with the problem of peaceful political transitions, it is the envy of all of us.

"I really worry about that problem here," Lenin added bluntly. "We are not yet ready for an electoral process. Maybe we'll never be ready. The concept of 'democratic centralism' needs to be deeply absorbed before that can happen. In the meantime, it is important for the Revolution to keep going forward, and that we eliminate the parasitic capitalist class.

"I look around me," he continued, "and who do I see that can succeed me in what I do? Trotsky over there, on the other side of the table, could do it, but he's too nice a guy. We need someone who's not afraid to shed blood, but also knows when to stop. And there's another thing: the position of Jews in this country. If we proceed to eliminate the capitalist parasites, many of whom are Jewish, we will also be eliminating one of the best educated groups of people that we have. But we need them!"

"Other than Trotsky, the only one with the connections to take over power in this country is the one known to you in America as Stalin, and he hates the Jews. He'd have another pogrom. It's a devil of a dilemma!"

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Some years later, when Alec thought back on this conversation, he was amazed at the degree to which his host had opened up on this subject. It wasn't just on account of vodka consumption, either, as Lenin actually drank very little. Alec never learned of his blood relationship to Lenin but came away with little sympathy for Lenin's leadership problem. He absorbed, though, the concern about the Russian Jews, not knowing that both he and Lenin had Jewish blood.

Two days later, Alec, with Nicolai once again as his guide, took a train to Petrograd (formerly Saint Petersburg and later Leningrad), and had a three-day tour there, before starting on his return to Paris, and then back to New York.

When Alec finally arrived back in Paris, he called on Philippe at the Society of the Seven Swords to thank him for all the help he had been given and to report on what he had heard from Lenin. By the time that they met, he had seen a photograph of Lenin and realized who Ulyanov actually was. Philippe was especially interested in what Lenin had said about the Jews. As he said to Alec, "Most of the members of the Society are Jewish or have Jewish blood. We'll have to keep an eye on that situation, as there may be a

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lot of Russians who will need our help to emigrate either to Palestine or the U.S.A.”

In gratitude for how he had benefited from the Society, Alec asked what he could do for the Society in the U.S. “Thank you for asking that, Alec,” responded Philippe. “I think you said that you had plans to study law. There may come a time that we have a need for legal representation in the U.S. If and when that time comes, maybe you could help us. Let’s stay in touch.”

And the Society did eventually need legal representation in the U.S, and having stayed in touch with Alec, asked him for assistance which he gave.²

² This refers to an event in my novel [The Tehran Cyber Connection](#).
