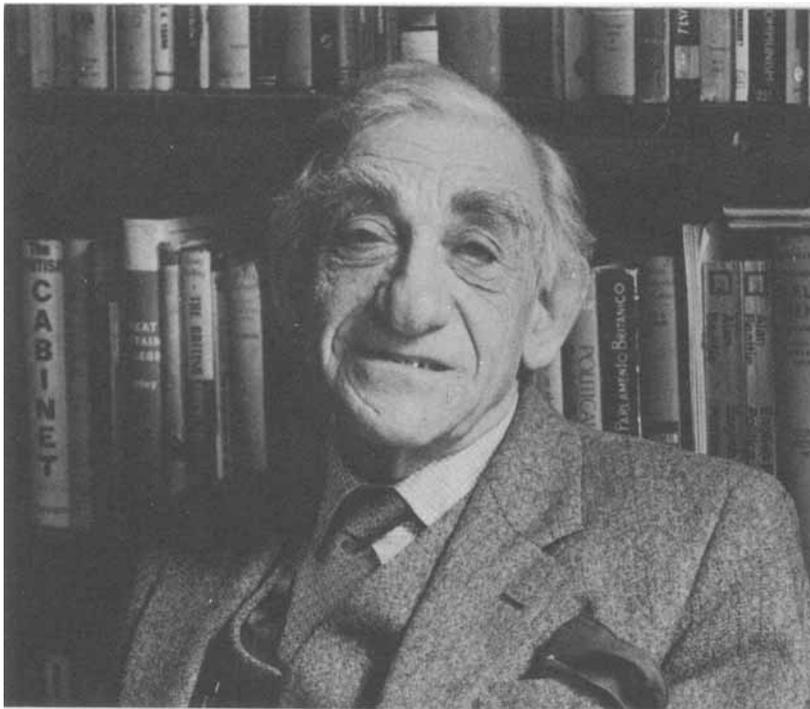


S. E. Finer

Leonard Schapiro

Leonard Schapiro, a founder of this journal in 1965 and the Chairman of its Editorial Board from that date onwards, died on 2 November last, at the age of 75.

Leonard Schapiro had three careers – at the Bar, in Military Intelligence



during the war, and, finally, as Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science. As he himself explained in this journal's fifteenth anniversary number in 1980, all three careers interacted on one another to generate in him that unique blend of unswerving dedication to the rule of law and the rights of the individual, searching insight into the nature of the Soviet polity and meticulous schol-

arship which made him perhaps the most distinguished of all observers of the Soviet scene. For some years after the war Leonard went on practising at the Bar, but, drawn on by his Russian parentage, his mastery of the Russian tongue, and the insights on the USSR he had won at the War Office, he devoted his leisure hours to an inquiry into the inception of Soviet totalitarianism. The work, *The Origins of the Communist Autocracy*, published in 1955, is a masterpiece. Contrary to the then received version of events, it demonstrated that Stalinism was not an arbitrary perversion of some pristinely democratic vision on the part of Lenin but the logical continuation of Lenin's own formula for the seizure and retention of power. The LSE responded swiftly in inviting him to take up a teaching post in Political Science with special reference to Russian Studies; and so began that third career, marked inter alia by his massive and now standard *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union*, his *Totalitarianism* and dozens of learned articles.

The world will mourn the passing of a great scholar but I, along with those privileged to know him and work with him – and not least our Editorial Board – will weep far more for the death of a great and dear man. He was most various. That intimacy with and love of the Common Law made him the wisest of counsellors, the most skilful of Chairmen. He loved the visual arts; was most musical; and his knowledge of letters and literature ran both broad and deep. How graceful was his command of tongues is to be seen in his beautiful translation of Turgenev's *Spring Torrents* and his subsequent life of Turgenev, the works of his retirement. In his personal dealings he was a most compassionate man, sparing no pains to help his pupils, always ready to support some scholar down on his luck. Strangers he greeted with a slow, gracious and warm courtesy which put them immediately at ease and was immensely endearing; while friends will never forget how the smile would spread so very slowly over his face as he took in the savour of a joke – nor his own comically droll way of telling a joke himself.

It remains to me, alas, to say – for the entire Editorial Board – how great, indeed how central, was the contribution he made to this journal, and therewith express our deep and enduring sense of obligation, and our gratitude. A Board meeting will never be the same. The golden bowl is indeed broken and the pitcher broken at the fountain.