

ABSTRACT

THE AMBIVALENT RELATIONSHIP: THE UNITED STATES AND THE RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, 1905-1911

The fundamental contention of this study is that American public opinion of Russia and its constitutional monarchy was molded and shaped by the profound cultural differences between the two nations. Notwithstanding an appreciation for the richness of Russian artistic achievements, Americans viewed with equal contempt the odious tsarist regime, a dangerous and radical revolutionary movement and the ignorant masses. For a brief time the constitutional monarchy tempered these fears, embodying American hopes for the peaceful transformation of Russia into a freedom loving, democratic nation. However, the inability of Russia to follow the lead of the United States and transform itself, only served to deepen American scorn and the public soon found little value in maintaining ties with Russia. Through readings of newspapers, magazines, memoirs and travel writings, it is hoped some sense of public opinion can be established. The significant diplomatic events will then be placed within this cultural paradigm.

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