

Pravda Digital Archive 1912 - 2009



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22 Apr 1912 First issue of *Pravda*

Severnaia pravda

Proletarskaia pravda

Put' pravdi

Pravda

Listok



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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.





Пролотарии всех стран, соединайтеся

Всесоюзная Коннунистическая Партия (больш.).

ПРАВДА

Орган Центрального Комитета и МК ВКП(б).

M (51 (9122)

Поведельник, 25 июня 1945 г.

LENA 20 HOR.

Вчера в столице нашей Родины-Москве, на Красно площади состоялся ПАРАД ПОБЕДЫ.

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



Screen shot from UDB-Prayda 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 го-

рячий отклик в рабочей среде г суждение вопроса на местах, п денции в газеты шли непреры ледних двух-трех месяцев. Обт намерении приступить к издан звало поразительно дружный п иий в фонд газеты от рабоч

Правда, вып. I, 1912 г.

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."

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]



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 subtlely 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.

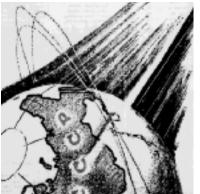




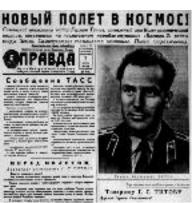












Now the Soviet newspaper of record is available online in a complete archive, in full-text and full-image

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



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.





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Database platform Cross-search the Pravda Digital Archive with other

Save, print or email content

UDB resources

from East View's Universal

- Use powerful zoom tools to enhance reading
- Perform searches in Cyrillic or transliteration
- Reference permanent URLs for correct citations
- See photos, cartoons, and advertisements from Soviet times, now accessible as never before

With permanent URLs, a convenient Cyrillic virtual keyboard, the ability to search in transliteration, and cross-search capability using the same robust platform as East View's Universal Databases, the Pravda Digital Archive benefits primary research while at the same time alleviating library storage and shelf space needs, eliminating damage to hardcopy.



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5 мая 1912 года В. И. ЛЕНИНЫМ

M 32 (16253)

Пятница, 1 февраля 1963 года

Цена 2 коп.

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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.





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