



Ten Days That Shook The World

John Reed (1887 - 1920)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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On October 25, 1917 Vladimir Lenin led the revolutionary Bolsheviks in an armed insurrection in Petrograd, an event variously described as the October Revolution, Red October and the Bolshevik Revolution and a pivotal moment in the larger Russian Revolution. American journalist John Reed was there reporting for the socialist magazine “The Liberator” and witnessed much of the critical action. When he returned to the United States in April 1918 he was strip-searched and interrogated and his trunk full of notes and material was confiscated. After he finally recovered the material seven months later he sequestered himself and wrote his account of the proceedings in a frenzy. It was published in 1919 to a generally positive reception in

spite of Reed’s admitted bias in favor of the revolutionaries. It is considered today as probably the best account of probably the most important event of the 20th century. It is listed by the *New York Times* at number seven on its 1999 list of the Top 100 Works of Journalism and is central to the noted film *Reds*, which chronicles Reed’s life and work covering the revolution.

This book is a slice of intensified history—history as I saw it. It does not pretend to be anything but a detailed account of the November Revolution, when the Bolsheviks, at the head of the workers and soldiers, seized the state power of Russia and placed it in the hands of the Soviets. --John Reed

John Reed (October 22, 1887 – October 17, 1920) was a journalist and social activist best known for *Ten Days That Shook the World*, his first-hand account of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. He was born to a well-to-do family in Portland, Oregon and was educated at private schools. After graduating from Harvard his friend journalist Lincoln Steffens introduced him to the magazine publishing world in New York, where he began to publish regularly and nurtured a passion for social justice. He covered the Mexican Revolution in 1913, embedding with the Villistas and producing a series of noted articles that were published in 1914 as *Insurgent Mexico*. He covered World War I throughout Russia and Eastern Europe, publishing *The War in Eastern Europe* in 1916. He married Louise Bryant upon returning home and lost a kidney to surgery, which saved him from involvement in a war he opposed strenuously. The couple journeyed to Petrograd just in time for the Bolshevik Revolution, which Reed supported enthusiastically. He became close with the inner circle and worked for the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, translating documents into English. After difficulties returning home, he published *Ten Days That Shook the World* in 1919. His outspoken defense of the Bolsheviks led to several indictments for sedition in America that forced him to flee to Russia, where he died of spotted typhus in 1920. He was given a hero’s funeral and buried in the Kremlin Wall Necropolis, one of three Americans accorded that singular honor.