

27. 52% of all the 69,000 titles printed in the USSR in 1959 were technical or industrial text books, only 25% of these titles were for light reading, of these most concerned war stories reflecting the struggle and victory of the Soviet armed forces over the nazis during the 2nd world war, as well as heroic novels about opening up the virgin lands in Siberia and the wild country East of the Urals, as was described by Erving Lewis in his book, "Main Street USSR." Love stories are few and far between with them apt to be "boy loves tractor" "loves girl" episodes, or how Ivan increased production at his machine to win the admiration of Natasha, the shop foreman. Foreign novels are very popular in the USSR because of their comparatively rosy lines, however, foreign winters seem to be chosen, because they write about the decay and decadence and immorality of their respective countries. Every foreign book seems to be chosen to show that if capitalism isn't dead or dying it should.

American authors include, Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, and others. Some of these writers are often very popular in the USA, but not for the same reasons, Jack London wrote what we consider adventure stories while the Russians consider them to be reflective of present day life, Ernest Hemingway, wrote "old man and the sea" a deeply touching story of man's struggle against nature and the sea, while here it is considered an indictment of capitalist society although Hemingway, unlike Jack London, was never a socialist.

For an ~~american~~ <sup>person</sup> reading selected stories by foreign writers, one gets a very depressing feeling and is overwhelmed by the greyness and dullness of the life depicted in them, other foreign authors include.

Leonard Frank, Russian novelist; William Goodwin, "Things as they are" England; and more classical writers such as Alexander Dumas "Count Monte Cristo" French author. "Sherlock Holmes and Captain Blood" are also known and read in the USSR. but such titles are few and hard to find. Dickens novels, in proportion wherever one goes. Mark Twain books are also found in quantity such novels of 300-400 pp. sell for 1.50 rubles or less. spy stories rank high in publication and therefore popularity, also with the public are often those not American or west German spies captured in the end by the nazis, Japanese, Soviet counter espionage agents.

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