

weight of it all fell upon the peasant class, which furnished the men for the ranks, the food for soldiers, and bore the expense in taxes, impossible for them to meet.

It would appear that the serfs were always strong enough to have overwhelmed their masters, but they were densely ignorant, unorganized, <sup>hopeless,</sup> and helpless. For a thousand years no one ever showed them a real kindness. They fought wars in which they had no interest and between times they were ravished by the Cossacks or some other group. They were devoid of both leadership and courage.

Strong;-they must have been strong physically for no one but the strong could have survived. Rugged;-Yes, they had to be to stand the bitter cold and to get together enough to keep them from starving. When famine and pestilence prevailed they died by the thousands. Courage;- None. There seemed to be no way out. Occasionally a ruler would favor ~~improved~~ the encouragement of education, but it was for the ruling classes and gentry only. The masses did not <sup>1858 and in</sup> know, count, and were left in utter ignorance. <sup>True serfdom was abolished in 1861,</sup> but little was done to improve the condition of the masses <sup>the downtrodden</sup>.

Finally ~~the~~ World War I brought ~~them~~ their opportunity. No wonder there was confusion, what else could have been expected? They could not see far ahead, but they had leaders who told them to kill and they killed. They had always been robbed or deprived of what they had, why be squeamish about taking that which belonged to others. At last Russian was to belong to the masses, it was now their country. What if they did have to work many hours and give most of it to the state. ~~They had~~ They had always worked, but got little in return and now they were the state. ~~The~~ <sup>cowardliness</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>cowardness</sup> of despair changed to a daring courage in which they saw a new life and a new world. ~~They had~~

The trouble with the Communists in America is that they cannot see, or are unwilling to acknowledge, that the liberty that is now Russian cannot compare with the liberty and opportunity that has always