The Victors' Dilemma: Allied Intervention In The Russian Civil War

John Silverlight

The Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War consisted of a series of multi-national military expeditions in 1918. The stated goals were to help the Czechoslovak Legion, to secure supplies of munitions and armaments in Russian ports, and to re-establish the Eastern Front. Overthrow of the new Bolshevik regime was an additional, covert motivation. After the Bolshevik government withdrew from World War I, the Allied Powers openly backed the anti-communist White forces in Russia. Allied efforts were Mr. Silverlight is an assistant editor of the London Observer. He has written a first-rate journalistic account of Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War. The adjectives are important. Although Silverlight is scholarly in his citation of sources, his is not a scholar's book. Rather, it is an account for the general reader, put forward in a style—often employing long excerpts from memoirs and other firsthand accounts—that conveys visual, almost sensual, impressions of the tumultuous events it chronicles. Such vividness is the book's strength. Its principal weakness is that it i
During the intervention there was a split between the State Department, which was anti-Bolshevik and pro-White, and the War Department. The War Department itself was concerned more with the military realities of the situation than ideological differences. Despite the differing views Wilson never doubted Graves' ability to stay out of the internecine strife, and Graves remained in Siberia. The Allied intervention was a multi-national military expedition launched during the Russian Civil War in 1918. The stated goals were to help the Czechoslovak Legion, to secure supplies of munitions and armaments in Russian ports, and to re-establish the Eastern Front. After the Bolshevik government withdrew from World War I, the Allies militarily backed the anti-Soviet White forces in Russia. Allied efforts were hampered by divided objectives, war-weariness from the overall global conflict, and a lack of domestic support. The immediate effect of the intervention was to prolong a bloody civil war, thereby costing thousands of additional lives and wreaking enormous destruction on an already battered society."[6].