



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES
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In Memoriam: Sidney Heitman, 1924-93

Sidney Heitman was a Jew from Missouri whose parents were born in Bukovina; a left-leaning liberal when he did graduate work at Columbia University during the height of the Cold War; an urbane and increasingly politically disillusioned intellectual who spent most of his academic years at a small university in high plains country; a man of decency, compassion and honour in an era when those characteristics often seem antiquated. Sid, in short, was a prototypical "marginal man." He exemplified the person who lives in two worlds, not feeling entirely comfortable in either, but able to use his peripheral social location as a vantage point for peering insightfully into both.

Sid's sense of marginality was evident in his choice of the two scholarly topics to which he devoted his academic life. Approximately from the time of his graduate work at Columbia until 1970, he devoted most of his time to studying and writing about Nikolai Bukharin, Lenin's designated successor and principal victim of Stalin. Bukharin argued strenuously in the 1920s for a gradualist

approach to Soviet economic development. His accession to power would certainly have allowed the Soviet Union to avoid Stalin's worst crimes. Sid understood well the immense horror of Stalinism. But rather than falling blindly

into the Cold-Warriorism of many of his contemporaries, Sid was able to envisage other historical possibilities. As a result, he edited and wrote introductions to the English editions of some of Bukharin's main works, notably *The*

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ABC of Communism (with Evgeny Preobrazhensky) (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1988 [1966]) and *The Path to Socialism in Russia: Selected Works of N.I. Bukharin* (New York: Omnicon Press, 1967). He compiled the invaluable *Nikolai Bukharin: A Bibliography with Annotations, Including the Locations of His Works in Major American and European Libraries* (Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1969). He also wrote several important articles on Bukharin, especially "Between Lenin and Stalin," in *Revisionism: Essays on the History of Marxist Ideas*, edited by Leo Labeledz (New York: Praeger and London: Allen and Unwin, 1962), which has been reprinted in English and translated into German.

A distinguished Russian intellectual who fell into the interstices of history attracted Sid in the 1950s and 1960s. A great interstitial movement of Soviet citizens attracted Sid in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s: the unprecedented and unanticipated migration of Jews, Germans, Armenians, Pontic Greeks, Evangelicals and Pentecostals from the Soviet Union to Israel, Germany, the United States, France, Greece and elsewhere. Much attention was devoted to the Jewish emigration movement by Western scholars. Sid, however, was one of the very few academics who was able to see the Jewish emigration as part of a larger set of political developments.

He studied the main ethnic components of the emigration movement comparatively, demographically and historically, thus contributing enormously to our appreciation of what the emigration movement might portend. His main work of this period was *The Third Soviet Emigration: Jewish, German and Armenian Emigration from the U.S.S.R. Since World War II* (Cologne: Bundesinstitut für ostwissenschaftlichen und internationale Studien, 1987). He also wrote often-cited articles on emigration for *Soviet Jewish Affairs*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Soviet Geography* and other academic journals of the first rank. In all these works he assembled his materials meticulously and from an immense range of sources without, however, ever losing sight of the larger picture he felt compelled to sketch.

Sid served energetically on the editorial board of *Soviet Refugee Monitor* and *Refuge*. We will all miss his efforts on behalf of understanding the plight of refugees and emigrants from the former Soviet Union. I will miss him personally as a good friend, a man capable of sage advice, sardonic wit and enormous compassion. Sadly, but proudly, we publish in this issue of *Refuge* Sidney Heitman's last inquiry into the movement of people between two worlds. ■

Robert J. Brym

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