

they would desert to their own army and take with them guns, rifles and ammunition. This was their work for the Social Revolution. The press despatches of the last six months prove that they carried out their plans.

Every critical moment of the campaigns of the so-called "Russian Government" forces was marked by mass desertions to the Bolsheviki. Kolehak suffered on many occasions, Denikin lost most of the equipment he had not already sold, some of his British tanks being used to drive Yudenich into hiding in Esthonia. If the press reports are to be credited, half of Yudenich's army deserted at the gates of Petrograd, going over to the Reds.

This line of action is only possible among Communists. It does not conform to the bourgeois conception of "honor," but grows out of the social organization prevalent in Russia, and is a further proof of the Materialist Conception of History formulated by Engels and Marx; that the forms of the social, political, the juridical institutions obtaining in a particular society are conditioned by the economic basis of the system; military forms are as much subject to this law as are all other arts.

This mass desertion on the part of the Russian workers and peasants is not to be confused in any way with the desertions of the mercenary troops of the armies of the European States that participated in the Thirty Years War. These were hired mercenaries of all nationalities, Scotch, Finns, and Germans mostly, each man fighting for his own hand, with no interest further than his wages, and moving from one side to the other as the emoluments appeared to be greater or less. The growth of standing armies made this condition impossible, and there is no military genius, no incumbent of the vacant offices or the military academies who can devise a secret remove to the change in the factor of