Contents

Acknowledgments Introduction		vii 1
	Counterfactual Thought Experiments: A Concise Overview	21
2.	Vladimir Odoevsky's Russian Nights (1844): Thought	
	Experiments Inspired by Malthus and Bentham	33
3.	Thomas Malthus and Nikolai Chernyshevsky:	
	Utopian Dreams in What Is to Be Done? (1863)	55
4.	Revolution on Earth and Mars: Alexander Bogdanov's	
	Red Star (1908) and Aleksei Tolstoy's Aelita (1923)	69
5.	A Peasant Utopia: Alexander Chaianov's	
	My Brother Aleksei's Journey (1920)	83
6.	Overpopulation in Nina Berberova's Short Story	
	"In Memory of Schliemann" (1958), in the	
	Context of Malthusian Theory	94
Conclusion		105
Bibliography		113
Index		123

So go ahead and tell everyone: this is what the future holds, the future is radiant and wonderful. You should all love it, yearn for it, work for it, accelerate its approach, and transfer as much from it into the present as you possibly can: your present life will be radiant and good, rich in joy and pleasure exactly in proportion to your ability to infuse some future into it while you still have time.

—Nikolai Chernyshevsky, What Is to Be Done?; Vera Pavlovna's fourth dream, chapter 4.16

Говори же всем: вот что в будущем, будущее светло и прекрасно. Любите его, стремитесь к нему, работайте для него, приближайте его, переносите из него в настоящее, сколько можете перенести: настолько будет светла и добра, богата радостью и наслаждением ваша жизнь, насколько вы успеете перенести в неё из будущего.

—Николай Чернышевский, Что делать?