The communists had a deep respect for the arts. In fact, they feared them. Vladimir Lenin himself realized that if he controlled literature and art, he would be able to control people’s ideological and political leanings as well. According to Lenin, media should “serve as an instrument of socialist construction” (qtd. in Lauk 19). After this thought entered Lenin’s head, it began to creep into the political structure of the nation. The party rapidly established control over media, book publishing and distribution, bookstores and libraries. It formed and abolished newspapers and periodicals at will. This sparked the beginning of the fire that would become one of the most efficient and monstrous censorship machines in the world. However, the post-revolutionary times were rather lax on the enforcement of censorship. Although the government acknowledged the importance of thought control in the 1920s, the administration was not as established. As a result, people tended to have more leeway when it came to literature. (Raskina) We, which is said to be one of the first novels to be banned from Soviet shores, was actually published during this time.