

In der Literatur wird für den Begriff des auf eine Person bezogenen "nützlichen Werkzeuges" häufig der Begriff des "nützlichen Idioten" verwendet. Da ständig versucht wird, den Begriff des "nützlichen Idioten" falsch zu interpretieren, sei hier die Interpretation in der englischen Wikipedia-Version angeführt. In der deutschen Version ist kein Eintrag zu finden.

## Useful idiot

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For other uses, see [Useful idiot \(disambiguation\)](#).

In [political jargon](#), **useful idiot** is a [pejorative](#) term used to describe people perceived as propagandists for a cause whose goals they do not understand, who are used cynically by the leaders of the cause.

The term has been used to describe [Soviet sympathizers](#) in Western countries. The implication was that although the people in question naïvely thought of themselves as an ally of the Soviet Union, they were actually held in contempt and were being cynically used. The use of the term in political discourse has since been extended to other propagandists, especially those who are seen to unwittingly support a malignant cause which they naïvely believe to be a force for good.<sup>[1]</sup>

Despite often being attributed to [Lenin](#),<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> in 1987, Grant Harris, senior reference librarian at the [Library of Congress](#), declared that "We have not been able to identify this phrase among [Lenin's] published works."<sup>[5][6]</sup>

A [New York Times](#) article from 1948, on contemporary Italian politics, documented usage of the term in an article from the social-democratic Italian paper *L'Umanita*.<sup>[7]</sup>

A 2010 [BBC](#) radio documentary titled *Useful Idiots* listed among "useful idiots" of [Joseph Stalin](#) several prominent British writers including [H. G. Wells](#) and [Doris Lessing](#), the Irish writer [George Bernard Shaw](#), the American journalist [Walter Duranty](#) and the singer [Paul Robeson](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

## References

- <sup>1</sup> ↑ "["Useful Idiots"](#), a documentary, *BBC World Service*, Last updated: 7 july, 2010 (Retrieved March 22, 2011)
- <sup>2</sup> ↑ [An editorial clarification of a quotation in the article "Ходорковский просит Лондон не идти на сделки с Кремлем"](#), BBC, Russian Service
- <sup>3</sup> ↑ [Mona Charen](#), *Useful Idiots: How Liberals Got It Wrong in the Cold War and Still Blame America First*, 2003, ISBN-10: 0895261391
- <sup>4</sup> ↑ [Paul Kengor](#), *Dupes: How America's Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*, 2010, ISBN 1-935191-75-6
- <sup>5</sup> ↑ [William Safire on the term](#)
- <sup>6</sup> ↑ Boller, Jr., Paul F.; George, John (1989). *They Never Said It: A Book of Fake Quotes, Misquotes, and Misleading Attributions*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-505541-1.
- <sup>7</sup> ↑ "COMMUNIST SHIFT IS SEEN IN EUROPE; Tour of Two Italian Leaders Behind Iron Curtain Held to Doom Popular Fronts", Arnold Cortesi, *New York Times*, June 21, 1948 p. 14
- <sup>8</sup> ↑ [Useful Idiots - Part One](#)
- <sup>9</sup> ↑ "PLANNED CHAOS" p.17 in electronic document; Ludwig von Mises;<http://mises.org/books/plannedchaos.pdf>
- <sup>10</sup> ↑ "Reader's Digest Service" article titled "Yugoslavia's Tragic Lesson to the World"; p.138 in electronic document; Bogdan Radista;<http://books.google.com/books?>

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