



# **A Vanquished Hope: The Movement for Church Renewal in Russia, 1905-1906**

*James W. Cunningham*

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A common assumption made by many historians of pre-Bolshevik Russia is that the Russian Orthodox Church was a moribund relic of the cultural past, content to serve as a quaint but sometimes oppressive instrument of the tsarist state. *A Vanquished Hope* effectively refutes this view. As the book demonstrates, ecclesiastical documents, bishops' reports and theological journals reveal a widespread movement to revitalize the church in its structures and life, a movement concerned above all with the church's emancipation from state control. Ecclesiastical intelligentsia - priests, prelates and professors - were nearly unanimous in their belief that restoration of the church's autonomy was essential if the inner vitality of the Church was to be effective in the social, economic and political transformations of the twentieth century. Their concerns and activities, culminating in the preparations for a national church council, are set forward with a wealth of detail in this fascinating study. All three words provide further insights into the issues discussed in *A Vanquished Hope*.

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