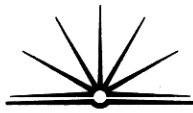


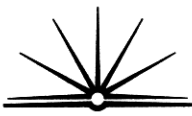


A.

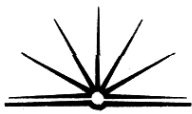
(i) There is no doubt that Alexandra Kollontai's life was one of great political and diplomatic work. In 1917 Lenin's April thesis advocated the ~~the~~ overthrow of the Provisional Government. Such a policy saw Kollontai ardently support Lenin as though such a revolution she saw her future hopes for women. It is because of this she embarked on a ~~good~~ ^{period} ~~period~~ of agitation for the revolution and when ~~the~~ the aims of the Bolshevik party were achieved through revolution in October of 1917, ~~the~~ it led to her rise in the Bolshevik party. In November of that year she was



appointed Commissioner for Social Welfare and held the first congress for ~~the~~ Petrograd working women. March 1918 saw Lenin's signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk to which Kollontai was strongly opposed, leading to her resignation of as Commissioner for Social Welfare. In November of that year she held the first All Russian Congress for working and peasant women. 1919 saw Kollontai suffer from ill health as she had a heart attack, however she still spoke at the eighth party congress and toured Russia extensively (as the Civil War continued.) In 1920 Kollontai became director of 'Zhenotdel' the women's bureau within



the Bolshevik party. ~~Throughout~~
the year. 1921 saw Lenin's
introduction of N.E.P (the
New Economic Policy) which
she once again ~~opposed~~ was
opposed to as it was ideologically
unsound. In 1927 she was
threatened with expulsion from
the party, after joining the
Workers Opposition movement and
advocating the 'Declaration of 22'.
She was sent to Odessa and
then went to a trade delegation
in Oslo. ~~In~~ 1923 saw Kollontai's
writings on free love 'rubbed'
while in the same year she
headed a trade delegation.
In February 1924, after Lenin's
death in January, she was
appointed as Soviet ambassador



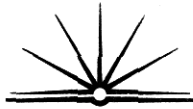
to Norway. In September 1926 she attended a trade delegation in Mexico and in October of 1927 she was again appointed as Soviet ambassador to Norway meaning that she effectively missed Stalin's purges of the Bolshevik party.

It was during his time away that she was appointed to the Soviet embassy in Sweden.

In 1933 she received her first Order of Lenin for her

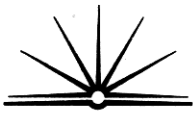
~~diplomatic~~ work with women.

1940, after the outbreak of World War II, she successfully negotiated peace between Finland and Russia. 1942 saw her awarded her ~~second~~ first Red Banner for diplomatic work. In the same



year she returned to Russia
having been the head of the
Swedish diplomatic corps.

1945 saw her ~~nominated~~
nominated for the Nobel Peace
Prize while ~~at the same time~~
she in the same year she
was awarded her second Red
Banner for her work.

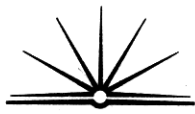


~~(ii) Alexandra Kolontai played a significant part in achieving social reforms for women. While she was successful in implementing some results for women, she was significantly limited because of her social and historical context. Due to the patriarchal nature of her society and particularly within the Bolshevik party, the needs and interests of ~~women~~ ~~women~~ were not a priority. Furthermore, Kolontai lacked significant female support within the party meaning that she lacked 'political strength' to~~

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push reforms through. Additionally, as the Civil War escalated and the revolution was in danger, the needs of women were not at the forefront of Bolshevik policy, but rather political pragmatism and economic reforms in order to maintain power.

Ironically, it was Kollontai's ardent belief in Marxism that led to her demise and resignation from strong political positions. As Kollontai objected to Lenin's signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (which she believed promoted German imperialism rather than socialist internationalism) she consequently resigned from her role as commissar for Social Welfare. Such a resignation



prohibited her to a certain extent
in properly enforcing reforms. ~~She~~
She did however, as a result of
her talks at the All Russian
Congress of ~~the~~ working and
pleasant women, instigate reforms
such as the setting up of
the Central Office for Maternity
and Infant Welfare along
with modern maternity homes
for mothers. As a result of
her bringing these ideas to the
forefront of Russian political
life, the Bolshevik party did
implement these reforms. Moreover,
through her speeches at events
such as this, she enlightened
many women to the fact that
they were entitled to better
conditions and a lifestyle

which enables them to be
both workers and noters.

Through Kolontai's appointment
as director of 'Zhenotdel'<sup>(women's bureau in
soviet party)</sup> in

1920, she was enabled to
make further reforms such as
free abortion for women
introduced into state hospitals.

Under Stalin, ~~however~~, ^{however} he
Zhenotdel received cuts to
funding. Kolontai was ~~sacked~~ sacked
for incompetency and Stalin
fully discredited her by
branding her writings on
sexual morality and free love
~~and~~ as '~~some~~ ~~sentimental~~ feminist
ubbish. In a party in which
everything was created and
sustained in order to serve ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
male hierarchy, there is no

wonder that the ~~the~~ 'Zhenotdel'
was finally dissolved in 1930.

It can be seen that due to
the historical and social context
of the time in which Kollontai
was attempting to implement
reforms that she was successful
to a limited extent. Due to
the civil war, the patriarchal
hierarchy of the Bolshevik party,
and her direct belief in
Marxism (which lead to her opposition
with Lenin) she was unable to
properly introduce these reforms
she desired to. She did however
introduce some ^{social} reforms during
this period and she was
significant in enlightening
women to prospects of a better
standard of life, especially when
they ^{wished to} ~~wanted~~ play the dual role
of being workers and mothers.