

John
Merrill 8/1916-

Chapters 14 and 15, of Vol. II in Nettl.

p. 623 quotes RL's article in the April 1915 issue of Die Internationale, 'The Rebuilding of the International.' The new version of historic imperialism (as amended by the leadership of the SPD) produces an either/or. Either the class struggle is the all-powerful raison d'etre for the proletariat even during the war, and the proclamation of class harmony by the party authorities is blasphemy against the very life issues of the working class. Or the class struggle even in peace time is blasphemy against the 'national interests' and the 'security of the fatherland'."

p. 624, Nettl recognizes how deep the differences are between RL and Lenin, who saw not only the treachery of leaders but "the whole loose federal structure of the International ..." Now why (should FN be so concerned with looseness or not of federal structure when what was involved was something much more fundamental than federal structure? What he is good at (p. 625) is when he quotes Lenin who without knowing Junius was Luxemburg says: "One sense the outsider who, like a lone wolf, has no comrades linked to him in an illegal organization, accustomed to thinking through the revolutionary solutions right through to the end..."

p. 627, FN says that until 1917 the Bolshevik view on war had practically no influence on RL. And he approves it, and by showing that the Spartakus letter in Nov. 1915 had reported the Zimmerwald Conference devoting exactly one sentence only to Lenin and the Bolsheviks. Or p. 629 he shows Luxemburg was still writing in a quite friendly way to Huysmans. It's only in 1915 that she began accepting that the International had indeed collapsed.

p. 649 - Leibknecht who was first sentenced to 2 and a half years of hard labor in 1916, June 28, produced the first large political strike of the war.

p. 650-651 show how very important, indeed crucial, Jogiches work became as the only one from the Left still out, doing everything from technical work on distributing Spartakus leaflets, etc., controlling the Spartakus literature, indeed taking over the entire formal leadership of Spartakus, after Ernest Meyer was arrested in Aug. 1916. "A few of his circulars exist -- laconic, matter-of-fact, unemotional, without any of the charisma of Luxemburg or Leibknecht... but effective... It was he who did all the work of clandestine organization, and emerged in 1916 as the effective manager of the Left Opposition -- a remarkable achievement which has not yet been documented. Without him there would have been no Spartakusbund ..."

Chapter 15, p. 653 -- Until the end of 1918 Spartakus was known as the Gruppe Internationale.

p. 655 reports that Jogiches who wrote of the circulars of Spartakus conf. signed it 'Kreuzbügel'.

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Chapter 15 Vol II, Nettl:

p. 658 , PN reports that despite RL's reference to the Second Int.'l as that "stinking corpse of Aug. 4, 1914" she remained within the SPD, until the ~~founding congress of~~ founding congress of of USPD , April 1917, and then joined it.

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Except the Bremen radicals, under the influence of Radek, ~~the~~ the whole Left joined USPD

pp. 661-62 is the famous letter to Mathilde Wurm

p. 668 reports that RL called the Russian language "the language of the future" and then writing her critique of Vladimir Korelenko.

p. 670 has RL's reference to Virginia Woolf on the question of the arid waste when the writer has nothing to fall back upon but "the illumination of the soul and the brotherhood of man."

RL
p. 684 /greeted the Feb. 1917 Russian Rev'n and propagates it widely in Germany. In Aug. 1917 there appears in Spartakusbriefe "The Burning Questions of Our Time."

p. 688 reports the January strikes by the revolutionary shop stewards, which will become crucial in the events of November 1918 to March 1919.