

Title: Feeling Communist

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What does it mean to feel like a communist? Are there specifically communist feelings? A range of Soviet writers, artists and filmmakers energetically addressed this question in the 1920s, among them Andrei Platonov. For example, in his 1927 novel *Chevengur*, Platonov suggests that “thinking” about communism begins in the realm of affect: “the proletarian’s thought works in feeling, not under the bald spot.” And one of the peasants in Platonov’s novel sums up the emotional significance of the Soviet revolution in a nicely concise statement: “I kept wondering to myself ‘what am I depressed about?’ Now I see it was because I was missing socialism.”). Engaging with some recent work on the appeal and persistence of communism, and taking Platonov’s reflections on communist feeling as its starting point, this paper considers a range of common or general affects that appeared, at different moments, for different writers, to be the possible basis for communist feeling.