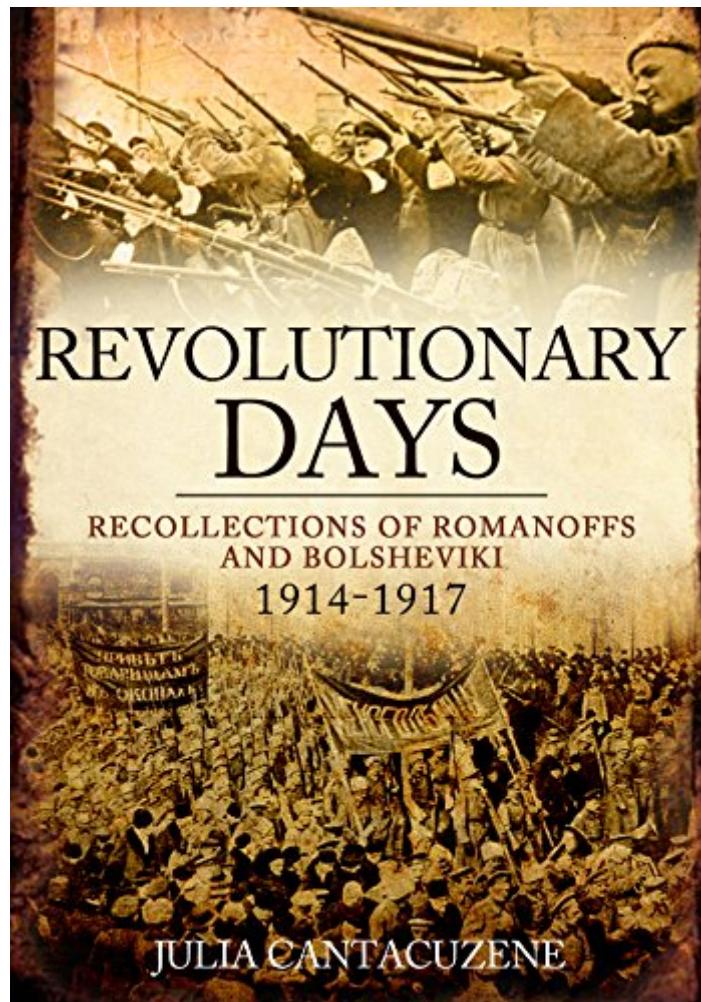


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Revolutionary Days: Recollections Of Romanoffs And Bolsheviks 1914-1917



Synopsis

As the strength of the Russian Empire began to falter during World War One, the seeds of Revolution were sown. Princess Julia Cantacuzene, a granddaughter of Ulysses S. Grant, was married to a Russian aristocrat and general, Michael Cantacuzene, and recorded in fascinating detail her experiences of those tumultuous days. Covering from just before the war broke out in 1914 and initial setbacks of the Russian army through to the growth of competing factions after the abdication of Nicholas II and the subsequent Bolshevik uprising, it continues until their eventual escape from Russia in 1917. Cantacuzene documented not only the broad changes that were occurring through the Revolution but also their own smaller concerns and experiences, therefore providing an extremely personal view of the Russian Revolution. From Rasputin to Trotsky, Kerensky to the Grand Duke Nicolas Nicolaiovitch, Cantacuzene provides in-depth analysis of all the characters who were instrumental in shaping this monumental moment in history. Cantacuzene travelled back and forth across the empire, including Petrograd, Kief and the Crimea, in order to evade tumult that was surrounding them, but they never truly escaped and instead they became witnesses to how the revolutionary fervor was affecting different parts of the empire. Revolutionary Days by Princess Cantacuzene is a brilliant first-person account of the Russian Revolution which observes both the Imperial and Bolshevik positions of that time. Julia Dent Grant Cantacuzene Spiransky, Princess Cantacuzene, was an American author and historian. She was the eldest child of Frederick Dent Grant and his wife Ida Marie Honor, and the first grandchild of Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States. In 1899, she married Prince Mikhail Cantacuzene, a Russian general and diplomat. Princess Cantacuzene was the author of three first-person accounts of the events leading up to the Russian Revolution in 1917, as well as a personal historian of the Russian people during that time. This book was published in 1919 and she eventually died in America in 1975 at the age of ninety-nine.

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Customer Reviews

Princess Julia Grant Cantacuzine, President Ulysses S Grant's oldest grandchild, was born at the White House, married a Russian prince, danced at imperial balls, and witnessed up close the tumultuous final 20 years of Tsar Nicolas II's reign, all of which she chronicles in this fascinating and thrilling memoir. With her husband, diplomat and military officer Prince Mikhail Mikhailovich Cantacuzine, Julia struggled through the early years of the Russian revolution, alternating between hope for a better future and regret for the loss of a culture she had come to love and adopt as her own. While they wanted to stay and be part of the new Russia, ultimately they had to flee and Julia's gripping account of that episode gives a sense of what it's like to live through a transitional collapse of social order. This compact, photo-filled Lakeside Press edition of Revolutionary Days also contains excerpts from another of Julia's memoirs, *My Life Here and There*. Its footnotes and Historical Introduction are helpful and informative, putting Julia's personal observations in context.

The author of these memoirs of the Russian revolution was the daughter of U.S. Grant- civil war general and president- and had a fascinating life, frequenting the best society of the United States and then, after her marriage to a Russian diplomat, the highest aristocratic circles of Saint-Petersburg. What makes these memoirs a fun read - and interesting for the historian (amateur or professional)- is that she was so well placed in court and political circles at a strategic time in Russia's history: the years preceding and during the Russian revolution of 1917. She has a good enough prose style and enough wit and humor to save her narrating of so many political events from being boring and, as she herself points out, she makes a point of being scrupulously honest- only relating events to which she was personally a witness or from whom she had reliable accounts from trusted friends. Unfortunately what mars these memoirs - and what made me give them three stars instead of four or five- is the poor job of transferring the book to the Kindle version, which includes

many egregious typos and misspellings- to the point of some sentences being difficult to decipher. really should do a better job proof reading the Kindle versions before they put them for sale.

This book was written by the Princess Cantacuzene of St Petersburg Russia, she was the former Julia Dent Grant and her father the General gave her in marriage to the Prince Cantacuzene a very Prominent St Petersburg Aristocrat in a White House Wedding. She gives a look into the Social and Court life in Russia before the Bolshevik Revolution. This book does drag along to begin with but then the Revolution broke out for various reasons which she gives an educated look at. Her journey to the Crimea where a large number of Aristocrats had fled to escape the violence but it caught up with them in the Crimea and her first hand descriptions of the times draws you right in. Excellent book

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