

## BOOK REVIEW

### ART AND REVOLUTION

*Writings on Literature, Politics, and Culture*

BY AUTHOR LEON TROTSKY

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Trotsky demonstrated a keen insight and a penetrating analysis of literature (Russian and foreign) and society. The present compilation of 22 variegated articles, speeches, reviews, and letters (some excerpted, some in toto), attempts to acquaint the reader with some of Trotsky's views on literature and art. The collection is not recommended for the student who has had no contact with Trotsky.

Trotsky presupposed a general knowledge on the part of his audience; so apparently does the editor. He provides an introductory essay which is informative, but in other ways he fails to help the reader. Footnotes are sketchy and uneven. The well-known writer, Konstantine Fedin, is introduced in a footnote, but the lesser known, Yakov Ilyin, is not. Russian terms such as *na postu* ("on guard") and *kuznitsa* ("the smithy") are not always translated for the reader. A challenging work for the informed student.