

1956 *Soviet-American
Relations, 1917–1920,*
Volume 1: *Russia*

Leaves the War

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George F. Kennan

Winner of the National Book Award and the Pulitzer, Bancroft, and Parkman Prizes, George Kennan's *Russia Leaves the War* explored the complexities of the Soviet-American relationship between November 1917 and March 1918. These four months, which witnessed the Bolshevik Revolution and Russia's departure from the warring powers, set the stage for future relations between the two emerging superpowers. Volume 2 of *Soviet American Relations*, entitled *The Decision to Intervene* (Princeton, 1958), explored U.S. intervention in northern Russia and Siberia between 1918 and 1920. Ultimately, the distinguished diplomat and former ambassador to Russia provided a vivid portrait of the personal and social factors that shaped American policy toward the Soviet Union and communism as a whole.

Kennan became the U.S. government's key analyst of the Soviet Union after a two-year stint in the Foreign Service there (1944–1946), which had been preceded by service in the American embassy in Moscow before World War II. His "long telegram" to his superiors at the State Department, written in 1946 and published a year later in revised form in *Foreign Affairs* as the famous "X" article, was perhaps the most influential statement in the early years of the Cold War.

After leaving the Foreign Service, Kennan joined the faculty at the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where he wrote *Russia Leaves the War* and subsequent books.

