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**THE
TEACHINGS
OF
KARL MARX**
by **V. I. LENIN**

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

IN the summer of 1914 Lenin lived in the Galician village of Poronino, to which he had removed from Switzerland in order to be nearer the Russian border and so facilitate the constant communication he maintained with his comrades in Russia. He had been assigned an essay on Karl Marx, for the Russian Encyclopedia published by Granat, and in July he began to work on it. But the work was interrupted when, soon after the outbreak of the war, he was arrested by the Austrian authorities as a Russian subject on the suspicion of espionage. After two weeks' imprisonment Lenin was released and permitted to return to Switzerland where he resumed work on the essay, which was, however, not completed until November, because of the pressure of other writings dealing with political and organisational problems arising out of the war.

The article on Marx was published in the Encyclopedia in a greatly abbreviated form, mainly because of the censorship. The sections "Tactics of the Class Struggle of the Proletariat" and "Socialism" were omitted altogether, and there were many other excisions and alterations. An English translation of this succinct and lucid exposition of the life and teachings of Karl Marx by his most illustrious follower and interpreter was made from a definitive text supplied by the Lenin Institute in Moscow and first published in its entirety in 1930 in *The Imperialist War*, volume XVIII of Lenin's *Collected Works*, containing his writings of 1914-1915. It is reprinted here in full, including the numerous reference notes prepared by the editor for that volume.

In this essay Lenin quotes extensively from the writings of Marx and Engels. Where reliable English translations were available they were utilised: otherwise they were made for the purpose from the original editions. In general, where books are known to be available in English translation, references to the English titles are given.

