

Trotsky and Stalin

Just because Trotsky fell victim to Stalin
 There's no use bawlin'
 Reflect instead on how Lev the thinker
 Was outwitted by such a stinker.

Lenin

The greatness of Lenin there's no use denying,
 Without him the Bolshies might still be a-trying
 To topple the heirs of the government provisional
 and Squabbling and fighting in a way most divisional.

Khrushchev

To what attribute Comrade Krushchev's fall?
 Well, a faltering economy most of all,
 But then his cult of personality
 In addition made his ousting a reality.

Bukharin and Company

Comrade Bukharin and company were told that it would be best
 If to all sorts of nasty crimes they confessed,
 But t'was not to be so in reality,
 Instead each one became a fatality.

Alexander Kerensky

Why did Citizen Kerensky not succeed?
 Well, in truth he did not very well lead,
 Nor listen to what the people did need,
 And oh yes, once too often Comrade Trotsky he freed.

Karl Marx

Here is the essence of Karl Marx's thought:
 History will move as it truly ought,
 And the evolution of the forces of production
 Will lead eventually to a work reduction.

Boris Pasternak

Although he put up with a great deal of flak,
 He withstood it all, did Mr. Pasternak,
 But he had little use for dogmatic strife,
 and instead he affirmed beauty and life.

St. Vladimir

No doubt some of his advisors thought he was a dreamer,
 And said to Christianize these pagans t'is impossible, Prince Vladimir,
 But in part he turned the trick by threatening to loose
 His druzhina warriors upon any reluctant Russ.

Catherine the Great

Trotzky and Stalin

You must not think Catherine was called great
Because to have some 21 lovers was her fate.
No, she also corresponded with the likes of Diderot,
And partitioned three times Poland, Russia's feared and most ancient foe.

Alexander Herzen

Legin

Alexander Herzen once looked to the West,
Life he thought there must be the best,
But after discovering in Paris the Bourgeoisie
T'was in Russia he thought man's future might be.

Michael Bakunin

Khrushchev

Why over the giant Michael Bakunin
Are some modern rebels now a-swooning?
Well, it seems that he heads the list
Of those who call themselves "anarchist".

Lev Tolstoy

Bakhrin and Gorky

Not only great stories did Lev Tolstoy write,
But also a great battle with his soul he did fight,
And afterwards with the most dogged persistence
He advocated his philosophy of passive resistance.

Fedor Dostoevsky

Alexander Kerensky

For his part in the affair Petrashevsky
To Siberia was sent Fedor Dostoevsky,
But he learned his lesson very, very well,
And from the Tsar's graces he never again fell.

Tsarevich Aleksei

Karl Marx

That Aleksei's bleeding was stopped by Rasputin
There simply can be no real disputin',
If only his mother had been some ballerina
Instead of Alexandra the Russian Tsarina.

Nicholas II

Gorky's Yastrebak

Nicholas II was not a good Tsar,
He was too right-wing it seems by far,
And for the joys of domesticity
He cared more than for a ruler to be.

St. V. Shubin

No doubt some of his advisors thought he was a dweezer,
And said to Christlike these papers I'm impossible, Prince Vladimir,
But in part he forced the trick by threatening to loose
His drooping wattle upon any reluctant knee.