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**Title:** Soviet Critics’ Response to Ernest Hemingway’s Emerging Social Consciousness

**Abstract:** Between 1936 and 1939 Ernest Hemingway began to display a political commitment that made him attractive to left-leaning American critics and to Soviet cultural merchants. His former contempt for any ideology and a willingness to expose the sham made his public image even more salient once he became an outspoken antifascist. Hemingway’s departure for Spain as a news correspondent to cover the Spanish Civil War was praised in the Soviet Union, where there was some anticipation that the author would move beyond the pessimism, skepticism and individualism that had been noted in his early literary works. “The Chauffeurs of Madrid” appeared in the journal *Abroad* (Za rubezhom) on 25 June 1937. The novel *To Have and Have Not* was published in October 1937 and a Russian translation soon followed in *International Literature* (Internatsional’naia literatura) with a tentatively positive response from Soviet critics. A portion of his film script, *The Spanish Earth*, was published in the newspaper *Izvestiia* on 29 December 1937. The entire film script was published in *International Literature* in 1938. Yet, it was Hemingway’s play, *The Fifth Column* that was met with unanimous enthusiasm. It was translated into Russian and published in the first number of *International Literature* for 1939. This paper will examine in some detail Hemingway’s emerging social consciousness and the positive response of his Soviet critics that validated their earlier efforts to co-opt the American author for the Soviet experiment.