

BOOK REVIEW

Eugene V. Debs Speaks

BY EUGENE V. DEBS

Reviewed by: H.H. Bernt

[Reviewed along with *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks*, also published by Pathfinder Press]

These present selections from the writings and speeches of two individuals who were active in the development of socialism from the late 1900s to the end of World War I. Naturally, both dealt with such basic issues as the applications of socialism and its revolutionary possibilities, especially in the trade unions.

Luxemburg was born in Poland, took her Ph.D. in Zurich, and then moved to Berlin where she lived as a writer until she was shot by the military in 1919. Unusual intellectual ability and wide knowledge are reflected in the 14 chronologically arranged samples of her writings on the evolution of socialism in Germany and in other countries, especially Poland and Russia. Four appendixes, by Lenin and Trotsky, indicate the often overlooked importance of her role.

American born Debs, after years of working for the railroads, became more and more interested in socialism and trade unions. He considered the prevailing political and economic system an instrument of capitalistic exploitation of the worker. He led in the founding of the Socialist party and the I.W.W. Speaking and writing in a simple and clear style, he was quite successful, and was five times Socialist party candidate for President. Cannon provides a good sketch of Debs's life in his introduction to this collection of about 30 items of varying length in which this leader's attitudes and efforts are presented.

Though Tussey and Cannon are active in socialist causes and Waters is managing editor of the socialist newspaper the *Militant*, presentation in both books is quite objective. Both are suitable for those interested in the history of socialism.