

# Ye Compleat Profession

*Rugged individualists who wear no man's collar  
will see a ready-made future in this new career*

By Robert Forsythe

**F**OR a young man embarking upon a career, I should think he would do well to look into the possibility of becoming a Trotskyist. The work is light, the hours are good, and the rewards are increasing at such a pace that the field is likely to grow crowded. Compared with other lines requiring as little thought, Trotskyism has far outdistanced such professions as stock selling, banking, and quality-magazine editing, which were formerly the best hopes for the young and ambitious.

The cloud hovering over banking and stock broking is slow in rising and it is hardly possible that our time will witness another surge in that direction. Along with financial security the present-day young desire adventure and romance, all of which are included in Trotskyism, and there is slight possibility that they are going to be diverted from a field which offers so many advantages with so little risk.

Naturally there are variations even in Trotskyism and I shouldn't have the novice think that he will leap to the side of Mr. Max Eastman and Dr. Sidney Hook after three simple lessons. Indeed I am not even suggesting that such heights can be scaled. But there are innumerable posts available in the lower reaches, and the calls from the New York drawing rooms cannot begin to be met under present conditions. It will be well if the young man is personable and agreeably romantic on his own behalf, but the demand for daring spirits who are more radical than the Reds and more charming than King Edward VIII has created a market for Trotskyists which gives even the lesser prospects a chance.

By some quirk of history the world is ripe for Communists who are not Communists but more communistic than the Communists. As is well known, the Communists called Stalinists are a menace to mankind in the eyes of the good folk who invite the Trotskyists. However, in the eyes of the Trotskyists the Stalinists are the very dishwater of Communism. The thing seems to make no sense but it is an undeniable fact and must be reflected upon by the young men I am addressing. It will not do to rush into the fray without knowing how the land lies. Stalinists are very reactionary Communists who are feared by everybody on Park Avenue. Trotskyists are very violent revolutionaries who are loved by the same people.

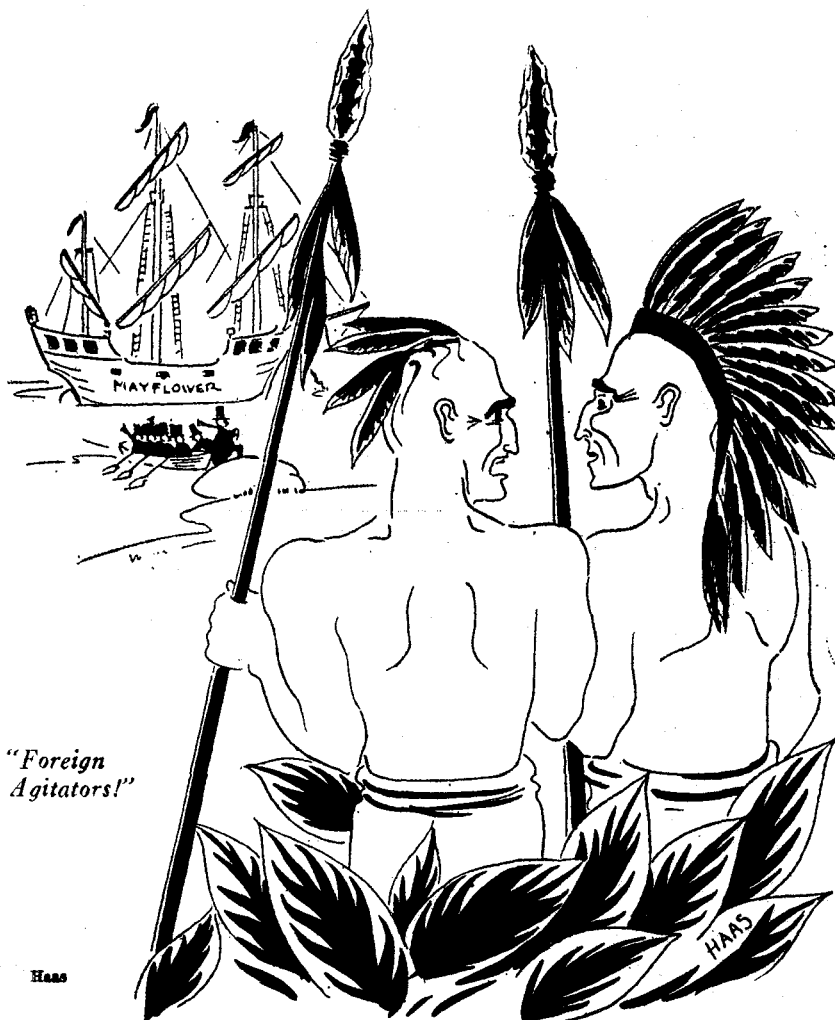
The instructions necessary to become a Trotskyist are rudimentary. It is required that one have the Napoleonic complex at least in the embryonic state. After that nothing is needed but a firm conviction that the official Communist Party in any given country is

made up of a group of incompetents. In this set of lessons there is a qualification for beginners which permits the thought that while the leaders in America are hopeless, they are much better in Great Britain. The English Trotskyists reverse the procedure, but with that variation the lesson remains standard. At a certain point in the course it is well to learn that the Communists are (a) sectarian or (b) surrendering to the enemy. These maneuvers can be manipulated in such a way as to confound any Stalinist and delight the average upper-class dinner party.

Included in the earlier studies will be a dissertation on the greatness of Adolf Hitler, which comes under the heading of Facing the Facts, and is coupled with an analysis of the Soviet Union, showing that its real talent has been exiled or murdered and the revolution has been thwarted. This goes particularly well with elderly matrons who are sad over the failure of revolution, and not a little angry with Mr. Stalin for his pusillanimity. A bit

further along it will be time (a) to insist upon the formation of soviets in all countries, (b) to halt the united-front movement wherever it appears, and (c) to deplore the lack of democracy in the Soviet Union.

With these few fundamental instructions and a dinner jacket, it will be possible for an alert young man to grow with the nation. In the event that his ambitions are literary, he will have his choice of markets. If there is a book on economics or upon the Soviet Union or upon Marxism to be reviewed, he may be certain that it will never be placed in the hands of a friend of the Soviet Union. This would be favoritism. For this reason such books invariably fall to the Trotskyists, who have no interest involved and are much better versed on the Soviet Union than a Stalinist who has merely lived there. In this crusade he will have part in that great change in the book-review section of the Sunday New York Times, by which even the White Russians are being made to yield to their betters. There is



"Foreign Agitators!"

the further established fact that no Stalinist is able to write and consequently would not be able to do justice to his cause if given the opportunity. Because of this concern for the truth, the Trotskyist may be assured of a welcome equally warm in the ranks of William Randolph Hearst, Mr. Ogden Reid of the New York *Herald Tribune*, Mr. Thomas Lamont of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, and in the *Daily Forward* of Mr. Abraham Cahan, all of whom are eager to know the truth about Russia. The best market, however, will be found in Mr. Wertheim's *Nation*, which maintains a high standard of neutrality provided it is supplied from the proper sources. The field, as can be seen, is wide open and no writer with the slightest concern for his future can overlook the opportunity. The beginner will aid his chances if he perfects a style which shows compassion and understanding for Red Russia along with a firm determination that the truth must be told. This manner is particularly appreciated by liberal editors and brings the highest rates. It is a highly critical method which does not blink the facts and, by its very insistence on the shortcomings of the U.S.S.R., is helping most to bring the light of reason to that lumbering land. By the same reasoning nothing fully good must be admitted about Russia lest the average American reader feel that the writer is prejudiced. By the change in a few words and a general lightening of style the same article can be made available for the *Saturday*

## Bombers Attack

Heavy the metal tears  
Of these repressive years  
Drop down, rain death down here;  
Refuse to mate with earth,  
Destroy, renounce rebirth,  
Shatter themselves, and kill—  
Enforce a desperate will.

Such tears we too must shed  
Soon, who review our dead,  
Stand gaping, shaking heads—  
Weep! We must weep in steel,  
Spill burning tears, anneal  
Sorrow's alternative,  
Toughen ourselves, and live.

VALENTINE ACKLAND.



*Evening Post*, which is extremely anxious to present the truth about Russia provided it is the unsullied truth.

The chief topic of conversation for a Trotskyist will be the Comintern and here even the most stupid beginner will have no trouble. Since the departure of Trotsky from Russia, the Comintern has of course done no single right thing and all that is needed in this connection is a weary sad smile and a despairing wave of the hand. In such a simple thing as getting letterheads printed, the Comintern will be bound to go wrong, and when it ap-

proaches a problem such as the Island of Gingriz, the errors can mount to a point where the entire revolutionary movement is imperiled. The Island of Gingriz, as is well known, is inhabited by ex-vaudeville actors, and one may imagine the resentment of the Gingriz representatives to the Seventh Congress upon finding that sessions were to start as early as 10 o'clock in the morning, a time comparable to the middle of the night for the Gingrizites. Their withdrawal from the Congress and the resultant effect upon all thespians can easily be realized. It is only one of a myriad of mistakes which could have been avoided with a bit of serious consideration.

In short, the career of a Trotskyist is made to order for rugged individualists who will wear no man's collar. Since the early days of the motion picture, when it was impossible to make a film which would lose money, nothing has arrived which so fully meets all requirements of safety and remuneration. Miniature golf and mah jong passed on almost as soon as they reached their peak, but all indications about Trotskyism point to a solid future. A slight initial investment will bring returns in social favor, feelings of courage, and financial betterment which can scarcely be duplicated in any other line of endeavor. It may very well be the new industry which will bring us definitely out of the depression. If I am not too presumptuous I should like to offer it as my Five Year Plan. I think five years should be about enough.



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