

Banditry is one of the most honorable ways of life within the Russian state. . . . The bandit is the people's hero, defender, savior. He is the implacable enemy of the state and the whole social and civil order set up by the state; he is a fighter to the death against the entire civilization. . . . Everything in this light is equally sanctified by the revolution. . . .

The present generation must in its turn produce an inexorable brute force and relentlessly tread the path of destruction. The healthy, uncorrupted mind of youth must grasp the fact that it is considerably more humane to stab and strangle dozens, nay hundreds, of hated beings than to join with them to share in systematic legal acts of murder.... So may all healthy young minds forthwith set themselves to the sacred cause of rooting out evil, purifying and clearing Russia's soil by fire and sword, and join fraternally with those who will do likewise throughout Europe.

-Mikhail Bakunin, "Revolution, Terrorism, Banditry" (1869, translated 1987) excerpt