Bread and Bullets

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Bread and Bullets: the story.

National Stories.

The National Story after the Russian Revolution.

Would take over Russia.

Nationalize the economy.

Industrialization.

Heaven on earth.

Raison d'être for takeover.

Justification for whatever it would take.

Go to late 1920's.

Especially to Ukraine.

The State: Take over the economy.

A plan: a very long list.

Commodity X from Entity Y to Entity Z on Date T.

Payment from Z to Y.

Now time to go to the next stage of history.

First Five Year Plan.

The First Five Year Plan:

Heavy industry: 330 percent.

Electrification: 335 percent.

Agriculture: collective farms: *kolkhozes*.

Tractor Stations.

Industry: tractors to agriculture.

Agriculture: bread to industry.

Non-agricultural workforce: needed to eat.

Grain to feed them: delivered from the farms.

"Voluntary" taxation.

Not entirely democratic.

Payment: Less than cost of planting.

1928 harvest: Large shortfall.

Bolshevik story.

Fault not with the plan.

Class enemies.

The kulaks.

Expropriate the kulaks.

Dekulakization.

3 to 5 percent: 20 percent of the grain.

Dekulak the countryside: Big problems.

Starvation.

5,000,000 out of 25,000,000.

Relevance: people live by the stories they tell themselves.

This is one example: stories have consequences.