

THE SOVIET UNION

1917



1967

FACTS AND FIGURES

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THE ARMS OF THE SOVIET UNION: The inscription reads, "Workers Of All Lands, Unite", and appears in the language of each of the fifteen republics.

Novosti Press Agency
3 Rosary Gardens
London, S.W.7

CONTENTS

	page
I. INTRODUCTION	5
II. THE FIFTEEN REPUBLICS—GENERAL INFORMATION	5
III. POPULATION	6
IV. SOCIAL AND STATE STRUCTURE	6
V. PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS	14
VI. MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND LAKES	16
VII. NATURAL WEALTH	17
VIII. NATIONAL ECONOMY	18
IX. PEOPLE'S WELFARE	32
X. PUBLIC HEALTH	33
XI. EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE	34
XII. PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS	39
XIII. RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS	40

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

<i>Old and New Names of Soviet Towns</i>	40
<i>National Holidays</i>	40
<i>Chronicle of Major Events</i>	40
<i>Chronicle of Major Dates</i>	50
<i>Historical Outline</i>	56

THE SOVIET FLAG



The state flag of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is red with a hammer and sickle in gold and a five-pointed star bordered in gold. The ratio of width to length is 1:2.

THE SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEM

Words by S. Mikhalkov and El-Registan; music by A. V. Alexandrov, 1944

(First verse and chorus)

Unbreakable Union of freeborn Republics,
Great Russia has welded forever to stand;
Created in struggle by will of the peoples,
United and mighty, our Soviet Land!

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,
Bulwark of peoples in brotherhood strong!
Flag of the Soviets, people's flag flying,
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on!

I. Introduction

Half a century ago, in the autumn of 1917, the world's first socialist state was founded. It was established on the territory of the former empire of tsarist Russia, following the victory of the people's liberation struggle that culminated in the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Under the leadership of the Russian Communist Party headed by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the workers and peasants overthrew the tsarist autocracy and the power of the landowners and capitalists and took the reins of the state and government into their own hands.

The Soviet state—since 1922 known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.)—was founded on November 7, 1917 (October 25, according to the old calendar; hence the description *October Revolution*). Lenin headed the Soviet government until his death on

January 21, 1924. November 7 is celebrated every year as a national holiday—the birthday of the Soviet state.

In the course of the past 50 years the Soviet Union has changed beyond recognition and its international prestige as a world power has grown immeasurably. Naturally, there is great interest everywhere in how the Soviet people succeeded, despite immense difficulties, in transforming their formerly backward country in such a short space of time into one of the world's most advanced states both economically and culturally.

This booklet is intended to give readers some idea of the geography, state structure and historical background of the Soviet Union, and of the realities of the life and activities of its peoples today.

II. The Fifteen Republics

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The U.S.S.R. is located in Eastern Europe and in Northern and Central Asia.

The extreme points on the mainland are as follows:

North: 77° 44' N. Lat. (Cape Chelyuskin)

South: 35° 08' N. Lat. (south of Kushka)

West: 19° 38' E. Long. (Baltic spit)

East: 169° 40' W. Long. (Cape Dezhnev)

FRONTIERS

The U.S.S.R. has common frontiers with Norway, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia, China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

Soviet frontiers stretch for over 36,000 miles, about two-thirds of which is seaboard.

The coasts of the U.S.S.R. are washed by the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Oceans.

SIZE

Total area (including islands) 8,600,000 square miles.

Shortest distance from east to west: 5,580 miles.

Shortest distance from north to south: 2,790 miles.

The U.S.S.R. is the largest country in the world, occupying half of Europe and a third of Asia—one-sixth of the habitable portion of the earth.

The territory is so large that day begins in the east 11 hours before it reaches the west. As the sun rises over Vladivostok it is setting over Moscow on the previous day. Vladivostok is as far from Moscow as Cape Town is from London.

POPULATION

235,500,000 (July 1, 1967).

CAPITAL

of the U.S.S.R.: Moscow, with a population of 6,507,000 (January 1, 1967).

The Soviet Union (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) is a Union of the following fifteen republics:

	Area (Sq. miles) Jan. 15, 1959	Population Jan. 1, 1967	Capital
The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.)	5,569,000	127,312,000	Moscow
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	231,100	45,966,000	Kiev
Byelorussian S.S.R.	80,000	8,744,000	Minsk
Uzbek S.S.R.	153,400	10,896,000	Tashkent
Kazakh S.S.R.	1,102,300	12,413,000	Alma-Ata
Georgian S.S.R.	27,700	4,611,000	Tbilisi
Azerbaijan S.S.R.	33,400	4,802,000	Baku
Lithuanian S.S.R.	25,000	3,026,000	Vilnius
Moldavian S.S.R.	13,000	3,425,000	Kishinev
Latvian S.S.R.	24,600	2,285,000	Riga
Kirghiz S.S.R.	76,150	2,749,000	Frunze
Tajik S.S.R.	54,600	2,654,000	Dushanbe
Armenian S.S.R.	11,540	2,253,000	Yerevan
Turkmen S.S.R.	187,000	1,966,000	Ashkhabad
Estonian S.S.R.	17,300	1,294,000	Tallinn

Many Union republics have peoples of other nationalities living on their territory. If people of one nationality or national minority live in a more or less compact group, the territory is granted the status of an autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area. Within the limits of its territory the autonomous republic also controls its economy and culture, has its organs of state power and its constitution.

There are 20 autonomous republics, 8 autonomous regions, and 10 national areas in the U.S.S.R.: R.S.F.S.R.—16 autonomous republics, 5 autonomous regions and 10 national areas; Uzbek S.S.R.—1 autonomous republic; Georgian S.S.R.—2 autonomous republics and 1 autonomous region; Azerbaijan S.S.R.—1 autonomous republic and 1 auto-

nous region; Tajik S.S.R.—1 autonomous region.

There are also 6 territorial administrative divisions (all in the R.S.F.S.R.), and 105 regions (49 in the R.S.F.S.R., 25 in the Ukrainian S.S.R., 6 in the Byelorussian S.S.R., 9 in the Uzbek S.S.R., 15 in the Kazakh S.S.R., and 1 in the Kirghiz S.S.R.).

The autonomous republics within the R.S.F.S.R. are the Bashkir, Buryat, Daghestan, Kabardinian-Balkar, Kalmik, Karelian, Komi, Mari, Mordovian, North Ossetian, Tartar, Tuvanian, Udmurt, Checheno-Ingush, Chuvash and Yakut; within the Uzbek S.S.R.—the Kara-Kalpak; within the Georgian S.S.R.—the Abkhazian and Adjar; and within the Azerbaijan S.S.R.—the Nakhichevan.

III. Population

The U.S.S.R. has the third largest population in the world, after China and India—235.5 million, seven per cent of the world's population, in July 1967. Males make up 45.9 per cent of the population, females—54.1 per cent—a disproportion resulting from the last war. Fifty-five per cent of the population live in towns, and 45 per cent in the countryside. The urban population increased by 66 million, or more than doubled, from 1940 to 1967.

In 1913, factory and office workers made up 17 per cent of the population, individual peasants—66.7 per cent, and town and rural bourgeoisie, landlords and traders—16.3 per cent. In 1967, factory, office and professional workers totalled 76.4 per cent, and collective farmers and co-operative artisans made up 23.6 per cent.

The natural growth of the population for the seven-year period from 1959 to 1965 amounted to 3.5 million per year.

There are 110 nationalities and ethnic groups in the Soviet Union. The population of some of the main nationalities, according to the 1959 census, was: 114,114,000 Russians (or 54.6 per cent of the entire population), 37,253,000 Ukrainians, 7,913,000 Byelorussians, 6,015,000 Uzbeks, 4,968,000 Tartars, 3,622,000 Kazakhs, 2,940,000 Azerbaijanians, 2,787,000 Armenians,

2,692,000 Georgians, 2,326,000 Lithuanians, 2,263,000 Jews, 2,214,000 Moldavians, 1,470,000 Chuvashs, 1,400,000 Latvians, 1,397,000 Tajiks, 1,285,000 Mordvinians, 1,002,000 Turkmenians, 989,000 Bashkirs, 489,000 Estonians, and 969,000 Kirghizians.

The density of population is highest in the Central European part of the country and Transcaucasia, and is lowest in the Far North.

Moscow has the biggest population (6,507,000 on January 1, 1967). The following cities have a population exceeding one million: Leningrad—3,706,000, Kiev—1,413,000, Tashkent—1,241,000, Baku—1,196,000, Kharkov—1,125,000, Gorky—1,120,000, Novosibirsk—1,064,000 and Sverdlovsk, which reached the million mark in January 1967.

The population of 31 towns exceeds 500,000. There are 168 towns with a population of from 100,000 to 500,000, 180—from 50,000 to 100,000, and 531—from 20,000 to 50,000. The average population of Soviet towns in 1926 was 30,600, in 1939—43,000, in 1959—49,500 and in 1965—56,000. The number of urban-type industrial communities increased by 2,175 from 1926 to 1965.

In January 1966 there were 1,874 towns and 3,445 urban-type communities in the U.S.S.R.

IV. Social and State Structure

The U.S.S.R. is a socialist state of workers and peasants. It arose as a result of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution of November 7, 1917 (October 25, according to the old calendar).

The present Constitution of the U.S.S.R. was adopted on December 5, 1936.

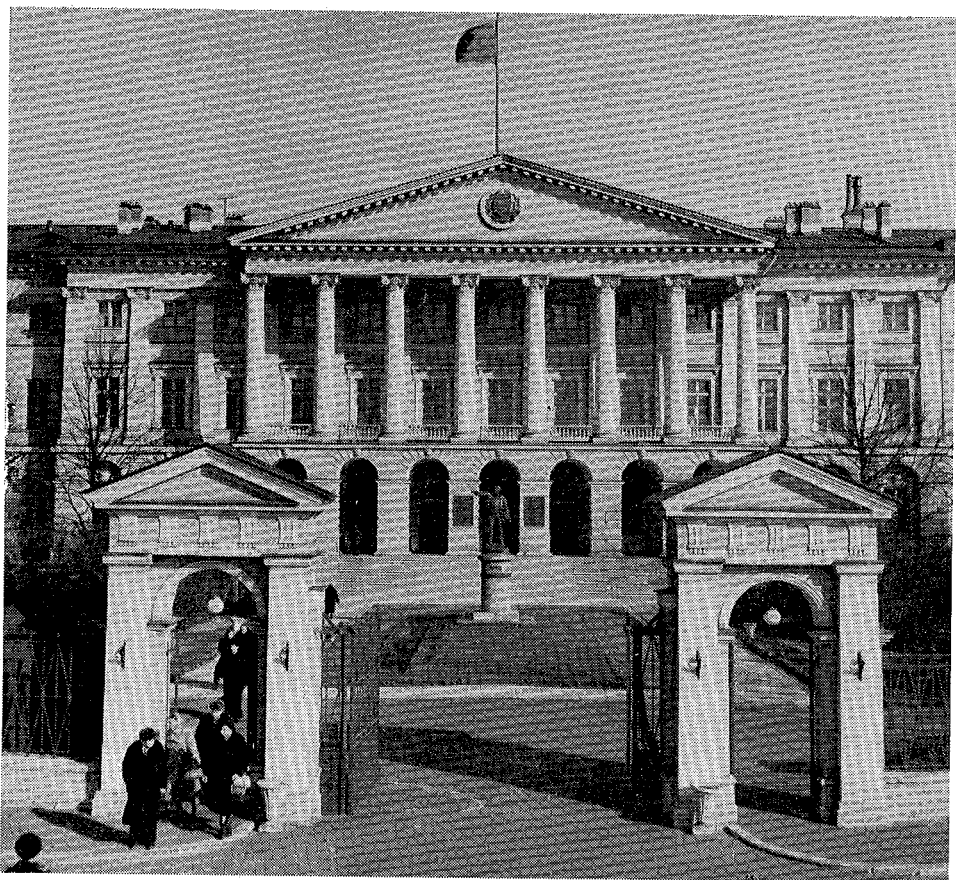
All power in the U.S.S.R. belongs to the working people as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The economic foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership

of the instruments and means of production. The economic life of the country is determined and directed by a single state national-economic plan.

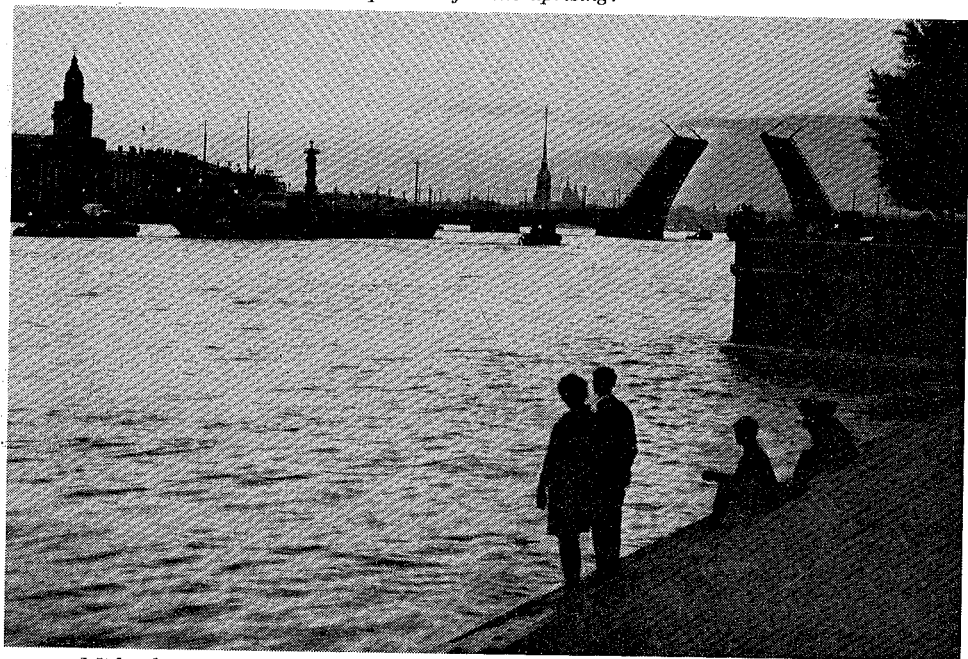
A union of equal Soviet socialist republics. With the exception of matters which, in accordance with the constitution, come under the jurisdiction of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, each Union republic exercises state authority independently. The U.S.S.R. protects



Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov — LENIN — (1870-1924).

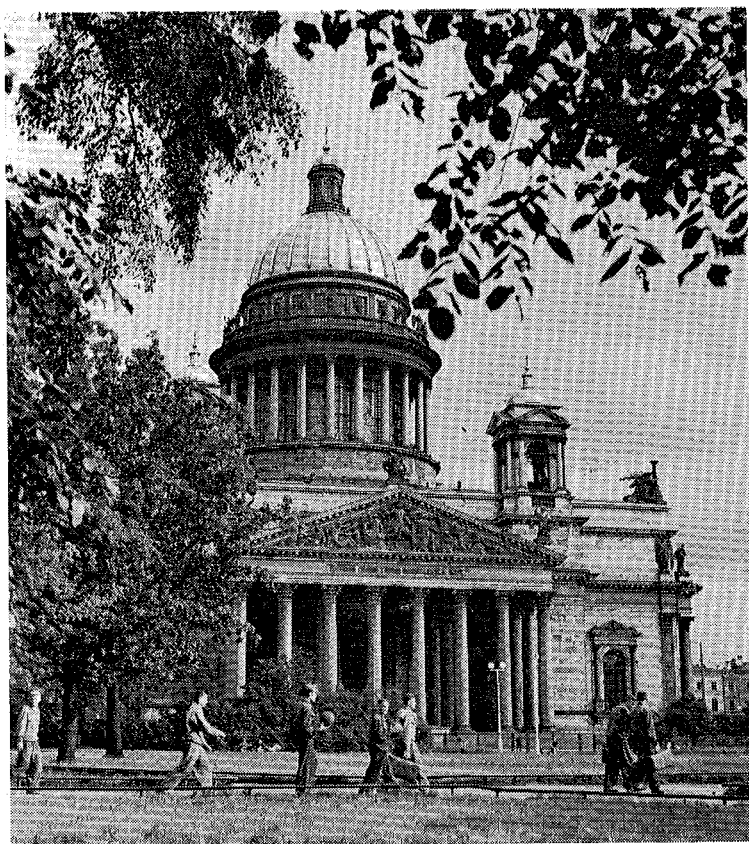


Smolny Institute, Leningrad. In October 1917 it was used by Lenin as headquarters for the uprising.



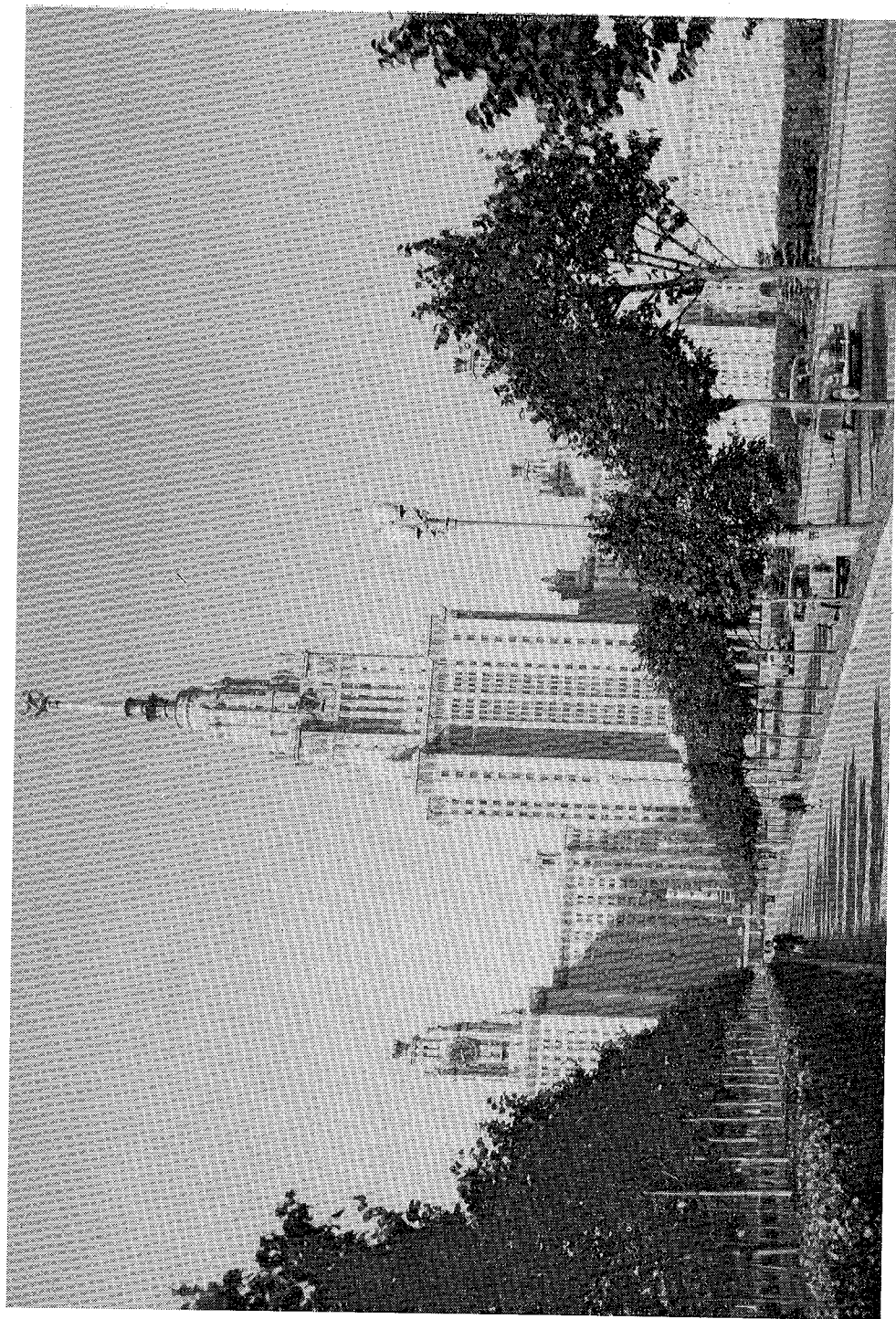
Midnight on the Neva, Leningrad, during the "White Nights" of midsummer.

*St. Isaac's Cathedral,
Leningrad,
built by Peter the
Great.*



*Leningrad's main
street—the Nevsky
Prospect.*





Moscow University on the Lenin Hills to the south-west of the city.

the sovereign rights of the Union republics. Each Union republic has its own constitution, its own arms and its own flag; it has the right freely to secede from the U.S.S.R., and the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states. The U.S.S.R., the Ukrainian Republic and the Byelorussian Republic are foundation members of the United Nations.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is the highest organ of state power. It consists of two chambers having equal rights (the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities) and is elected for a term of four years. The Supreme Soviet elects a *Presidium* consisting of a Chairman of the Presidium, fifteen Vice-Chairmen (one from each Union republic), a Secretary of the Presidium and sixteen members of the Presidium.

In the 1966 elections, 767 deputies were elected to the Soviet of the Union, 482 of them for the first time. Among them there were 222 women, 573 members and candidate members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and 194 non-party people. Out of the total number of deputies elected to the Soviet of the Union, 220 were workers and 138 collective farmers. In the same elections, 750 deputies were elected to the Soviet of Nationalities. They represented 57 nationalities, and 203 of them were women.

The Supreme Soviet of the Union republic is the highest organ of state power in a Union republic.

The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. is the country's highest executive and administrative organ; in the Union and autonomous republics, it is the **Council of Ministers of the republic**. The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and the Councils of Ministers of the Union republics are formed by the respective Supreme Soviets. The composition of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. consists of the Chairman, First Vice-Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, Ministers and Chairmen of State Committees, and also Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the Union republics.

The autonomous republics have their own Supreme Soviets and Councils of Ministers.

The local organs of state power—in territories, regions, autonomous regions, areas, districts and rural localities—are the **Soviets of Working People's Deputies**.

Deputies to the Soviet of the Union of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet are elected on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population.

Deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities are elected on the basis of 32 from each Union republic, 11 from each autonomous republic, five from each autonomous region, and one from each national area.

Election of deputies to all Soviets is conducted on the basis of **universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot**.

All citizens who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion,

social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote, with the exception of insane persons.

A law of December 25, 1958, abolished the deprivation of electoral rights by courts of law as a measure of criminal punishment.

Every Soviet citizen who has reached the age of 23 is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.; citizens are eligible for election to the Supreme Soviets of Union or autonomous republics on reaching the age of 21, and to local Soviets on reaching the age of 18.

Legislation can be initiated by either the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities. They sit simultaneously, and a law is considered adopted if passed by a simple majority in both Chambers.

The courts and the Procurator's Office. The highest juridical organ is the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R., which is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The Supreme Courts of the Union and autonomous republics are elected by the respective Supreme Soviets. Other courts (except the People's Courts) are elected by the respective Soviets of Working People's Deputies, while the People's Courts are elected directly by the citizens of the given district.

Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R., who is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

In all Soviet courts cases are heard in public unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right of defence.

Court proceedings take place in the language of the respective republic, and under the law a defendant must be provided with an interpreter if he is being tried in a place where the official language is not his own.

In all courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors (elected lay judges), except in cases specially provided for by law.

Basic rights of citizens. All citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to work, to rest and leisure, to maintenance in old age (and also in case of sickness or disability), and the right to education. Inviolability of the person and freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings, and freedom of street processions and demonstrations are guaranteed by law. Women are accorded equal rights with men. The constitution of the U.S.S.R. not only defines the rights of citizens but provides real guarantees for the exercise of these rights.

ARMED FORCES

The Soviet armed forces date their birth from February 23, 1918, when units of the newly-formed Red Army engaged German invasion forces advancing on Pskov-Narva. The

army was first formed on a voluntary basis to defend the achievements of the revolution from foreign invaders and internal forces working against the revolution. In the summer of 1918 a conscription law was passed. A law on universal conscription was adopted in September 1939.

In June 1941, at the beginning of the war, the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. numbered 4,207,000 men, and in 1945, at the end of the war, their strength exceeded 11 million.

About 11,000 officers and men were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for their part in the rout of the Hitler war machine and over seven million were decorated with Soviet orders and medals.

In the post-war years the size of the Soviet armed forces has been repeatedly reduced. The present strength of the Soviet armed forces is about 2,500,000.

Great successes have been achieved in developing and perfecting rocket nuclear weapons, and technical equipment, combat preparedness and armaments of the Soviet armed forces embody the latest achievements of science and engineering. The armed forces possess all types of modern atomic weapons, including intercontinental and global rockets with thermonuclear warheads of great destructive power.

General guidance of the armed forces is carried out by the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., while the direct administration is effected by the U.S.S.R. Minister of Defence through the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defence.

The purpose of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. is to defend the Soviet Union's freedom, independence and security, and to safeguard the peaceful constructive labour of its citizens.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The first legislative act of the Soviet state was Lenin's Decree on Peace, adopted in November

1917 immediately after the victory of the October Revolution. The Soviet government denounced all the unequal tsarist treaties and all rights and privileges in other countries and advanced a broad programme of peaceful co-existence and economic co-operation with capitalist states.

The U.S.S.R. maintains diplomatic relations with 97 states. It is a foundation member of the United Nations Organisation and one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. It is a member of many large international organisations, including the International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.), the International Communications Union, the International Postal Union, the World Health Organisation, Unesco, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Interparliamentary Union, the Warsaw Treaty Organisation (established in 1955), and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance of the socialist countries (Comecon).

The Soviet government carries out the Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence of states with different social and economic systems, a policy of mutual understanding and growing international cultural ties and economic co-operation.

The U.S.S.R. stands for the strengthening of the socialist commonwealth and renders economic and technical aid to the peoples who are fighting against colonialism.

The U.S.S.R. is a resolute and active fighter for peace, for general and complete disarmament, and for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. It takes every measure within its power to ensure international security.

In the summer of 1963 the U.S.S.R. signed a treaty with Britain and the United States on the banning of nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (this treaty was signed by more than 100 states).

V. Public Organisations

Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed the right to form and belong to **public organisations**: trade unions, co-operative societies, youth, cultural, scientific, sport, defence and other organisations and societies.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (C.P.S.U.), founded in 1903 as the Bolshevik (majority) wing of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, is a voluntary association of communists, from the working class, the working peasantry and the working intelligentsia. The C.P.S.U. is the vanguard of the working people in their effort to build a communist society and the guiding body of all the organisations of the working people, both public and state organisations.

In July 1967, the C.P.S.U. had a membership of more than 12,947,000 members and candidate members.

The C.P.S.U. is organised on a territorial and

industrial basis. The basic unit of the party is the primary organisation formed at industrial enterprises, construction sites, state and collective farms, state offices and establishments, units of the armed forces and educational institutions, wherever there are not less than three party members. In March 1966 there were over 320,000 primary party organisations.

The supreme organ of the C.P.S.U. is the party congress. Congresses are convened at least once in four years. The congress hears and approves the reports of the central committee and other party bodies, endorses the programme and the rules of the party, determines the policy of the party in matters of home and foreign policy, examines and decides the most important questions of communist construction, and elects the central committee and the central auditing commission.

Between congresses the activities of the party

are directed by the central committee, which holds its plenary meetings not less than once in six months. The central committee elects a political bureau to direct the committee's work between plenary meetings, and a secretariat to direct current work, such as the selection of personnel, and to ensure that the party's decisions are fulfilled. The committee elects the party's general secretary, who heads the political bureau of the C.P.S.U. central committee.

The 23rd Congress of the C.P.S.U., in March-April 1966, elected 195 members and 165 candidate members of the central committee and 79 members of the central auditing commission. On April 8, 1966, a plenary meeting of the central committee elected by the 23rd Congress elected a political bureau of 11 members and 8 candidate members, and a secretariat of 10 members.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union sees its ultimate goal in the construction of a communist society, the principle of which is "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs", and whose motto is Peace, Work, Freedom, Equality, Fraternity and Happiness for all nations.

The party directs the work of communist construction through state and social organisations. It does not issue orders to them, nor does it replace them. It determines the principal tasks and the place of each organisation in the construction of communism.

The central newspaper of the C.P.S.U. is *Pravda* ("Truth").

The Lenin Young Communist League (Komsomol) was founded in 1918 on the initiative of Lenin. It is a voluntary mass social organisation close to the Communist Party and is an active helper and reserve of the party. Young people between the ages of 15 and 28 are eligible for membership. In 1965, the Y.C.L. had a membership of over 23 million. From 1946 to 1966 over 4½ million Y.C.L. members were admitted to the C.P.S.U.

The Y.C.L. is organised on a territorial and industrial basis, has its own rules and central and local bodies. The highest organ of the Y.C.L. is its congress (in 1966 it held its 15th Congress). In the interval between congresses the activities of the Y.C.L. are directed by a central committee.

The principal task of the Y.C.L. is to rear socially-conscious and highly-educated young builders of communist society, advanced intellectually and devoted to their country and people.

The central newspaper of the Y.C.L. is *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

The Y.C.L. supervises the activities of the **Young Pioneers**, a children's organisation named after Lenin which was set up in 1922. Children between the ages of 10 and 15 are eligible for membership, and Pioneer groups exist at all schools. The activities of the organisation are directed by its central council

with the help of Pioneer councils and senior Pioneer leaders, who are Y.C.L. members.

The Pioneer organisation helps the school to rear children in the spirit of friendship among nations and as industrious and physically and morally fit builders of communism.

The Young Pioneers have at their disposal about 3,500 Pioneer Palaces providing facilities for sports and hobbies.

The central newspaper of the Young Pioneer organisation is *Pionerskaya Pravda*.

The **trade unions** of the U.S.S.R. have a membership of more than 80 million industrial, office and professional workers.

The First All-Russian Conference of Trade Unions was held in Moscow in September 1905. After the 1917 October revolution, the workers re-established their unions which had been heavily suppressed by the tsarist authorities, and in January 1918 the first All-Russian Congress of Trade Unions took place.

Membership of Soviet trade unions is open to all workers and to students of higher educational institutions and trade and technical colleges, and is voluntary.

The unions are organised on an industrial basis, all workers and members of the management employed in a given factory being eligible for the same union. There is a trade union branch organisation at each factory and institution. There are 22 industrial trade unions in the U.S.S.R.

The highest trade union authority is the U.S.S.R. Congress of Trade Unions, held every four years. In the interim between congresses, activities are guided by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (A.U.C.C.T.U.).

Soviet trade unions take an active part in state and economic matters. They help to draft legislation concerning production, working and living conditions and cultural facilities, watch over the observance of labour laws, and take part in deciding work quotas and wages.

They encourage workers to take part in economic management, supervise the labour-protection arrangements at places of work, and promote the socialist emulation movement of workers and other employees for the maximum fulfilment of the state plans at every factory and institution. They support innovators, inventors and foremost workers in production and publicise their methods.

The trade unions administer the state social insurance funds from which pensions and temporary disability benefits are paid. They do a great deal to organise health and holiday facilities, including sanatorium treatment and safeguarding the health of women and children. They run over 2,000 holiday homes which accommodate some six million people a year. They also run 21,000 clubs, 180,000 recreation centres, and 30,000 libraries.

The trade unions supervise fulfilment of the plans for housing construction and the provision of amenities and cultural services; they participate in the distribution of flats, and

supervise the work of trade and public catering establishments and medical and public services.

An important role is played by the trade unions in promoting physical culture, sports, tourism and mountaineering. The trade unions carry out their organisational and educational work with the widespread participation of active members. Full-time staffs are kept to a minimum, and, in the main, the work is carried out by the voluntary activities of some 16 million elected members of trade union committees and commissions at all levels.

The Soviet trade unions are members of the World Federation of Trade Unions (W.F.T.U.).

The central newspaper of the trade unions is *Trud* ("Labour").

Consumer Co-operative Societies play a very important role in the U.S.S.R. All citizens of the Soviet Union who have reached the age of 16 may become members by paying their admission fees (three roubles) and membership fees (or shares)—the amount of the latter being decided by the general members' meeting at the time the society's charter is approved. There are some 37½ million members of these Co-operatives in the U.S.S.R.

Other public organisations include: scientific societies (geographical, chemical, mathematical, biological, medical, historical, etc.), societies in the various fields of technology, educational associations (Society for the Dissemination of

Political and Scientific Knowledge, etc.) and sports societies, affiliated to the Union of Sports Societies and Organisations.

There is a Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and a Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy (D.O.S.A.A.F.).

There are many public organisations whose principal aims are to promote universal peace, friendship among nations and cultural ties between the Soviet Union and other countries. They include the following: the Soviet Peace Committee, the Soviet Women's Committee, the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations, the United Nations Association, the Parliamentary Committee of the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the Soviet War Veterans' Committee, the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (embracing a number of societies, each of which maintains contact with a specific country). Many are affiliated with international bodies.

Every year hundreds of thousands of people from abroad, including tourists, delegations of public figures, members of parliament, scientists, cultural workers, trade union representatives, and so on, visit the Soviet Union. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people go abroad every year as tourists and as members of delegations.

VI. Mountains, Rivers and Lakes

The natural conditions in the U.S.S.R. are exceptionally diverse; they range from Arctic regions and vast forest tracts (in the north of the European part of the country, in Siberia and in the Far Eastern areas) to deserts in Central Asia and subtropical zones in Western Georgia and South Eastern Azerbaijan.

There are four main zones of natural vegetation: tundra, forest, steppe and desert. In

addition, there are intermediate zones: mixed forest-and-tundra, forest-and-steppe, etc.

The climate also varies widely: from humid marine and moderate to sharply continental and warm and dry. A continental climate with cold winters and hot summers prevails over a very large area of the country—the eastern districts of the European section, Kazakhstan, part of Central Asia, most of Siberia, and many of the Far Eastern districts.

MAIN MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Highest points (in feet above sea level)</i>
-------------	---

European part of the U.S.S.R.

Urals	Mt. Narodnaya (sub-Arctic Urals)—6,212
	Mt. Yaman-Tau (S. Urals)—5,372
Ukrainian Carpathians	Mt. Goverla—6,750
Crimean Mountains	Mt. Roman-Kosh—5,067
Great Caucasus	Mt. Elbrus—18,476; Mt. Kazbek—16,544
Transcaucasian Highlands	Mt. Aragats—13,431

Asian part of the U.S.S.R.

1. Mountains of Central Asia

The Pamirs	Lenin Peak—23,399
	Communism Peak—24,583
Alai Mountains	up to 19,000
Tien-Shan	Victory Peak—24,399
	Khan Tengri—22,812

Name

Highest points (in feet above sea level)

2. Mountains of Siberia

Altai	Mt. Belukha—14,779
Sayans	Grandiozny Peak (Eastern Sayans)—9,584
Transbaikal Mountains	up to 9,200
Verkhoyansk Range	9,820 (in the Suntar-Khayat ridge)
Chersky Highlands	Mt. Pobeda—10,410

3. Mountains of the Far East

Mountains on the north coast of the

Sea of Okhotsk	up to 9,200
Sikhote-Alin	Mt. Tardoki-Yani—6,816
Kamchatka volcanic upland	Mt. Klyuchevskaya (volcano)—15,908
Kurile Mountains	Alaid Volcano (Atlasov Island)—over 7,672

Rivers. There are approximately 150,000 rivers in the U.S.S.R. longer than 6 miles. Their total length is about 1,864,000 miles. Total flow annually is about 880,000 million gallons. The total length of the rivers suitable for navigation and rafting is more than 300,000 miles.

Lakes. There are more than 250,000 lakes. Man-made water reservoirs include the "seas" of Rybinsk, Kuibyshev, Kakhovsk, Bratsk and Tsymlyansk. Their total area is 32,800 square miles, and 18 of them are on a par with the larger natural lakes of the country.

LONGEST RIVERS OF THE U.S.S.R.

Name of river	Length (in miles)	Sea into which it discharges
Lena	2,653	Laptev Sea
Volga	2,293	Caspian Sea
Ob	2,287	Kara Sea
Yenisei	2,200	Kara Sea
Amur	1,771	Okhotsk Sea
Kolyma	1,616	East Siberian Sea
Ural	1,575	Caspian Sea
Dneiper	1,420	Black Sea
Syr Darya	1,330	Aral Sea
Don	1,224	Azov Sea

GREATEST LAKES AND INLAND SEAS

Name of lake	Surface (in square miles)
Caspian Sea	152,000 (approx.)
Sea of Aral	25,650
Lake Baikal	12,160
Ladoga	7,100
Balkhash	6,560—7,330
(There is a considerable fluctuation in the level of this lake)	
Onega	3,800
Issyk Kul	2,400 (approx.)

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world. Its maximum depth is 6,360 feet, according to the latest findings.

SEAS THAT WASH THE COASTS OF THE U.S.S.R.

The seas of the U.S.S.R. belong to three ocean basins:

I. Arctic Basin

Sea	Area in thousands of sq. miles	Greatest depth, in feet
Barents	appr. 523	over 1,300
White	36	1,520
Kara	320	appr. 1,950
Laptev	appr. 274	over 6,500
East Siberian	337	up to 97
Chukotka	appr. 220	appr. 100

II. Pacific Basin

Bering	881	up to 15,500
Okhotsk	600	12,000
Sea of Japan	375	up to 13,000

III. Atlantic Basin

Baltic	152	1,450
Black	158	7,300
Azov	14.5	up to 50

MOST IMPORTANT ISLANDS AND ARCHIPELAGOS

Name	Area (in square miles)
Novaya Zemlya	31,375
Sakhalin	24,490
New Siberian Islands	14,700
Severnaya Zemlya	14,670
Franz Josef Land	7,310
Kurile Islands	3,900 (not counting minor islands)

VII. Natural Wealth

The U.S.S.R. is one of the richest countries in the world in natural resources. It has everything needed for all-round economic development.

Minerals: The U.S.S.R. occupies a leading place in the world for resources of petroleum,

coal, iron ore, copper, lead, nickel, zinc, phosphates and other useful minerals.

Oil deposits have been discovered in the Volga-Urals oil-bearing region, the Caucasus, West Kazakhstan, Turkmenia, the Ukraine, the Far East, and in the Tyumen, Irkutsk and

Tomsk regions of Siberia. The total area of prospective oil and gas-bearing regions is estimated at about 4½ million square miles. There are 360 deposits of natural gas; ascertained resources exceed 141,200,000 million cubic feet.

The U.S.S.R. occupies first place in the world for coal reserves, 87 per cent of which are found in Siberia. The biggest coal deposits in European U.S.S.R. are the Pechora, Donets and Moscow Basins; in Siberia—the Lena, Tunguska, Kuznetsk and Irkutsk basins; in Kazakhstan—the Karaganda basin, and in the Far East—the Burein coal basin. Overall geological reserves of coal are estimated at 8,700,000 million tons. Ascertained coal resources total 234,000 million tons.

The largest deposits of ferrous metal ore are concentrated in the Krivoi Rog and Kerch basins and in the area of the Kursk magnetic anomaly in European U.S.S.R., in the Urals, Kazakhstan and West and East Siberia.

The U.S.S.R. has 360 deposits of iron ore. Known reserves total 60,000 million tons, and those of quartzites—11,000 million tons (resources of high-grade ores equal 26,000 million tons).

The U.S.S.R. ranks first in the world in manganese resources. The most important deposits are found in Georgia and the Ukraine (the Chiatura and Nikopol basins). Bauxites and nepheline ores have been discovered in many parts of the country. Gold is extracted in the Urals, Kazakhstan, Siberia and the Far East. Diamonds are found in north-east Siberia, in

Yakutia, where a large-scale diamond-mining industry has developed in recent years.

The country also has vast deposits of potassium apatites, phosphorites, mica and other useful minerals. Two-thirds of the world's prospected resources of asbestos are concentrated in the U.S.S.R. (the Urals, Kazakhstan and Tuva).

Water-power resources. The U.S.S.R. ranks first in the world in water-power resources. Total resources are estimated at 1,700,000 million kWh., the most effective part of which, called the economic hydropower potential, is calculated at 1,200,000 million kWh.

Forests. About a third of the Soviet Union's territory (1,783 million acres, or 32 per cent of the total area) is covered by forests. The richest forest regions are situated in the north of the European part of the country, Siberia and the Far East. The forests of the U.S.S.R. yield large quantities of building and jobbing timber and firewood. The fir forests, main supplier of raw material for the manufacture of cellulose, are practically inexhaustible. The forests are rich in fur-bearing animals (the U.S.S.R. is the world's leading fur producer), and also game animals and birds.

Fish resources. The rivers, lakes and seas of the U.S.S.R. abound in fish of commercial importance (about 150 species). Chief among them are herring, carp, cod, salmon, perch and sturgeon. In size of catch the southern fisheries (Black, Azov, Caspian and Aral seas) rank first, followed by the Atlantic and then the North Pacific fisheries.

VIII. National Economy

General Features: The U.S.S.R. is a highly industrialised country with a large-scale and highly mechanised agriculture. For absolute industrial output it ranked first in Europe and second in the world (after the U.S.A.) as far back as 1941. It occupies first place in the world for output of tractors, prefabricated reinforced concrete, woollens, sawn timber, coal, coke and iron ore. In 1966, the U.S.S.R. accounted for almost a fifth of the world's industrial production (in 1917 the respective figure was 3 per cent).

There has been no unemployment in the U.S.S.R. since the beginning of the 'thirties. In 1967, the number of factory and office workers engaged in the national economy was 79.7 million—6.4 million more than in 1964. In industry, construction and agriculture, the number of workers employed increased by two million, in transport, communications, trade and public catering—by 600,000, and in educational institutions, health services, housing and municipal economy—by one million.

About a half of the total labour force are women. In some branches women predominate: in the health services—86 per cent, in public education—70 per cent, and in communications—64 per cent.

Over one million specialists were trained for the national economy in 1966 (432,000 with a higher education and 685,000 with a secondary education).

The economic foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production and the system of planned socialist economy. The share of the socialist economy in gross industrial output is 100 per cent, and in gross agricultural production—99.9 per cent.

INDUSTRY

Industry in the U.S.S.R. is noted for its tremendous scope of production and diversified structure. A particular place is occupied by heavy industry, the priority development of which made it possible to create, in a short period of time, the material and technical basis of socialism and to ensure the economic independence of the U.S.S.R. In 1966 the output of steel and oil went up, as against 1928, 22.5 times over, coal extraction—16.5 times, cement production—44 times, and output of metal-cutting industries—95 times. The following table shows how the output of major industrial products grew in the U.S.S.R. from 1928 to 1966:

	1913 ¹	1928	1940	1945	1958	1965	1966
Electricity (million kWh.) ..	1,900	5,000	48,300	43,300	233,500	507,000	545,000
Steel (million tons) ..	4.2	4.3	18.3	12.3	54.9	91.0	96.9
Oil (million tons) ..	9.2	11.6	31.1	19.4	113.0	243.0	265.0
Gas (million cubic metres) ²	0.02	0.3	3,400	3,400	29,900	129,000	145,000
Coal (million tons) ..	29.1	35.5	166.0	149.0	496.0	578.0	586.0
Cement (million tons) ..	1.5	1.8	5.7	1.8	33.3	72.2	80.0
Metal-cutting machine tools (thousands) ..	1.5	2.0	58.4	38.4	138.0	185.0	192.0
Motor vehicles (thousands)	—	0.8	145.0	75.0	511.0	616.0	675.0
Tractors (thousands) ..	—	1.3	31.6	7.7	220.0	355.0	382.0
Mineral fertilisers (in stan- dard units, million tons)	0.07	0.1	3.2	1.1	12.4	31.3	35.9

¹ On the territory within present-day boundaries of the U.S.S.R.

² One cubic metre=approx. 35.3 cubic feet.

Output of consumer goods for the same period is shown by the following figures:

	1928	1940	1945	1958	1965	1966
Fabrics of all types (million linear metres) ³	3,000	4,522	1,822	8,100	9,100	9,437
Knitwear (million garments) ..	8.3	183.0	50.0	496.0	907.0	992.0
Leather footwear (million pairs) ..	58.0	211.0	63.0	356.0	486.0	522.0
Granulated beet sugar (million tons)	1.3	2.2	0.5	5.2	8.9	9.7
Radio sets (thousands) ..	—	160.0	13.9	3,902	5,159	5,842
Television sets (thousands) ..	—	0.3	—	979.0	3,655	4,415
Refrigerators (thousands) ..	—	3.5	0.3	360.0	1,675	2,205

³ One metre=1.09 yard.

In 1966, industrial output in the U.S.S.R., as compared with 1940, went up about 8.5 times over, including steel—5.5 times, rolled metal—almost 6.5 times, oil—8.5 times, cement—14 times, motor vehicles—4.5 times, tractors—12.5 times, and electricity—11.5 times. About 6,000 large industrial enterprises were built and put into operation in the eight years ending in 1966. The fixed assets in industry doubled. Some 51,500 million roubles⁴ worth of products were manufactured over and above the plan.

Directives for the 1966–70 five-year plan (adopted by the 23rd Congress of the C.P.S.U. in April 1966) envisage a 47–50 per cent increase in the volume of industrial output. Industries manufacturing means of production

(group “A”) will increase their output by 49–52 per cent, and those producing consumer goods (group “B”)—by 43–46 per cent. New plant with a total capacity of 64–66 million kW. will be commissioned; the output of coal, particularly for coking, will go up, the production of combustible shales will be raised to 28 million tons and the extraction of peat—to 92 million tons. Output of the engineering and metal-working industries will increase by 70 per cent and of light and food industries by 40 per cent.

The 1970 targets for the output of major industrial products and consumer goods, as compared with the 1965 figures, are as follows:

	1965	1970
Electric power (million kWh.) ..	507,000	830,000–850,000
Oil (million tons) ..	243	345–355
Gas (1,000 million cubic metres) ..	129.2	225–240
Coal (million tons) ..	578	665–675
Pig iron (million tons) ..	66.2	94–97
Steel (million tons) ..	91	124–129
Rolled metal (million tons) ..	70.9	95–99
Steel pipes (million tons) ..	9.0	14–15
Mineral fertilisers (in standard units, million tons)	31.3	62–65
Plastics and synthetic resins (thousand tons) ..	821	2,100–2,300
Chemical fibres (thousand tons) ..	407	780–830
Motor vehicle and motor-cycle tyres (millions)	26.4	38–40
Steam, gas and hydro-turbines (million kW.)	14.6	22–24
Rolling equipment (thousand tons) ..	111	190–210
Diesel locomotives (sections) ..	1,485	1,500–1,600

⁴ About 2½ roubles to £1 sterling.

	1965	1970
Chemical equipment (million roubles)	384	780-830
Oil equipment (thousand tons)	140	210-240
Metal-cutting machine tools (thousand units)	185	220-230
Forge and press machines (thousand units)	34.4	50-52
Motor vehicles (thousands)	616.4	1,360-1,510
<i>including:</i>		
Lorries	379.6	600-650
Cars	201.2	700-800
Tractors (in physical terms, thousand units)	355	600-625
Agricultural machinery (million roubles)	1,446	2,500
Technological equipment and spare parts for textile industry (million roubles)	251	450-480
Technological equipment and spare parts for food industry (million roubles)	243	340-370
Apparatus, automation devices and spare parts (million roubles)	2,078	3,570-3,670
Timber (excluding small purchases, million cubic metres)	337	350-365
Pulp (million tons)	3.2	8.4-9
Paper (million tons)	3.23	5-5.3
Cardboard (million tons)	1.45	4.2-4.5
Cement (million tons)	72.4	100-105
Fabrics (1,000 million square metres) ⁶	7.5	9.5-9.8
Knitwear (million garments)	907	1,650-1,750
Leather footwear (million pairs)	486	610-630
Meat (state livestock reserves, million tons)	4.8	5.9-6.2
Catch of fish, whales and other sea animals and products (million tons)	5.8	8.5-9
Milk products (state livestock reserves, million tons)	11.6	16-17
Butter (state livestock reserves, million tons)	1,066	1,160
Cheese (thousand tons)	303	625-675
Vegetable oil (state raw materials reserve, million tons)	2.2	2.95-3.1
Tinned foods (in millions of standard tins)	7.0	13-13.5
Granulated beet sugar (million tons)	8.9	9.8-10
Household goods (million roubles)	9,000	15,000-16,500
Radiograms (millions)	5.2	7.5-8
Television sets (millions)	3.7	7.5-7.7
Household refrigerators (millions)	1.7	5.3-5.6
Motor cycles, scooters and side-cars (thousands)	721	1,000-1,100
Furniture (1,000 million roubles)	1.8	2.6-2.8

⁶ 1 square metre = 1.196 square yard.

The basic task facing Soviet industry in the 1966-70 period is to raise the efficiency of production and its technical level, to improve its structure, and systematically and in the shortest possible time to master the manufacture of new products and improve their quality, so as to provide all branches of the economy with better, up-to-date means of production.

AGRICULTURE

Small farms no longer exist in Soviet

agriculture. At the beginning of 1966 there were 12,200 state farms (owned and operated by the state) and 37,100 collective farms (co-operative establishments) in the country. Areas sown to all types of agricultural crops totalled 516.4 million acres. Agricultural production by 1966 had gone up three-fold, as against 1929.

The average annual agricultural production for the period 1924-65 is seen from the following table:

	1924-28	1936-40	1946-50	1956-60	1961-65
Total agricultural production (in comparable prices of 1958, million roubles) ..	22,000	23,500	27,300	46,700	52,400
Output of major products: grain (million tons)	69.3	77.4	64.8	121.5	130.3
Raw cotton (million tons)	0.6	2.5	2.3	4.4	5.0
Meat (carcass weight, million tons)	4.2	4.0	3.5	7.9	9.3
Milk (million tons)	29.3	26.5	32.3	57.2	64.7
Eggs (millions)	9,200	9,600	7,500	23,600	28,700
Wool (thousand tons)	157	129	147	317	362

The table below shows the average annual production of major agricultural crops for the

past two five-year periods and the percentage of increase as against the previous five-year period.

	1956-1960		1961-1965		1966
	Average annual production	Percentage of increment as against the previous five-year period	Average annual production	Percentage of increment as against the previous five-year period	Annual production
Grain (million tons) ..	121.5	6.5	130.3	1.4	171.2
Sugar-beet (million tons) ..	45.6	13.7	59.2	5.3	74.0
Raw Cotton (million tons) ..	4.4	2.3	5.0	2.7	5.98
Sunflower (million tons) ..	3.67	8.4	5.07	6.7	6.15
Vegetables (million tons) ..	15.1	6.1	16.9	2.3 (reduced)	17.9
Potatoes (million tons) ..	88.3	4.9	81.6	-1.5	87.9
Meat (in dead weight, million tons)	7.9	6.8	9.3	3.4	10.8
Milk (million tons)	57.2	8.6	64.7	2.5	76.0
Eggs (million)	23,600	8,300	28,700	4,100	31,700
Wool (thousand tons) ..	317.0	7.0	362.0	2.7	371.0

It is seen from the table that the production of major items of agriculture in the U.S.S.R. is going up. However, the rates of growth in 1961-65 were lower than in the previous five-year period. This resulted in failure to fulfil the targets of the seven-year plan in the field of agriculture. There were a number of reasons for the slow growth of agriculture. In the first place, there were breaches of the economic laws of development of production, distortions of the principles of material incentives and of the correct combination of public and personal interests. Secondly, there were certain shortcomings in the system of state purchases. The state prices for many agricultural products did not compensate for the actual outlays and did not stimulate the expansion of farm production. Neither the capital investments in agriculture nor the material and technical facilities provided were adequate. There was a certain underestimation of scientific achievements and of the experience accumulated in the course of many years.

In 1965, the C.P.S.U. central committee and the Soviet government carried out a number of measures aimed at raising agricultural production. Purchase prices for many farm products

were raised and higher prices were introduced for the sale of staple grain crops to the state over and above plan. Simultaneously, prices were lowered for many items of machinery and equipment as well as for electricity supplied to collective and state farms. Prices for industrial and food products of mass consumption were reduced in the rural localities to the level of those in the towns.

As a result, in spite of the fact that in 1965 in many areas of the country, particularly in those producing marketable grain, there was a drought, the gross industrial product totalled, in comparable prices, 55,300 million roubles, which exceeded the cost-value of the gross product of any previous year.

In 1966 the grain harvest was very good. The target set for state purchases was considerably overfulfilled. In 1966, Soviet grain production reached the record figure of 171.2 million tons.

In the past few years the productivity of livestock in the U.S.S.R. has increased as a result of an improved fodder base and better care of cattle. The following table shows the changes in the number of livestock and productivity for 1961-66:

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cattle (million head, by the beginning of the year)	75.8	82.0	87.0	85.4	65.6	97.1
Pigs (millions)	49.4	53.9	27.7	38.3	41.3	58.0
Sheep and goats (millions)	109.1	110.9	108.4	100.2	103.1	141.0
Poultry (millions)	152.0	154.5	97.7	127.8	140.2	145.0
Average milk yield per cow (litres ^a)	1,851	1,765	1,599	1,700	2,006	2,100

^a One litre = 0.22 gals.

In the 1966-70 five-year period capital investments in agriculture will be nearly doubled. It is also planned to increase the average annual volume of agricultural production by 25 per cent, as compared with the previous five-year period, and to raise the average annual production of grain by 30 per cent. Agriculture will be provided with another 1,790,000 tractors, 1,100,000 lorries, 900,000 tractor trailers, 275,000 truck trailers and 550,000 grain combines. Labour productivity on state and collective farms is to increase by 40-45 per cent. The volume of state centralised capital investments in construction for agricultural production and for acquiring equipment and machinery will total in value 41,000 million roubles. The supply of mineral fertilisers to agriculture will reach 55 million tons in 1970.

The main task in the field of agriculture in 1966-70 is to increase the output of farm products substantially, to meet the requirements of the Soviet people in foodstuffs and the needs of industry in raw materials.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

In the U.S.S.R. all forms of transport (sea, river, road, air and pipeline) are integral parts of a single transport system. In the period 1959-66 the relative share of water, road and pipeline transport in the country considerably increased, whereas the relative share of railway transport decreased.

In 1966 the railways carried 2,482 million tons of goods, compared with 2,415.3 million tons in 1965, and 2,450 million passengers (2,250 million in 1965).

The length of railway track at the beginning of 1966 was over 81,600 miles, as against 80,300 miles in 1965, and of electrified railways—15,470 miles and 13,980 miles respectively. By the end of 1966, 54,680 miles of railways had been transferred to electric and diesel traction.

Marine transport carried 131.2 million tons of cargo in 1966 (119.3 million in 1965). River transport carried 279 million tons of cargo (269.4 million in 1965), and 146 million passengers. The length of navigable inland waterways at the beginning of 1966 was 88,670 miles, 124 miles more than in 1965.

The amount of oil and oil products transported over pipelines in 1966 was 248 million tons (225 million in 1965), and the length of the oil pipelines at the beginning of 1966 was over 17,522 miles (16,720 miles in 1965). The length of oil and gas pipelines at the beginning of 1966 was 43,496 miles.

Road transport carried 3,357 million tons of goods in 1966 (3,287.2 million in 1965), and 20,489 million passengers (17,000 million in 1965). The length of motor highways at the beginning of 1966 was over 847,230 miles (814,180 miles in 1965).

Soviet airlines carried 47.2 million passengers in 1966. The U.S.S.R. has air services with over 40 countries. TU-114, TU-104, TU-124, IL-18, IL-62, AN-22 and other types of aircraft are used on these air routes. Passenger

turnover on air transport increased by 18 per cent in 1966 and goods turnover went up by 9 per cent.

Advances in the field of communication are illustrated by the following figures: At the end of 1966, 74,000 post and telegraph offices were in operation. Post offices delivered in 1966 5,689 million letters, 25,494 million newspapers and magazines, 138 million parcels and 300 million telegrams. There were 300 million inter-urban telephone calls.

In the 1966-70 five-year period the goods turnover of the railways is to increase by 23 per cent, sea transport—80 per cent, oil and oil product pipelines—100 per cent, and road transport—70 per cent. Passenger traffic by air will go up by 80 per cent. The length of the inter-urban telephone communication channels will go up by 150 per cent, and the capacities of telephone exchanges—by 80 per cent.

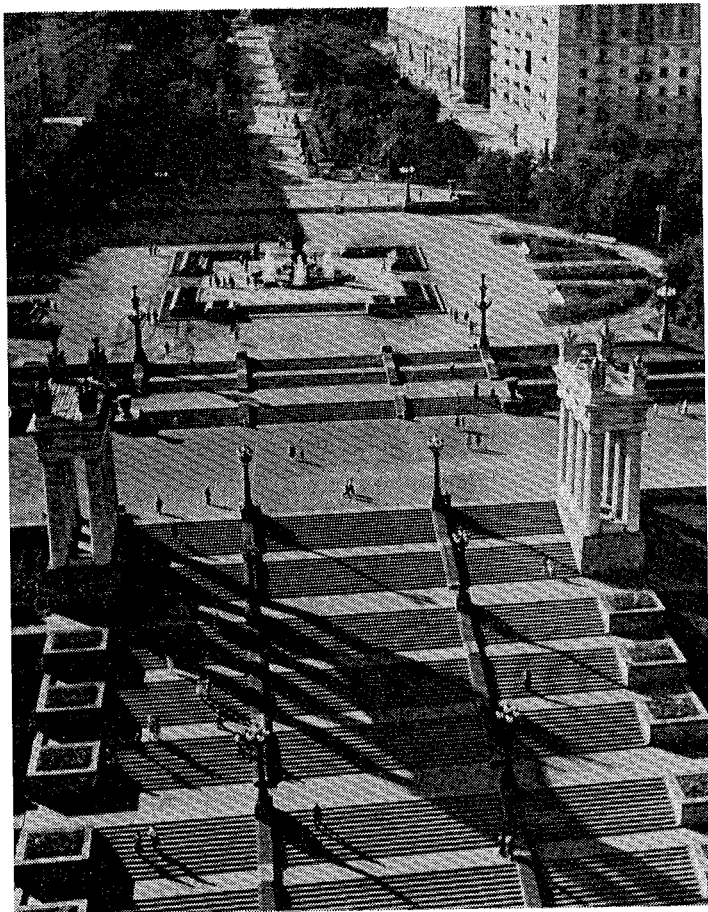
The main tasks facing transport and communications in the period 1966-70 are to meet more fully the needs of the country's economy and the entire population in goods carriage and communication services, to fit out these important branches with up-to-date equipment, and to develop and perfect the single transport system and single automatic system of communications.

BUILDING

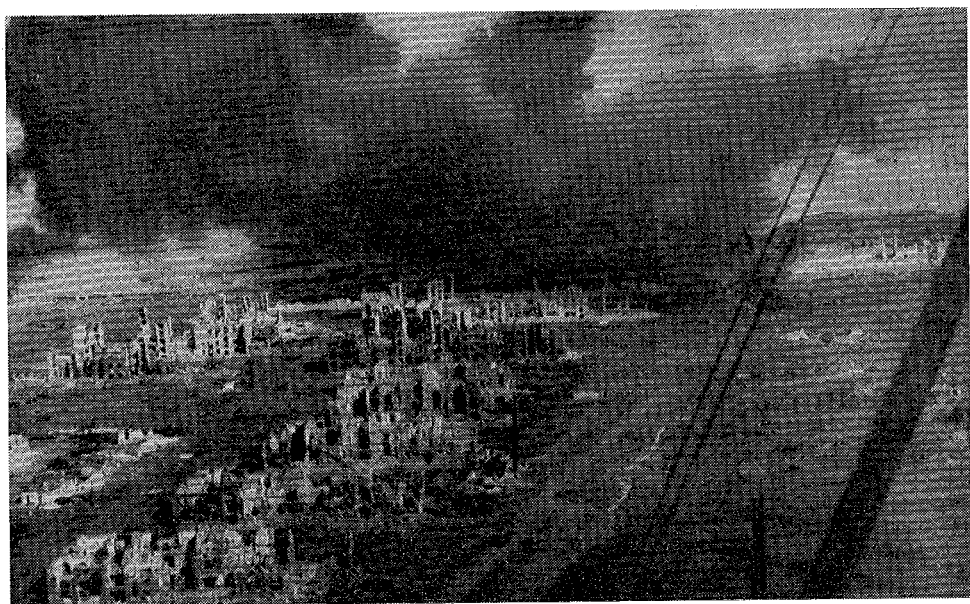
From 1918 to 1966 over 40,000 large-scale state-owned enterprises were constructed and put into operation or were reconstructed. During the same period 128,000 railway tracks were laid and about 65,000 old railway tracks were reconstructed. Housing with a total floor space of some 9,450.8 million sq. ft. were built or renovated.

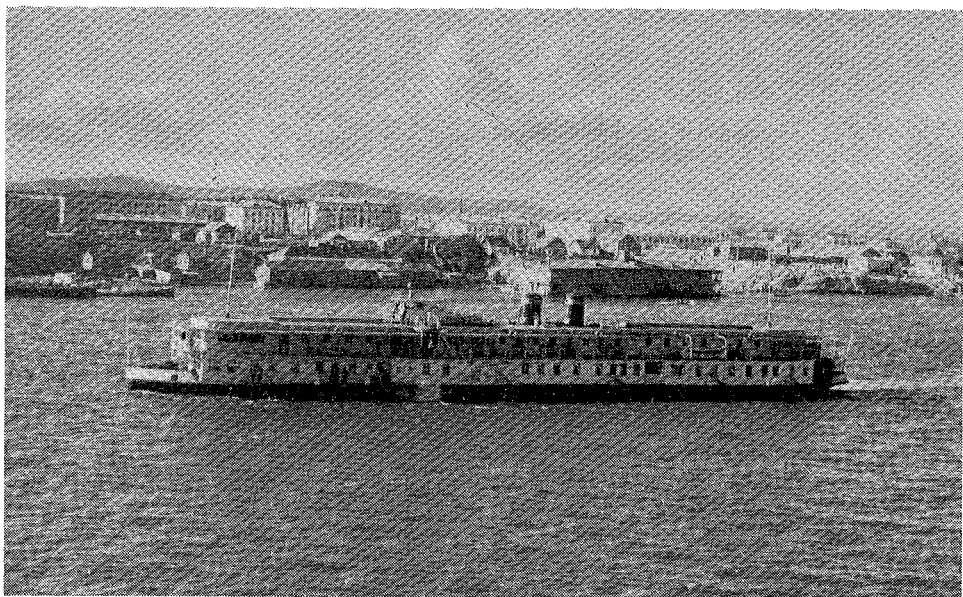
A large proportion of the U.S.S.R. budget is allocated to industrial construction, and, in the first place, to the development of heavy industry. In the seven-year period 1959-65, three-quarters of the capital investments went to build industrial objects. In 1965 and 1966, 900 large-scale enterprises were put into operation, including the Dneprodzerzhinsk hydro-power station, the Kiev hydro-power plant, the Beloyarsk atomic power station, the Kaunas artificial fibre mill, the 435-mile Abakan-Taishet railway line in East Siberia, and seven sugar refineries.

In 1966 centralised state capital investments increased by 6.3 per cent, and there was a 6.4 per cent growth in acceptance of new fixed assets. The total volume of capital investments in the national economy for the 1966-70 period from all sources of financing is planned in the sum of 310,000 million roubles (47 per cent greater than in 1961-65); 152,000 million roubles of this sum are earmarked for the development of industry, transport and communications, 71,000 million roubles for industrial construction and the acquisition of machinery for agriculture, and 75,000 million roubles for housing, communal and cultural construction.



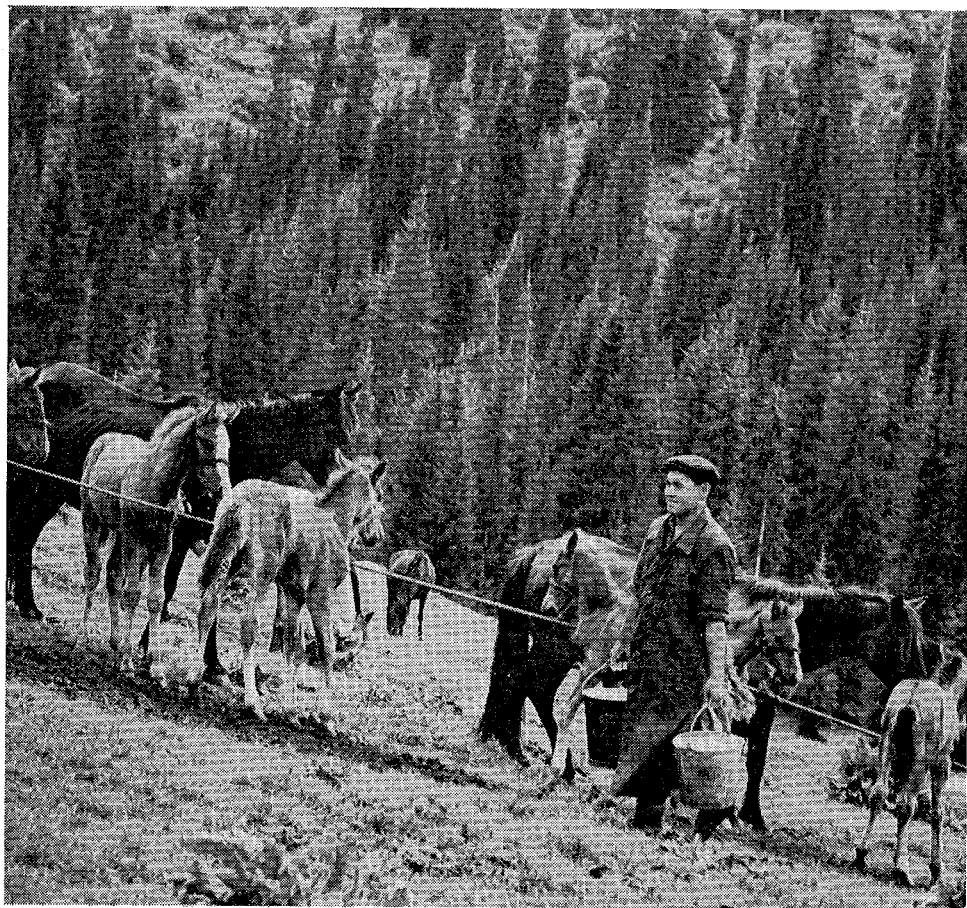
Left: *The stairs leading to Heroes' Avenue, Volgograd. Below: An aerial view of part of the same city during the Second World War. Then known as Stalin-grad, its heroic defence marked the turning point of the war.*

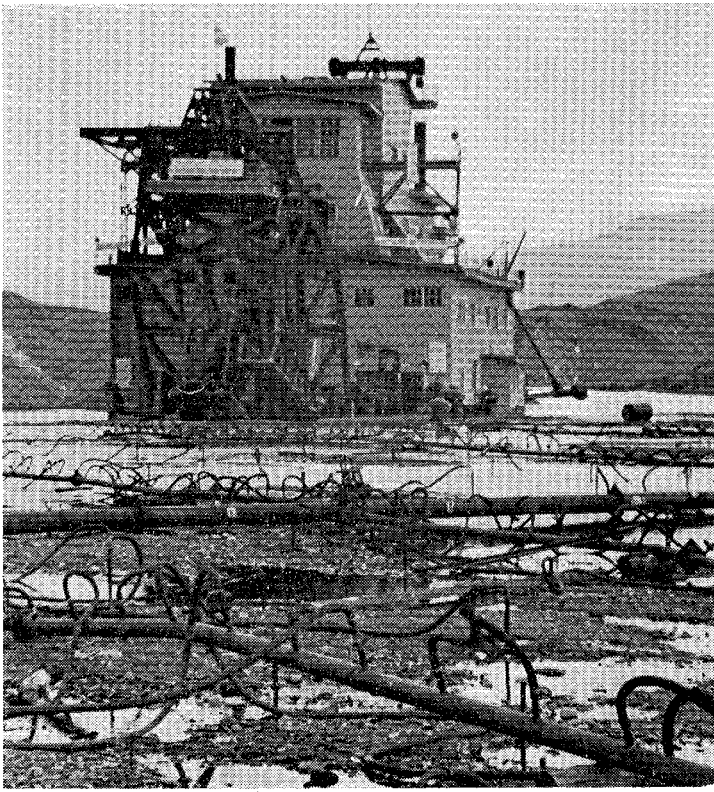




A view of Komsomolsk-on-Amur in the Far East.

Milking time for the mares on the hillside above Issyk Kul, a lake in Kirghizia.

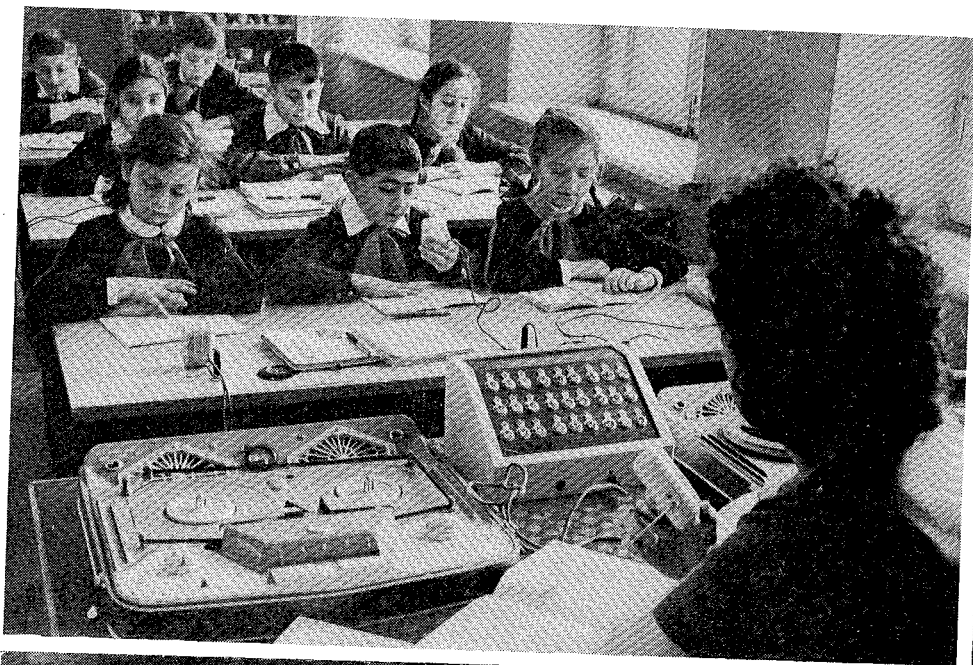




A bucket-dredge in the goldfields of Siberia. The network of pipes injects water 50 feet into the permanently frozen soil to loosen it.

Circular conveyers in a Moscow watch factory.

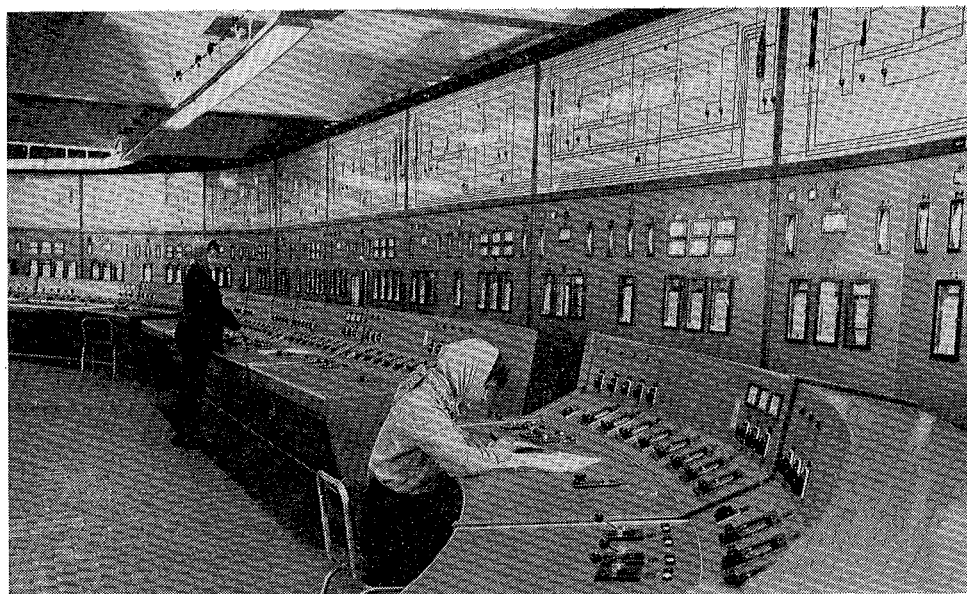




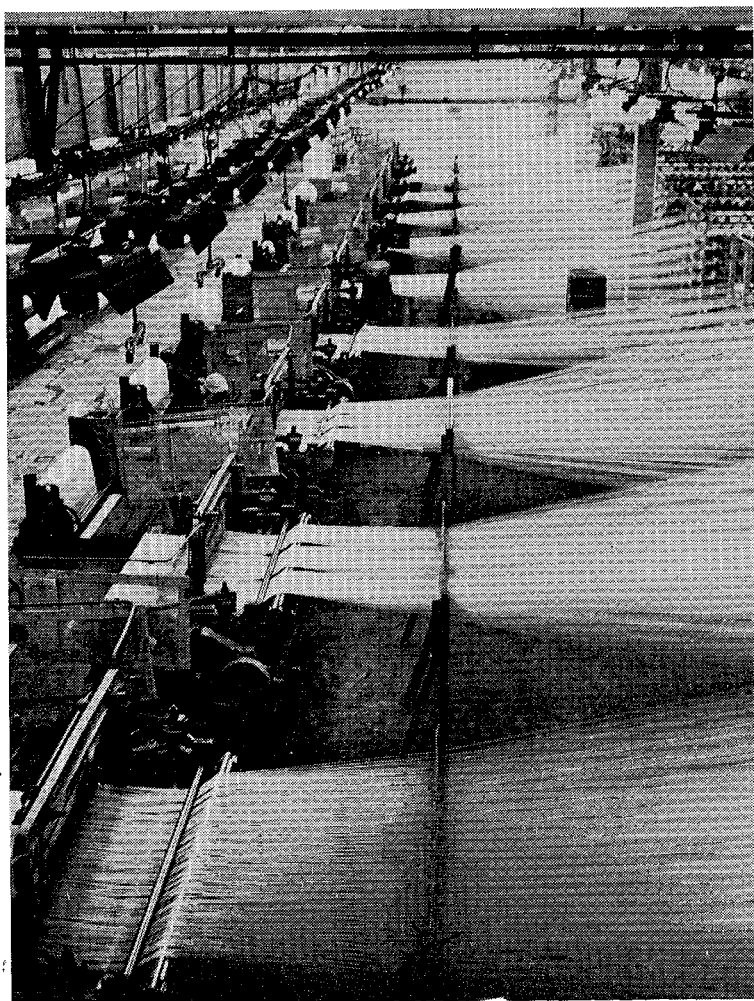
*An English lesson
using language lab-
oratory methods in
School No. 80,
Baku, Azerbaijan*



*and, left, the same
principle being ap-
plied in the teach-
ing of Russian to
foreign students at
Lumumba Univer-
sity, Moscow.*



The desk controlling the fully-automatic production of polythene at the Kuibyshev Plastics Plant.



Weaving synthetic fibres in Krasnoyarsk. Much of it goes to the making of motor-car tyres.



*Kreshchatik—main
thoroughfare of the
city of Kiev, capital
of the Ukraine.*



*The Magnolia
Hotel, one of sev-
eral new ones at
Sochi on the Black
Sea.*

Over 4,241 million sq. ft. of floor space were built in the five-year period 1961-65. In the five years 1966-70 it is planned to build another 5,166.7 million sq. ft. Funds will be doubled for the housing construction programme in the countryside.

The main task in the field of construction in 1966-70 is to use capital investments as effectively as possible, to put into operation new industrial capacities, housing and other objects in the shortest possible time and with the least expenditure, and to improve the quality of building work.

TRADE

There are three forms of trade in the U.S.S.R.: state, co-operative and collective farm. **State trade** is the leading one, embracing all foreign trade and domestic wholesale trade. Domestic state retail trade is carried out through state organisations and serves in the main the urban population. Its share in the total trade turnover in 1962 was 67.3 per cent. In 1966 the retail trade turnover amounted to 113,000 million roubles—almost 10,000 million roubles more than in 1965. **Co-operative trade**, in the main, serves the rural population; its share in the country's overall trade turnover is 28.4 per cent. **Collective farm trade** (sale of agricultural commodities by collective farms at the market) accounts for 4.3 per cent of total trade volume.

At the beginning of 1967 the number of retail trade establishments increased, as against 1940, from 407,200 to 654,000, and the number of public catering establishments went up from 87,600 to 200,500. In 1966, 6.3 million people were engaged in trade and public catering. During the seven years 1959-65 the volume of state and co-operative trade increased by more than 60 per cent and the turnover of public catering establishments doubled. Some 90,000

shops and 64,000 public catering establishments were built.

The 1966-70 plan envisages measures to reduce retail prices for some food and industrial consumer goods, to improve trade and communal services for the population, and to ensure a further expansion of all types of services. The turnover of public catering establishments in the current five-year period will increase by 45 per cent.

The following figures give an idea of the **foreign trade** of the country: in 1940, the U.S.S.R. took 16th place in the world for foreign trade turnover, but in 1963 it had moved up to fifth place. The Soviet Union has trade relations with more than 90 countries. About 70 per cent of its foreign trade turnover is with the socialist countries. In 1966 trade with the socialist countries totalled 10,023 million roubles. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, set up in 1949, promotes economic co-operation between the socialist states.

The U.S.S.R. occupies first place in the world for exports of manganese ore, second place for pig iron, aluminium and cotton, and third place for asbestos and sawn timber. In 1966 the U.S.S.R.'s foreign trade turnover amounted to 15,076 million roubles (as against 13,900 million roubles in 1964). Of this, exports totalled 7,957 million roubles and imports 7,119 million roubles (an 11-fold increase over 1946). The U.S.S.R. exports various types of plant to more than 50 countries. It renders economic and technical aid to 31 countries of Asia and Africa by granting them credits on favourable terms to the sum of more than 3,500 million roubles.

The trade turnover between the U.S.S.R. and foreign countries has considerably increased. Some of the figures for the period 1958-65 are given below:

					1958		1965	
					Export (million roubles)	Import (million roubles)	Export (million roubles)	Import (million roubles)
Bulgaria	..	..	..	..	180.5	182.8	529.6	554.0
Hungary	..	..	..	..	180.5	145.7	491.3	463.8
German Democratic Republic	..				719.8	734.3	1,226.7	1,156.2
Cuba	..	..	..	..	—	13.9	337.9	308.0
Poland	..	..	..	..	339.1	238.6	654.0	702.6
Romania	..	..	..	..	226.2	210.2	362.5	396.9
Czechoslovakia	..	..	..	..	402.1	460.9	832.0	931.9
Britain	..	..	..	..	131.0	65.6	259.8	136.8
India	..	..	..	..	117.0	45.8	193.5	169.4
Italy	..	..	..	..	34.7	31.7	133.0	91.5
United Arab Republic	..	..	..	..	78.9	96.4	187.6	147.1
Finland	..	..	..	..	105.4	123.5	190.9	213.6
Federal Republic of Germany	..				59.1	64.9	127.8	119.8
Japan	..	..	..	..	17.9	16.0	166.4	159.6

FINANCE

After approval by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet the **state budget** becomes law. In 1967, the following budget was approved: revenue 110,249,925,000 roubles and expenditure 110,015,201,000 roubles, with income exceeding the expenditure by 234,724,000 roubles; 1,434,938,000 roubles were allocated for the maintenance of the civil service, courts and procurator's offices, and 14,500,000,000 roubles for defence.

The U.S.S.R. state budget incorporates the Union republican and local budgets and is inseparably linked with the state economic plan. The state budgets of the Union republics for 1967 are established in the debit and credit sections in the sum of 52,799,773,000 roubles. The national income used for consumption and accumulation (saving) will increase by 6.6 per cent in 1967, compared with 1966, for the production of the means of production—by 7.5 per cent, and for output of consumer goods—by 6.6 per cent.

Revenues of the socialist economy are the main sources of financial reserves (accumulation in the form of profits, turnover tax, social insurance funds, collective farm communal fund deductions, and so on). These receipts total about 90 per cent of all revenues of the state budget.

The central crediting institution is the **State Bank** of the U.S.S.R., which is the sole emission bank, the creditor of the national economy. Towards the end of the seven-year period 1959–65, the credit investments of the State Bank amounted to some 480,000 million roubles (as against 320,000 million roubles in January 1959). The **Stroibank** (Construction

Bank) of the U.S.S.R. issues credits and finances contractual building organisations and construction sites, whereas foreign trade is within the competence of the **Vneshtorgbank** (Foreign Trade Bank of the U.S.S.R.).

In January 1966 the short-term credit investments of the U.S.S.R. State Bank equalled 64,546 million roubles, and those of the **Stroibank** 3,310 million roubles. The sum total of long-term credits was 6,014 million roubles, out of which 1,422 million roubles were granted to collective farms.

MONEY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, CALENDAR

The monetary unit is the rouble, which is divided into 100 copecks. The gold content of the rouble is 0.987412 of a gramme of pure gold. The exchange rate of the State Bank of the U.S.S.R. is: one U.S. dollar equals 0.9 roubles, and £1 sterling equals 2 roubles 51 copecks.

Weights and Measures: The metric system has been used in the Soviet Union since January 1, 1927.

For grain measurements the Russian **pood** is used. This is approximately 36 lb. (English). 62 poods = 1 long ton.

Classical Russian novels sometimes refer to a **verst** (two-thirds of a mile), and to a **dessiatin** (2.7 acres).

Calendar: The calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian by Soviet decree as from February 14, 1918, thus bringing it into line with almost universal practice. This made a "loss" of 13 days, so that the date of the 1917 revolution, which was October 25 in Russia, was November 7 elsewhere.

IX. People's Welfare

Work, says the constitution of the U.S.S.R., is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen.

There is no unemployment in the U.S.S.R. A 6–7 hour working day was introduced in 1960 and a 5-day week in 1967. The national income increased by 33 per cent between 1961 and 1965 and reached 193,400 million roubles in 1965. Almost three-quarters of this sum (141,000 million roubles) was allocated to meet the needs of the people.

Average monthly earnings of workers went up from 80.1 roubles in 1960 to 99.2 roubles in 1966. Counting the grants and benefits from public funds, real earnings rose to 134 roubles in 1966. The wages of workers directly engaged in services to the population have also increased, including the wages of teachers, public health workers, workers engaged in culture, trade, housing and communal services (all in all, 20 million people). The increases amounted to about 21 per cent.

All workers receive paid annual holidays and temporary disability allowances. About 5.5

million students receive state grants, and free hostel accommodation is provided. More than 12 million children and adults a year are provided with holiday accommodation at resorts, spas and children's centres. Accommodation is free of charge or at greatly reduced rates.

In 1966 the real *per capita* income was three times higher than in 1940, and 37 per cent higher than in 1958. In 1966, more than 2.2 million new well-appointed flats were made available. Some 10.9 million people moved to new flats or improved their housing conditions. Rent and amenities average 4–5 per cent of a family budget. There are no household rates in the U.S.S.R.

In recent years there have been price reductions on a number of consumer goods and foodstuffs (including certain textiles, clothes and tinned foods). As a result the population has saved more than 1,200 million roubles per year on purchases. There has been a 6 per cent reduction in prices at collective farm markets, as compared with 1964.

Payments and benefits amounted to 45,000 million roubles in 1966 (20 per cent more than in 1964). Pensions have been increased. There are now 34 million pensioners in the Soviet Union. Their number will be considerably increased in January 1968 when a new decision bringing the pensionable age for collective farmers into line with that for industrial workers (60 years for men and 55 years for women) comes into force. The decision also reduces by five years the pensionable age for women textile workers and invalid servicemen.

In 1966 the real incomes of people engaged in the national economy rose by 6.5 per cent, compared with 1965. The total housing space built by the state increased by 11.4 per cent, accommodation in pre-school children's institutions went up by 10.8 per cent, and the

municipal services increased by 17 per cent. Deposits in savings banks amounted to 22,900 million roubles in 1966, 22 per cent more than in the previous year.

In the five years 1966-70 consumption of meat and meat products is expected to increase by 20-25 per cent, milk and dairy products—15-18 per cent, sugar—25 per cent, vegetables and melon crops—35-40 per cent, vegetable fats—40-46 per cent, fruit—45-50 per cent, and fish and fish products—50-60 per cent. The sales of fabrics, clothes and knitwear will increase by 40 per cent, compared with the previous five years, the public catering turnover will go up by 45 per cent, and the real *per capita* income will increase by about 30 per cent, with due account taken of wage increases, price reductions and the expanding consumption from the public funds.

X. Public Health Services

The health services in the U.S.S.R. provide medical treatment to all people free of charge. Great attention is given to the prevention of disease and to health and hygiene.

In 1965 the Soviet Union had more than four million medical staff, of which 554,000 were doctors (22,100 more than in 1964). The Soviet Union has a quarter of the world's doctors. The number of hospital beds increased by 92,700 in 1965 and at the beginning of 1966 totalled 2,225,000 (as against 207,600 in 1913). There are 87 hospital beds per 10,000 of the population.

In addition to hospitals, there are specialised medical centres giving treatment for specific diseases. Such diseases as smallpox, cholera, plague, typhus and malaria have been virtually eliminated, and the TB rate has considerably decreased.

Particular attention is given to mother and child welfare. A wide system of medical and health protection institutions has been set up in the country, including 19,300 mother and child consultation centres (1965). In 1966, about eight million children were attending nurseries.

Before the revolution almost half of the children (43 per cent) died before they were five. By 1964 the mortality rate in this age group had decreased to 4.3 per cent.

Compared with before the revolution, the general mortality rate had been cut to less than a quarter by 1966, and that of infants to less than a ninth. The U.S.S.R. now has the world's lowest mortality rate. The average life

span has reached 70 years (according to 1963 data).

A vast network of sanatoriums and holiday homes, which are in the main supervised by the trade unions, play a big part in health protection.

The health services are managed by the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Health and the respective Ministries of the Union and autonomous republics through the regional, district and town departments of health services attached to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The highest medical research body in the country which directs the scientific and practical activities of medical institutions is the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences (set up in 1944 in Moscow). Various medical problems are being tackled by 310 research institutes as well as by numerous laboratories and departments of higher medical institutions and medical and health protection establishments.

The U.S.S.R. has 86 higher medical institutes with a student body of over 200,000. Medical personnel are trained in the U.S.S.R. in 538 medical schools attended by 250,000 students. All educational establishments are maintained by the state, education is free of charge and the students get state grants.

Under the 1966-70 national economic plan medical services for the urban and rural population will be extended. The number of hospital beds is to be increased to 2,680,000 in 1970 and the production of medicines is to rise by 70 per cent. More holiday facilities and improved sanatorium and resort services for the working people are also envisaged.

XI. Education, Science and Culture

The U.S.S.R. is a country of virtually complete literacy. The following figures illustrate the changes in the literacy level of the popu-

lation, according to the censuses of 1897, 1926, 1939 and 1959.

Percentage of literate persons between the ages of 9 and 49

	MALE	FEMALE	BOTH SEXES
<i>Urban and rural population</i>			
1897	39.1	13.7	26.3
1926	71.5	42.7	56.6
1939	95.1	83.4	89.1
1959	99.3	97.8	98.5
<i>Urban population</i>			
1897	65.5	43.1	55.6
1926	88.0	73.9	80.9
1939	97.6	91.0	94.2
1959	99.5	98.1	98.7
<i>Rural population</i>			
1897	34.3	9.6	21.7
1926	67.3	35.4	50.6
1939	93.7	79.2	86.3
1959	99.1	97.5	98.2

In the U.S.S.R. 65 million people study at educational establishments; in other words, every third person over the age of seven is studying. All forms of education are free of charge.

Universal compulsory primary education was introduced in the U.S.S.R. in the 'thirties. In 1952, universal seven-year education was made compulsory, and in 1958 a law was passed on universal compulsory eight-year education. More than four million pupils finished eight-year schools in 1966, and 2.6 million completed secondary (10-year) school. Enrolment in higher and secondary educational establishments totalled 2,100,000, including 900,000 in higher educational establishments.

The number of general education schools in the country in 1966-67 was 210,000, and the number of pupils was over 48 million. There are 2,530,000 school teachers.

About 75 per cent of the pupils who completed eight-year school in 1966 went on to secondary or specialised secondary establishments. In the U.S.S.R. there are 4,790 vocational and technical training schools attended by 2,000,000 boys and girls.

From 1918 to 1966, higher educational establishments graduated 6,900,000 specialists, and secondary schools—11,000,000. In the 1965-66 academic year, 8 million people took courses at higher and secondary schools. In 1966, the U.S.S.R. had 84.5 million people with a university or secondary (complete or incomplete) education.

The 1966-70 targets envisage the further development of public education and the

raising of the general educational level of the population and the quality of teacher training. During the five-year period it is intended to introduce universal compulsory secondary (10-year) education. The plan provides for a 40 per cent increase in the number of pupils in schools for young workers and farmers.

Publishing, Radio and TV. The U.S.S.R. is the world's largest book publisher. Every fourth book published in the world is put out in the U.S.S.R. Books are published in 124 languages.

The number of book titles published grew to 76,100 in 1965, while the number of copies reached 1,279 million. Over 40 nationalities of the U.S.S.R. have developed a written language since the revolution, enabling them to issue books in their native languages.

In 1964 there were 45 specialised central publishing houses and 155 republican and other local publishing houses in the U.S.S.R. Since 1963 the publishing and printing business and book sales have been supervised by the Committee on the Press under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers.

There are two press agencies in the Soviet Union: the Telegraph Agency of the U.S.S.R. (*Tass*), which is the government news agency, and the Novosti press agency (*A.P.N.*), which is a public organisation.

In 1966, 7,700 newspapers were published in the U.S.S.R. The largest among them are *Pravda* (circulation—6.7 million), *Izvestia* (8 million), *Komsomolskaya Pravda* (6.5 million), *Pionerskaya Pravda* (7.4 million), *Selskaya*

Zhizn (6.2 million) and *Sovetskaya Rossiya* (3.2 million). There are almost 4,000 magazines with a total circulation of 220 million.

At the beginning of 1967 the U.S.S.R. had 39.8 million radio sets and 95.7 million radio-relay sets. There were 748 television centres and television relay stations, and 19 million TV sets. TV audiences exceeded 50 million. The central television network has three channels while other hook-ups use one or two channels. Programmes can be telecast all over the country with the help of artificial earth satellites. Colour TV transmissions began in Moscow on October 1, 1967. A new TV centre has been built at Ostankino in Moscow with the highest tower in the world (1,750 ft.). By 1970 the country will have 40 million TV sets.

Radio broadcasts come from Moscow (five programmes), republican, territorial, regional and area centres. The total volume of broadcasting time per day in 1965 was 970 hours. Moreover, 152 hours per day are allotted to broadcasts for foreign countries (in 53 languages).

Soviet radio and television activities are supervised by the Committee on Broadcasting and Television under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, and also by the republican Committees on Broadcasting and Television.

Professional journalists, editors, radio and publishing workers are trained by specialised secondary and higher educational establishments. These include specialised secondary schools for editorial and publishing workers, university departments for journalists, and the U.S.S.R. Polygraphical Institute.

The Union of Soviet Journalists, a voluntary public organisation set up in 1959, unites over 40,000 workers in the press, publishing houses, radio and TV. There are local journalist organisations in the Union republics. The Union of Soviet Journalists has a Central Press Club in Moscow.

The union publishes a weekly magazine *Za Rubezhom* ("Life Abroad"), with a circulation of 700,000, which prints in the main translations of material from foreign newspapers and magazines.

Russian literature, which has had the greatest impact on the country as a whole, has acquired world-wide significance and, beginning with Pushkin and Lermontov, has exerted great influence on the development of literature of other peoples of the country. In the 19th century the method of critical realism was evolved in Russia whose representatives (Gogol, Herzen, Turgenev, Goncharov, Nekrasov, Saltykov-Shchedrin, Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Ostrovsky, Uspensky and Chekhov) made a great contribution not only to Russian but to world literature as well.

The literature of the non-Russian peoples of old Russia—Shevchenko and Franko (Ukraine), Kupala and Kolas (Byelorussia), Chavchavadze and Tsereteli (Georgia), Rainis and Upit (Latvia) and Tumanyan and Sundukyan

(Armenia)—raised important problems of the life and liberation struggle of their peoples.

By his creative work Maxim Gorky laid the foundation of socialist realism, a method which has evolved successfully both in Soviet and world literature.

Hundreds of Soviet writers and poets have reflected in their works the different stages of the building of socialism and communism, and the historic events over the past 50 years.

The Union of Soviet Writers is a voluntary public organisation set up in 1934. It unites nearly 6,000 writers. The Union and autonomous republics have their own writers' organisations. The Soviet Writers' Union supervises the Gorky Institute of Literature (Moscow) and the U.S.S.R. Literary Fund, whose mission is to assist members of the union in their creative work and to look after their material needs and welfare.

Music and Ballet. Soviet music inherits the traditions of the past and continues to develop the trends of classical music. After the October Revolution, in the 'twenties music devoted to the revolutionary theme began to appear. In 1926, Dmitry Shostakovich composed his *First Symphony*, in 1927 one of the first Soviet ballets, Gliere's *Red Poppy*, was written. In the 'thirties, Prokofiev created his cantata *Alexander Nevsky*, Shostakovich produced his *Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Symphonies*, Khachaturyan—his *First Symphony*, Kabalevsky—the opera *Kola Brunyon*, and Dzerzhinsky—the opera *And Quiet Flows the Don*.

In the years of the war (1941–45) and in the post-war years many operas were devoted to the patriotic theme (*Taras Family* by Kabalevsky, *The Young Guard* by Meitus, and *The Story of a Real Man* by Prokofiev).

Dunayevsky was the composer of the first Soviet operetta *The Bridegrooms* (1926). Operettas by other composers (Milyutin, Solovyev-Sedoi, Shostakovich and Khrennikov) also became popular.

Soviet ballet takes a leading place in the history of ballet art (Asafyev's *The Flames of Paris*, 1932; Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, 1936; Gliere's *The Bronze Horseman*, 1949; and Khachaturyan's *Spartacus*, 1954). A galaxy of talented dancers have come to the fore of late to follow the veterans of the past: Plisetskaya, Struchkova, Maximova, Vlasova, Ryabinkina, Timofeyeva, Kondratov, Zhdanov, Vasilyev, Solovyev and Liepa, to name just a few.

Soviet composers are having success in the field of symphonic music. Oratoria have become popular in their creative work, and chamber music is increasingly gaining ground. Works by composers of the Union republics have won general recognition.

Outstanding among Soviet instrumentalists and singers are violinists Kogan and David Oistrakh; singers Gmriya, Dolukhanova, Vishnevskaya and Otts; pianists Gilels and Richter; and cellist Rostropovich.

In the U.S.S.R. there are 37 opera and ballet

theatres, 36 symphonic orchestras, numerous song and dance ensembles, folk choirs and academic capellas as well as folk instrument orchestras.

The most famous opera and ballet theatres in the Soviet Union are the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and the Kirov Theatre in Leningrad.

An extensive network of educational establishments for professional musicians has been set up. There are over 2,000 seven-year music schools in towns and villages. Some 200 music schools train musicians with a secondary musical education. Twenty-four 10-year music schools give a general musical education and prepare their students for entering the conservatoires.

There are 21 conservatoires and two music institutes with a five-year term of study which give future professional musicians, music critics and music teachers a higher education. The largest conservatoires in the U.S.S.R. have post-graduate training. Attached to the Moscow and Leningrad Conservatoires are seven-year music schools, 10-year schools and national sections which train specialists for the Union and autonomous republics.

The Union of Soviet Composers, a voluntary public organisation, had a membership of 1,470 composers and music critics in 1964. The republics have similar unions. The Union of Soviet Composers supervises the U.S.S.R. Composers' Club and the U.S.S.R. Music Fund which renders creative assistance and looks after the welfare of composers and music critics.

An International Tchaikovsky Music Competition is held in Moscow every four years. The first competition took place in 1958.

Cinema. The first Russian documentaries were shot in 1896, but the period 1907-08 is considered the beginning of film production in Russia.

In 1919, after the revolution, film studios, distribution offices and cinemas were nationalised. Famous directors of the young Soviet film industry included Eisenstein, Pudovkin and Dovzhenko. Outstanding film directors of today include Gerasimov, Romm, Yutkevich, Alexandrov, Kozintsev, Pyryev, Stolper, Basov, Kalatosov, Kulidzhanov, Chukhrai, Zarkhi, and Bondarchuk.

There are now 149,700 sets of cinema equipment in the U.S.S.R. (1,500 in 1914). In 1966, 159 full-length films (including 131 features), 36 documentaries and 999 shorts were produced. Circolorama, stereoscopic and panoramic techniques are being successfully developed.

In addition to the Moscow Central Film Studios (Mosfilm), the Leningrad Film Studios (Lenfilm), the Gorky Film Studios and others, each of the 15 Union republics has its own studios. Scientific and research work in all spheres of cinematography is conducted by the Cinema and Photographic Institute in Moscow, and specialists in cinematography are trained by institutes of higher education in Moscow,

Leningrad and Kiev and by numerous specialised secondary schools.

The Union of Soviet Cinema Workers, a voluntary public organisation, was set up in 1958. It unites film workers of all specialities. In 1964 it had a membership of 3,500. It has its Central Cinema Club in Moscow.

International Film Festivals have been held every other summer in Moscow since 1963.

Theatre. After the revolution theatres were nationalised and the state became responsible for their activities. Alongside the oldest Russian theatres, the Maly and the Art Theatre in Moscow and the Leningrad Theatre named after Pushkin, there sprang up, among others, the Vakhtangov Theatre, the Theatre of the Revolution, the Theatre of the Moscow Municipal Council, the Bolshoi Drama Theatre in Leningrad, the Shevchenko Theatre in the Ukraine and the Kolos Theatre in Byelorussia. Children's theatres were opened for the first time.

Among the great and internationally famous names of the Soviet theatre are actor-producer and theoretician Stanislavsky and his associate Nemirovich-Danchenko, who founded a theatre school.

By the beginning of 1967 there were 508 theatres in the U.S.S.R. (344 drama, comedy and musical comedy theatres, 37 opera and ballet houses, and 127 theatres for children). Moreover, there are 907 people's theatres (35 of them in the languages of the national minorities), and more than half a million amateur groups embracing ten million people.

There are nine theatre institutes and three theatre and arts institutions of higher learning in the U.S.S.R. The Moscow State Institute of Theatre Arts named after Lunacharsky (established in 1922) trains actors, directors of drama and operetta, theatre critics, and other theatre workers. Students of over 40 nationalities of the U.S.S.R. are trained at this institute. There are other theatre schools in Moscow, such as the studio school named after Nemirovich-Danchenko attached to the Art Theatre and the theatre school named after Shchukin of the Vakhtangov Theatre. In Leningrad there is the Ostrovsky Theatre Institute, founded in 1922. There are also theatre institutes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Byelorussia, the Ukraine and other Union republics.

The All-Russia Theatrical Society is a voluntary public organisation with 24,000 members. The society looks after the welfare of people engaged in the theatrical art, and has two homes for veteran actors—in Moscow and Leningrad. It also supervises the Central Actors' Club in Moscow.

Architecture. After the revolution social distinctions in the development of towns and communities inherited from tsarist Russia were done away with in all the Union republics.

In 1918-19 the architects Shchusev, Zholtovsky and Fomin set up town planning studios in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities. In the

'twenties the construction of new town areas and educational institutions, research institutes, theatres, sanatoriums and sports facilities was started. In 1929-32, 60 new towns were built and 30 old ones reconstructed. The Dnieper hydro-power station, an outstanding feature in industrial architecture, was built. In 1933-40 the Moscow Motor Works (architect Popov) and the Gorky Motor Works (architect Fisenko) were completed. Large-scale programmes were undertaken to plan and rebuild Moscow, Leningrad, Tbilisi and other cities. Over 24,000 schools, hospitals, clubs and institutions of higher learning were constructed in the country.

Soviet architecture has twice been faced with the task of restoring war-devastated towns and villages. Some 1,700 towns and industrial settlements had to be completely reconstructed after the 1941-45 war, including Volgograd, Novgorod, Sevastopol, Minsk and Voronezh. A large-scale housing programme was launched in the '50s and '60s. Many new districts and satellite towns were built.

A feature of Soviet architecture in the '20s and '30s was "constructivism" (the Vesnin Brothers), and the trend which stemmed from the experience of the classical architecture of the past. In the later '30s to the beginning of the '50s the "historical style" was in vogue and decorative extravagancies were popular. At present, Soviet architects favour simple, clear-cut shapes and forms which correspond to the functional purposes of the buildings and their structural peculiarities.

The network of educational establishments which train architects has been considerably expanded since the revolution. They include the Moscow Institute of Architecture, the polytechnical institutes in Baku, Minsk, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Alma-Ata, Kaunas, Lvov, Tashkent and Sverdlovsk, the engineering and building institutes in Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov and Novosibirsk, and the arts institutions of learning in Leningrad, Kiev, Tallinn, Tbilisi and other cities.

The Union of Soviet architects was established in 1932. It has a membership of over 10,000 architects of different creative trends. The Union supervises the U.S.S.R. Fund of Architecture whose task is to assist members of the Union in their creative activities and to look after their welfare.

The Academy of Architecture was founded in 1934 and was reorganised into the Academy of Construction and Architecture in 1956.

Fine Arts. After the revolution there was a great revival of interest in the creative work of the realist artists of the 19th century—Kramskoi, Repin, Surikov, Vasnetsov and Levitan, and in the creation of new artistic schools.

Soviet artists have achieved much in the sphere of historical and revolutionary painting (Brodsky, Grekhov, Ioganson and Serov), in the genre painting (Pimenov, Plastov, Reshetnikov, Chuikov and Yablonskaya), in portrait

painting (Nesterov, Ryazhsky, Gerasimov and Korin), in landscape painting (Baksheyev, Rylov, Yuon, Konchalovsky, Saryan, and Tansykbayev) and in monumental painting (Deineka).

The principal means of popularising painting in the U.S.S.R. are exhibitions, which attract hundreds of thousands of people. Black and white drawing has gained ground in the form of posters, magazine and newspaper cartoons (the most famous are the cartoonists the Kukryniksy and Yefimov and Azimzade), and book illustrations, etchings, drawings and lithography. Well-known Soviet sculptors include Merkulov, Mukhina, Shadr, Anikushin, Vuchetich, Kibalkov, Kononov, Manizer, Tomsky, Azgur, Nikoladze and Zalkaln. In the sphere of decorative and applied arts very popular are ceramics (Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia), glass (Dulevo), carpet-making (Turkmenia and Azerbaijan), wood-, stone- and bone-carving (Chukotka), metal-chasing (Kubachi), and varnished miniatures (Palekh).

Industrial design is being intensively developed. An Institute of Industrial Design functions in Moscow, with branches in all the Union republics and in main cities.

In all large towns of the U.S.S.R. there are art galleries which carry on intensive activities to popularise art. Among the largest are the national Tretyakov Picture Gallery and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, and the Hermitage and the Russian Museum in Leningrad.

The network of educational establishments includes secondary art schools, specialised art schools and institutions of higher learning. An important part is also played by art studios and groups organised at factories and clubs. In recent years efforts have been made to expand the training of painters in applied decorative arts and industrial design.

The U.S.S.R. Academy of Arts (founded in 1947) is the highest art institution of the country uniting the most outstanding figures in the field of fine arts. It is located in Moscow and in 1964 there were 44 Academicians, 64 corresponding members and 8 honorary members. The Academy supervises the Institute of the Theory and History of Fine Arts.

The Union of Soviet Artists was formed on a voluntary basis in 1957. It has a membership of over 10,000 artists and art critics. The union supervises the U.S.S.R. Art Fund, assists members in their creative work and looks after their welfare.

SCIENCE

The planned development of science and engineering began in Russia after the October Revolution. In April 1918 Lenin wrote his *Draft Plan of Scientific and Technical Activities* which mapped out broad prospects of scientific development in the U.S.S.R.

Since then research work in the country has assumed unprecedented scope. Important scientific and technical problems (construction

of new industrial complexes, space research, peaceful uses of atomic energy, and so on) are today tackled by the joint efforts of large bodies of scientists representing many specialities. Many new scientific establishments have been set up which combine investigation of contemporary scientific problems with the training of scientific personnel.

By 1928 the number of scientific institutions in the U.S.S.R. had reached 1,263, by 1940—1,821, by 1950—2,848, by 1958—3,197, by 1964—4,651, by 1965—4,724, and by 1966—4,800.

The number of research workers increased more than seven-fold between 1940 and 1966. Their number totalled 98,300 in 1940, 162,500 in 1950, 284,000 in 1958, 354,200 in 1960, 612,000 in 1964, 664,600 in 1965, and 712,400 in 1966.

In 1966 the U.S.S.R. accounted for one-quarter of the world's scientific workers. Big new scientific centres have developed in outlying national areas which were formerly culturally backward borderlands of tsarist Russia. In the Union republics the number of scientific workers has considerably increased.

One of the basic sources for replenishing scientific personnel are postgraduate courses. Over 65 per cent of all scientists have gone through this state system of training research workers. The number of young specialists taking postgraduate studies at research institutes and higher educational establishments now exceeds 93,755. Over 400,000 students are engaged in scientific and design work.

Academies of Sciences. The leading scientific research institution in the country is the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. The original academy was founded in 1725. It has 183 full members, 375 corresponding members and 43 foreign members.

The following republican Academies of Sciences have been set up: Ukrainian (1919), Byelorussian (1928), Georgian (1941), Armenian (1943), Azerbaijan (1945), Kazakh (1945), Kirghiz (1954), Uzbek (1943), Turkmen (1951), Tajik (1951), Lithuanian (1941), Latvian (1946), Estonian (1946) and Moldavian (1961).

The following branch Academies are functioning: the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, named after Lenin (founded in 1929), the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences (founded in 1944), the U.S.S.R. Academy of Educational Sciences (founded in 1944), and the R.S.F.S.R. Academy of Municipal Economy (founded in 1931).

Akademgorodok — "Science Town" — near Novosibirsk, is the headquarters of the Siberian branch of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.

The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences is charged with the direction of fundamental research in the country and the planning of research work in the sphere of natural and social sciences. Among the problems to which particular attention is given are the development of theoretical principles of cybernetics and logical

principles of the theory of computers, research in low temperature and quantum radio physics, the evolution of new technological methods of producing high quality artificial and synthetic materials, the study of nuclear processes with a view to expanding their application in various spheres of science and engineering, and cosmic research.

Peaceful uses of atomic energy. In the U.S.S.R. atomic power engineering is one of the basic branches of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The first industrial atomic power plant was put into operation in 1954. Then the construction of large atomic stations began in Siberia, in the Urals and near Voronezh. In 1959 an atomic turbo-electric icebreaker, the *Lenin*, was launched. Her sole source of energy is nuclear power. The first thermal-electric reactor installation, the *Romashka*, was put into operation in 1964.

Along with the development of new types and designs of atomic power units, research is being done on other methods of obtaining atomic power, in particular, in the field of controlled thermonuclear reaction. Scientists of other countries co-operate with Soviet scientists at the Joint Nuclear Research Institute in Dubna, near Moscow. This institute has a 10,000 million electronvolt synchrocyclotron. A 70,000 million electronvolt synchrocyclotron has been launched near the town of Serpukhov, in the Moscow region.

Space research. Evidence of the Soviet Union's scientific and engineering achievements is its priority in launching the first artificial satellite of the Earth (October 4, 1957), the first manned space flight, the first manned group flight into outer space, the first space flight by a woman, the first "walk" by a man in outer space, the first soft landing on Venus, and the first automatic docking of space craft in orbit. By the beginning of November 1967, the number of *Cosmos* earth satellites had reached 190.

The U.S.S.R. is now carrying out an extensive programme of outer space research with the help of rockets, artificial Earth satellites and automatic interplanetary stations. The first Moon probe, fired on January 2, 1959, passed near the Moon, while the second lunar rocket, launched on September 12, 1959, landed a Soviet pennant on the Moon.

The first photographs of the invisible side of the Moon were taken by the automatic station *Luna-3*, launched on October 4, 1959. A map of the reverse side of the Moon was drawn up on the basis of these pictures.

The first manned spaceship, Yuri Gagarin's *Vostok*, was orbited on April 12, 1961. Flights by other cosmonauts followed: Herman Titov (August 6, 1961), Andrian Nikolayev (August 11, 1962), Pavel Popovich (August 12, 1962), Valeri Bykovsky (June 14, 1963), and Valentina Tereshkova (June 16, 1963). On October 12, 1964, a three-seater *Voskhod-1* spaceship (Vladimir Komarov, Konstantin Feoktistov

and Dr. Boris Yegorov) was placed in orbit. On March 18, 1965, the spaceship *Voskhod-2* was orbited (Pavel Belyayev and Alexei Leonov). For the first time in history a cosmonaut (Leonov) in a spacesuit stepped out into interplanetary space.

On April 23, 1967, the spaceship *Soyuz* was launched, carrying cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov on his second round-the-earth spaceflight. After completing his flight programme, Komarov lost his life in landing the ship.

In February 1966 a Soviet automatic station made a soft-landing on the lunar surface, and the first ever picture of the moonscape relayed back to Earth by *Luna-9* was of the greatest scientific significance. In April of the same year the first artificial lunar satellite began circling the Moon. In August it was joined by another. On October 25, 1966, the Soviet automatic station *Luna-12* was placed in an almost equatorial orbit of the Moon. It was fired to study in detail various parts of the lunar surface by photographing it with the help of a special photo and television device. On December 24, 1966, the Soviet station *Luna-13* made a soft landing in the area of the lunar Sea of Storms. It was to carry on further research under the lunar programme.

An important stage in space research were the flights of Soviet automatic *Venus* stations which helped to obtain important scientific data and also delivered a Soviet emblem to Venus. On October 18, 1967, *Venus-4* soft-landed a capsule on the planet which sent back data on the Venusian atmosphere.

On October 30, two *Cosmos* spacecraft were automatically linked up and separated in orbit.

Other space launchings included Mars probes, and *Molniya* communication satellites used in TV transmissions across the country from Vladivostok, on the Pacific coast, to Moscow, and between the U.S.S.R. and France.

International Contacts. Soviet science is developing in close contact with world science. The U.S.S.R. Academy is a member of more than 90 international scientific organisations. In 1966 alone, the following international congresses were held in Moscow: metal corrosion, oceanography, crystallography, microbiology, psychology, mathematics, and low temperature physics. Soviet scientists familiarise themselves with the achievements of foreign science not only at congresses but also through direct study of the activities of research institutions in other countries. Soviet scientists visit foreign countries to read lectures, to consult foreign specialists and carry out joint projects with them.

The U.S.S.R. is a member of the Atomic Energy Agency (Cern) and takes part in international scientific research years and programmes.

Scientists of the socialist countries co-operate at the Joint Nuclear Research Institute at Dubna, near Moscow.

Lenin Prizes: Every two years—on the anniversary of Lenin's birth, April 22, Lenin Prizes are awarded for outstanding works of science and engineering and for works of literature and in the arts.

XII. Physical Culture and Sports

Physical culture and sport in the U.S.S.R. are aimed at the harmonious development of physical and intellectual talents and at improving the people's health.

The physical culture movement in the country has a mass character. In 1965 the number of people engaged in physical culture totalled 46.3 million (about 200,000 physical culture groups). Over four million people over the age of 35 and including pensioners take part in special physical culture groups. Physical education is a part of the curricula of pre-school institutions and all schools.

There are 35 U.S.S.R. Sports Federations and many sports societies, some of the best known being Dynamo, Spartak, Labour Reserve, Army, Locomotive and Burevestnik.

Beginning with 1959 the general guidance of physical culture and sports activities, formerly carried out by the Physical Culture and Sports Committee under the Council of Ministers, was placed in the hands of public organisations. The U.S.S.R. Union of Sports Societies and Organisations, in which the trade unions and the Young Communist League play an important role, was formed.

In the Soviet Union sports competitions are

held on a wide scale and enjoy tremendous popularity. The People's Games of the U.S.S.R. is contested by millions of sportsmen.

There are over 2,000 stadiums, more than 20,000 gymnasiums, and over 40,000 football fields in the U.S.S.R. The Lenin Central Stadium in Moscow is the main arena of a sports complex covering an area of 437 acres. The stadium seats 100,000 people. The Lenin-grad stadium seats 80,000.

Sixteen institutes, 52 departments of physical culture at teachers' training colleges, 11 specialised sports schools and 17 schools for coaches train instructors in physical culture and sports. Research is being done on the theory and methods of physical culture training, training methods for individual sports, and problems of sports medicine.

Over 40 sports are cultivated in the U.S.S.R. (the most popular are football, volleyball, basketball, track and field and heavy athletics, gymnastics, swimming, ski-ing, skating, boxing, wrestling and ice hockey). There are thousands of sports schools for children supervised by public education departments and voluntary sports societies. There were 8,257,000 people with a sports rating and 48,800 Masters of Sport in the U.S.S.R. in 1965.

XIII. Religious Organisations

Under the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda are recognised for all citizens. The church is separated from the state and the school from the church.

The main religious associations in the Soviet Union are those of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. The Christian religious associations include the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Old Believers, the Georgian Orthodox Church, the Armenian (Gregorian) Church, the Lutheran

Church, and the Evangelical Christian Baptist Church.

A Council for Russian Orthodox Church Affairs and a Council for Religious Affairs (excepting the Russian Orthodox Church) have been set up under the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. Their functions are to assist the religious associations in their relations with Soviet governmental bodies and to supervise the observance of the laws on freedom of conscience and freedom of religious worship.

Old and New Names of Soviet Towns

Old Name	New Name	Old Name	New Name
Alexandropol	Leninakan	Novo-Nikolaevsk	Novosibirsk
Bakhmut	Artemovsk	Petrograd (St. Petersburg)	Leningrad
Stalinabad	Dushanbe	Pishpek	Frunze
Ekaterinburg	Sverdlovsk	Romanovsk	Kropotkin
Ekaterinodar	Krasnodar	Rybinsk	Shcherbakov
Ekaterinoslav	Dnepropetrovsk	Samara	Kuibyshev
Elisavetgrad	Kirovo	Simbirsk	Ulyanovsk
Instenberg	Sovietsk	Stavropol	Togliatti
Khojent	Leninabad	Tiflis	Tbilisi
Königsberg	Kaliningrad	Tsaritsyn (Stalingrad)	Volgograd
Kozlov	Michurinsk	Tver	Kalinin
Khibinogorsk	Kirovsk	Viatka	Kirov
Mariupol	Zhdanov	Vladikavkaz (Dzardzhikau)	Ordzhonikidze
Nizhni-Novgorod	Gorky	Yuzovka (Stalino)	Donetsk

National Holidays

January 1	New Year's Day.
March 8	International Women's Day.
May 1-2	International Labour Day.
May 9	Victory Day.
November 7-8	Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, November 7 (October 25, old style) 1917.
December 5	Constitution Day (established 1936).

Chronicle of Major Events in Russian History up to 1917

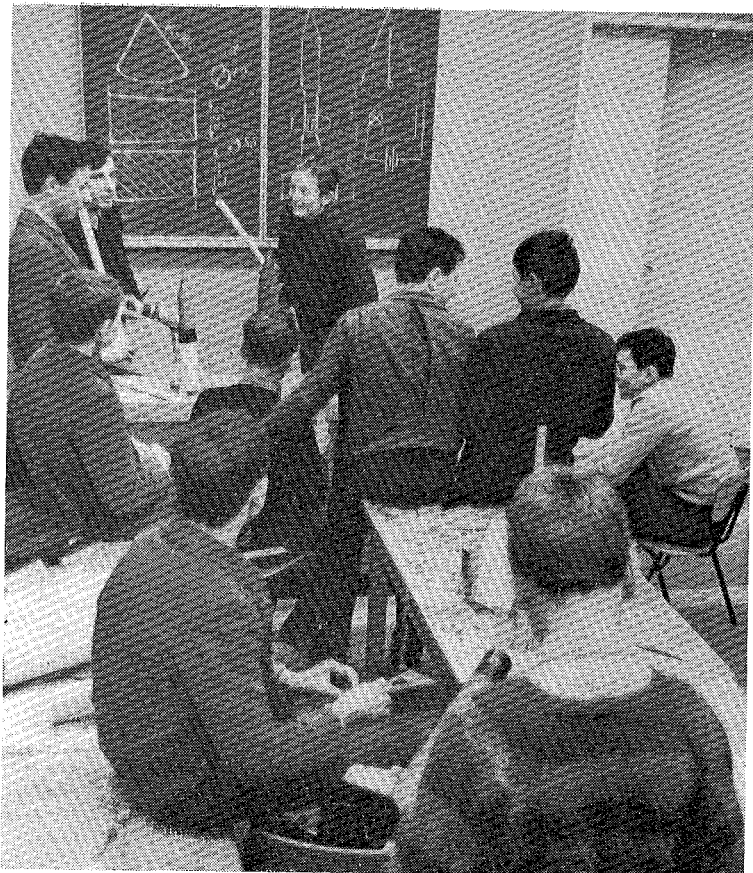
- (Eighth to third centuries B.C.) Rule of Scythians in the steppes of the northern Black Sea coast.
 (Sixth to early seventh centuries A.D.) Reports about the Antai (East Slav people allied to the Wends) by Jordanes, Procopius and Mauricius.
 839 Reports in the Bertini annals on the appearance of the "Russ" people.
 9th C. (Second Half). Formation of the first Russian State.
 879 to beginning of 10th century. Prince Oleg.
 911 Oleg's Treaty with Byzantium.
 978-1015 Rule of Prince Vladimir Svyatoslavich over Kiev Russ.
 988 Introduction of Christianity into Russ.
 1113-1125 Rule of Prince Vladimir Monomakh (married Gyda, daughter of King Harold of England).
 1147 First mention of Moscow in chronicles, Prince Yuri Dolgoruki (Long Arms) son of Prince Vladimir, credited with its founding.
 1237-1240 Khan Baty conquers Russian principalities.



Nothing stops chess in the Soviet Union. It is played everywhere and at all times. These two enthusiasts are in Gorky Park, Moscow.

Gutia and Galia are school-girls in Oimyakon, Yakutia. It is 50 degrees below zero centigrade in March and their breath turns to frost on hair, eyelashes and clothes.

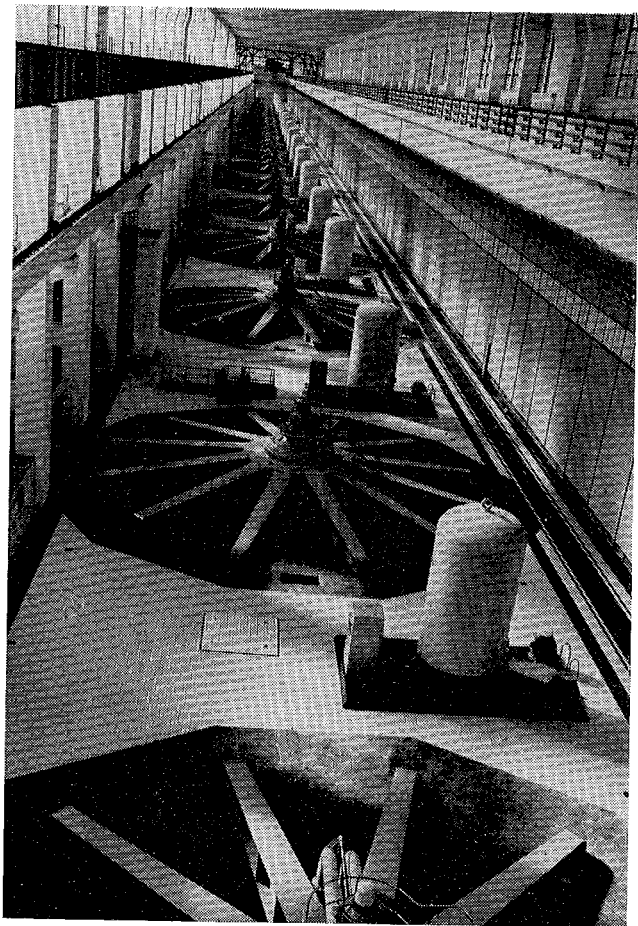




Soviet youngsters design model rockets in their Pioneer Club, and have a launching sight where competitions are held.

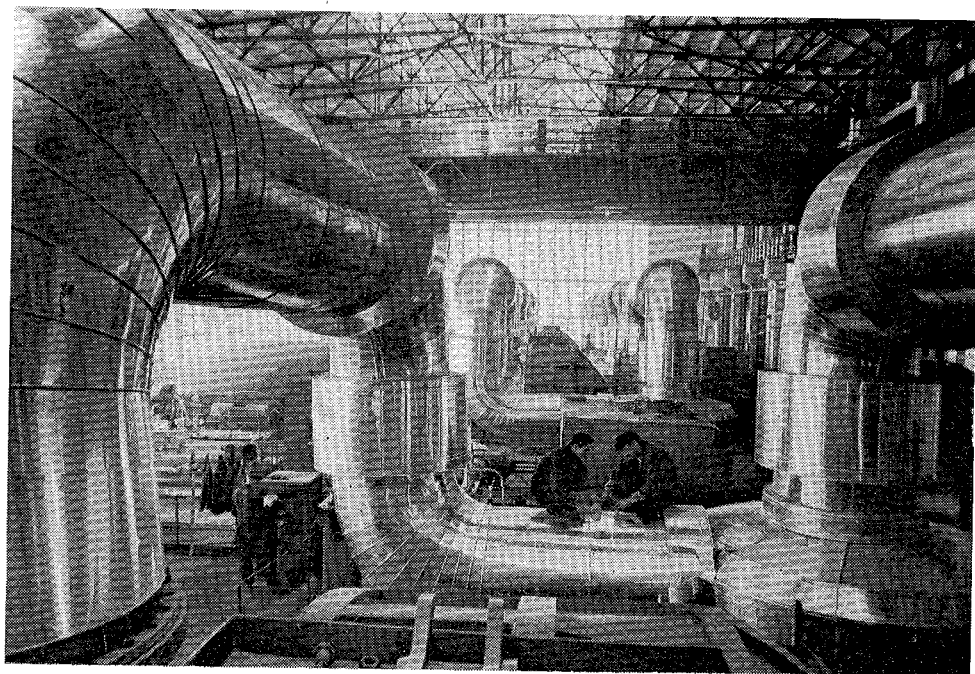


Football is very popular — but played in summer. This crowd is in the Lenin Stadium, Moscow, which has 103,000 seats.



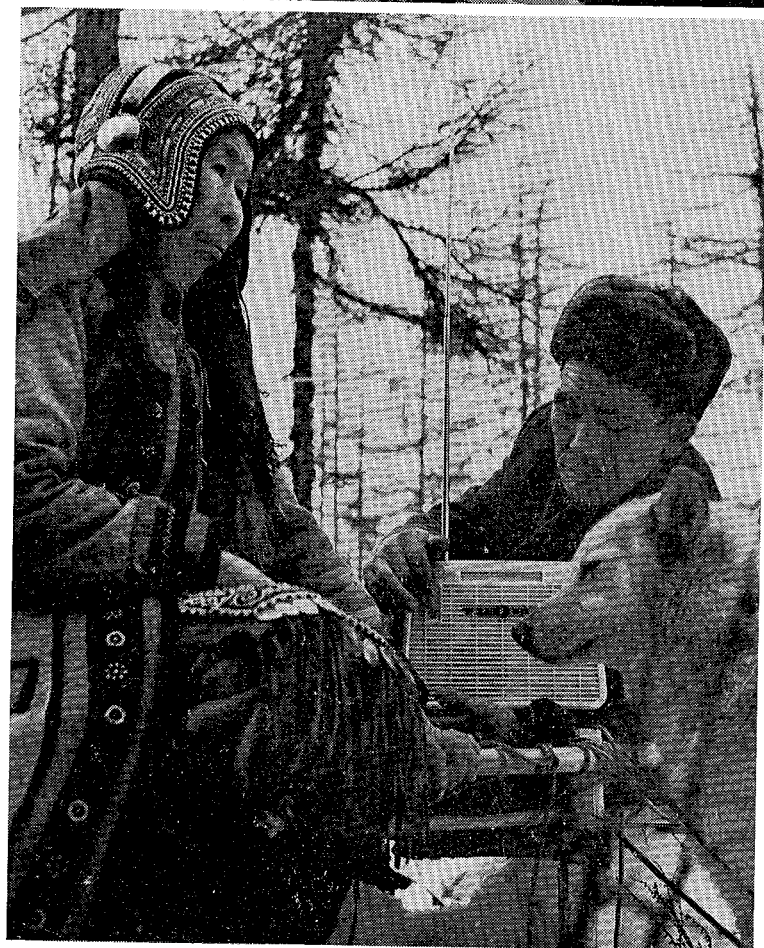
WATER POWER: the turbine room of the hydro-electric station on the Volga near Volgograd.

and ATOM POWER: erecting the Novo-Voronezh atomic power station.

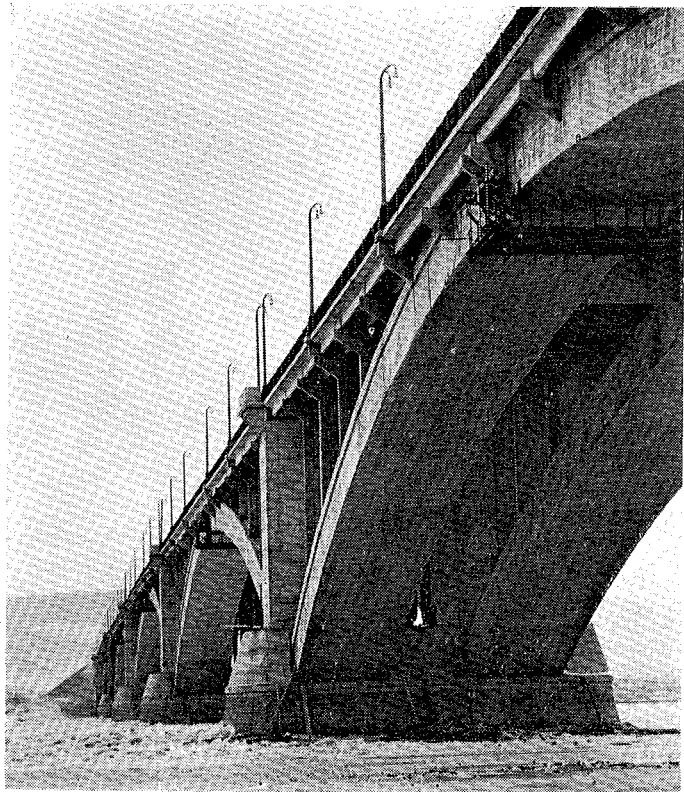




*A "chaikana" —
tea-house — in
Dushanbe, capital
of Tajikistan.*

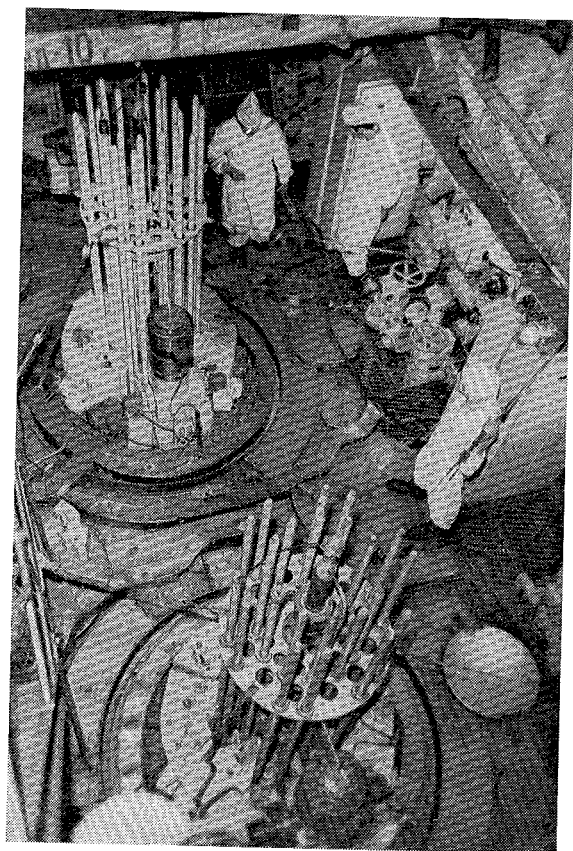


*Reindeer breeders
in the tundra near
Magadan, with
their transistor
radio.*



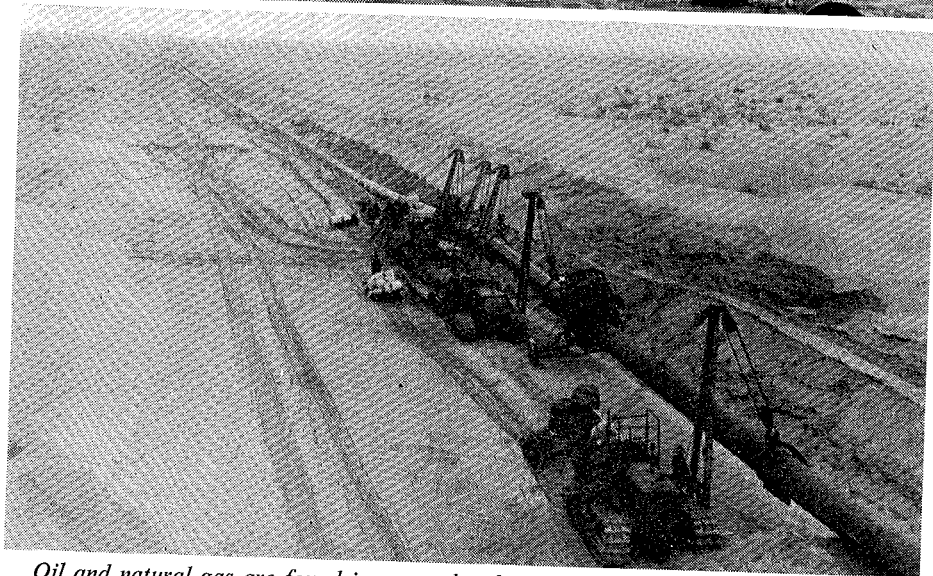
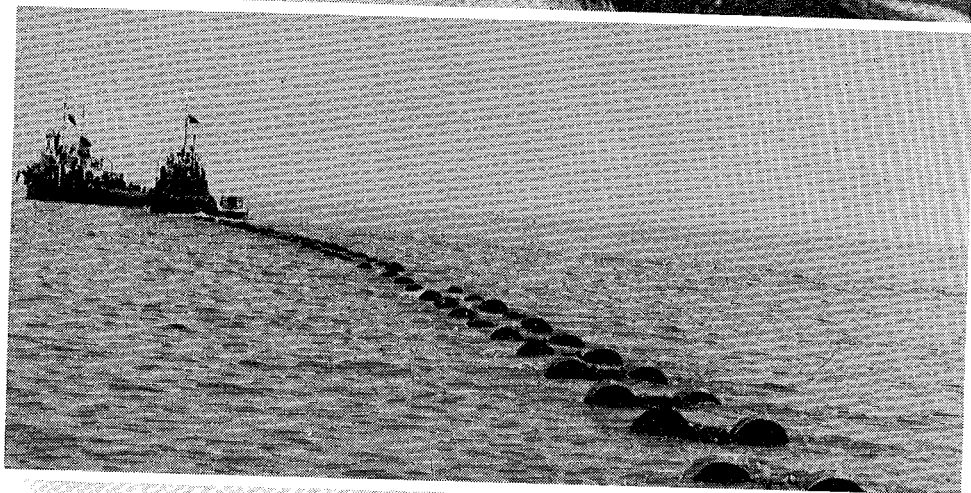
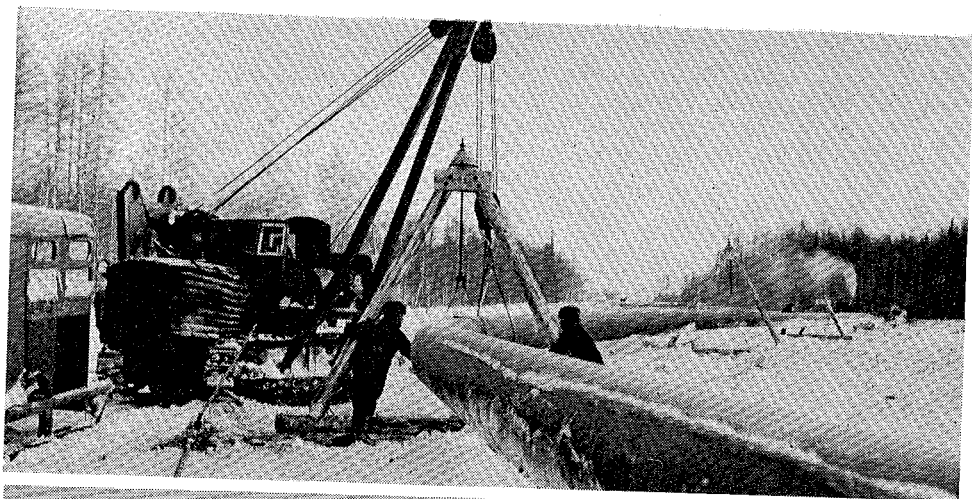
The Yenisei River had long divided the city of Krasnoyarsk from its largest industrial district—but it now has a new concrete road bridge $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, to link them. Two stages of its building are shown here.





The first atomic-powered ship was the icebreaker LENIN, which is shown here crunching its way through Arctic ice seven feet thick.

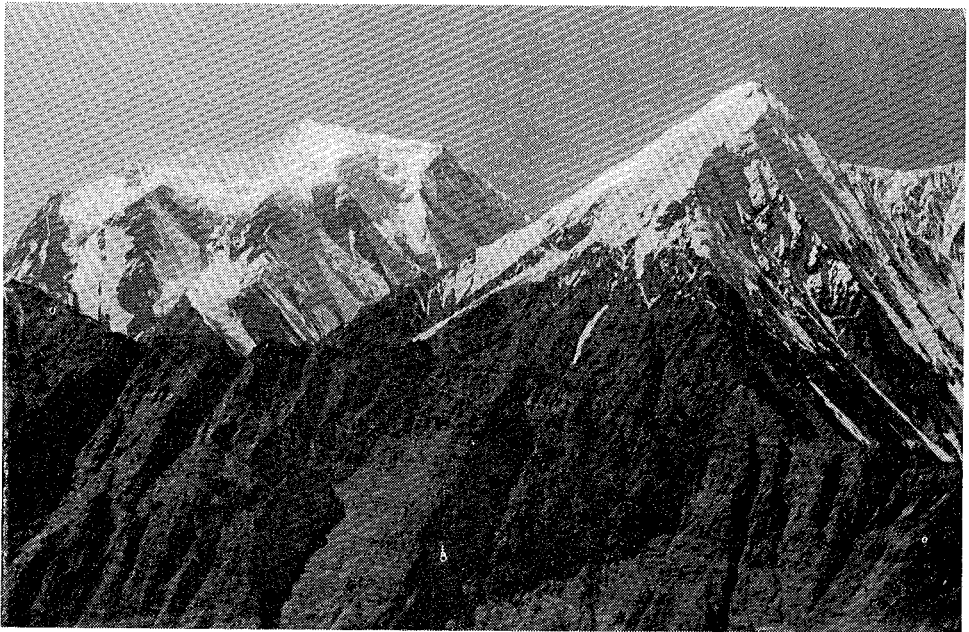
On the left we see the tops of the fuel-rods which enable it to stay at sea for a year without refuelling.



Oil and natural gas are found in great abundance—but not always where it is most needed. It is sent thousands of miles across the USSR and into neighbouring countries. These pictures show pipelines being laid across frozen tundra on derricks, on the bed of the Caspian Sea, and through the Turkmenian deserts.



There are several mountain ranges in the U.S.S.R., with many high peaks. Mt. Elbrus (above) in the Caucasus, is 18,476 feet above sea level, whilst the peaks (below)—Ordjonikidze (left) and Peak Communism (24,583 ft.) are in the Pamirs.



- 1242 Victory of Alexander Nevsky over Teutonic Knights (the "Battle on the Ice").
- 1328-1341 Ivan Kalita, the first Grand Prince of Muscovy, who began to unite Russia around Moscow.
- 1359-1389 Grand Prince Dmitry (called Donskoi, following the Battle of Kulikovo).
- 1380 First defeat of Tartars at the Battle of Kulikovo.
- 1410 Russian-Polish-Lithuanian troops defeat the Teutonic Knights at Grunewald.
- 1462-1505 Ivan III, Grand Prince of Muscovy, under whom the present Kremlin building was begun.
- 1480 Liberation of the Russian state from the Tartar-Mongol yoke under Ivan III.
- 1547-1584 Ivan IV. (The "Terrible", or more accurately translated, the "Formidable"). Title of Tsar first used.
- 1552 Conquest of the Kazan khanate.
- 1553 Richard Chancellor in Moscow. Laid foundations of Anglo-Russian trade. Muscovy Company formed.
- 1564 Book-printing begun in Russia by Ivan Fyodorov.
- 1581 Yermak's expedition to Western Siberia.
- 1584-1598 Reign of Fyodor Ivanovich, son of Ivan IV.
- 1598-1605 Reign of Boris Godunov. Built Arkhangel, fortified Smolensk.
- 1605-1606 Reign of False Dmitry.
- 1606-1607 Uprising of peasants and Cossacks under leadership of Bolotnikov.
- 1611 Kuzma Minin and Prince Dmitry Pozharsky begin to organise people's levies in Nizhny Novgorod.
- 1612 Expulsion of the Poles from Moscow.
- 1613-1645 Reign of Mikhail Fyodorovich—first of the Romanov dynasty.
- 1645-1676 Reign of Alexei Mikhailovich.
- 1648 Uprising of Cossacks and peasants in the Ukraine, led by Bogdan Khmelnytsky, against the Polish yoke.
- 1652 First iron foundry.
- 1654 Re-unification of Russia and the Ukraine.
- 1667-1671 Peasant uprising under Stenka (Stepan) Razin.
- 1676-1682 Reign of Fyodor Alexeyevich.
- 1682-1725 Reign of Peter I (The Great).
- 1700-1721 Great Northern War with Sweden.
- 1700 Peter introduces Julian Calendar.
- 1703 Founding of St. Petersburg (now Leningrad).
- 1703 First newspaper—the *Vedomosti* ("Gazette").
- 1707 Uprising of Cossacks and peasants led by Bulavin.
- 1709 Peter I defeats Swedes at Poltava.
- 1721 Peter I adopts the title of Emperor of Russia.
- 1724 Foundation of Academy of Sciences.
- 1725-1727 Reign of Catherine I.
- 1727-1730 Reign of Peter II.
- 1730-1740 Reign of Anna Ivanovna.
- 1741-1761 Reign of Elizabeth Petrovna.
- 1755 Foundation of Moscow University.
- 1756-1761 War between Russia and Prussia (Russia's participation in the Seven Years War).
- 1760 Russian troops occupy Berlin.
- 1761-1762 Reign of Peter III.
- 1762-1796 Reign of Catherine II.
- 1768-1774 First Russo-Turkish War under Catherine II. Crimea freed from the Turks. (Annexed in 1783).
- 1773-1775 Uprising of peasants, Cossacks and peoples of Lower Volga and Urals, led by Pugachov.
- 1787-1791 Second Turkish War.
- 1796-1801 Reign of Paul I (assassinated).
- 1801 Union of Georgia with Russia.
- 1801-1825 Reign of Alexander I.
- 1806-1812 Russo-Turkish War.
- 1808-1809 Russo-Swedish War.
- 1812 Great Patriotic War against Napoleon I. Battle of Borodino. Moscow burnt. Napoleon retreats from Russia.
- 1825 Uprising of the Decembrists.
- 1825-1855 Reign of Nicholas I.
- 1826-1828 Russo-Persian War.
- 1837 First railway in Russia opens (Petersburg-Tsarskoye Selo).
- 1853-1856 Crimean War.
- 1855-1881 Reign of Alexander II. Assassinated by "People's Will" group.
- 1861 Abolition of Serfdom.

- 1870 Birth of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin).
 1875 Russia's first working class political organisation, the South Russian Workers' Union, formed in Odessa. Destroyed by the tsarist government after about nine months.
 1877-1878 Russo-Turkish War. Russia liberates Bulgaria from Turkish rule.
 1879 Birth of Josef Vissarionovich Djugashvili (Stalin).
 1881-1894 Reign of Alexander III.
 1883 The first Russian Marxist organisation—"Emancipation of Labour" group—organised by G. Plekhanov in Geneva.
 1894-1917 Reign of Nicholas II.
 1895 (Autumn) Lenin organises St. Petersburg League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class.
 1898 (March 3) First Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in Minsk.
 1900-1903 Publication of Lenin's paper, *Iskra*.
 1903 2nd Congress of R.S.D.L.P. Menshevik/Bolshevik division. Emergence of a true Marxist party.
 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War.
 1905 "Bloody Sunday", when tsarist troops fired on a peaceful demonstration in St. Petersburg.
 1905 (May 13-15) Formation of first Soviet of Workers' Deputies at Ivanovo-Voznesensk.
 1905 (September) First All-Russian Trade Union Conference held in Moscow.
 1905-1907 First democratic revolution against tsarist tyranny.
 1912 Sixth Conference of the R.S.D.L.P. held in Prague. Mensheviks expelled from the party.
 1912 Execution of workers at the Lena gold fields.
 1912 First issue of *Pravda* April 22 (May 5).
 1917 February. Second democratic revolution. Overthrow of tsarist rule.

Chronicle of Major Dates in the History of the U.S.S.R. 1917-67

1917

- November 7 The Great October Socialist Revolution. The victory of the armed uprising in Petrograd. Capitalist rule overthrown, and working class power established.
 November 7-8 Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd. The adoption of decrees "On Peace" and "On Land". The formation of the Soviet Government—the Council of People's Commissars—headed by V. I. Lenin.
 November 11 Decree on the eight-hour working-day.
 November 14 Declaration of Rights of the Nations of Russia.
 December 24 Formation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.
 December 27 Decree on the nationalisation of banks.
 1918-1920 Foreign military intervention and the Civil War.

1918

- January 19 Declaration of the Rights of the Toiling and Exploited People.
 January 20 First All-Russian Congress of Trade Unions held.
 February 23 Red Army fights the German troops advancing in the Pskov-Narva direction. This marks the birth of the Soviet Armed Forces.
 March 3 Peace Treaty signed between Russia and the German bloc countries at Brest-Litovsk.
 March 6-8 Seventh Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (Bolsheviks). The adoption of a new name for the Party: the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)—R.C.P. (B.).
 March 9 British troops land in Murmansk—beginning of the military intervention of the Entente.
 March 10-11 Soviet Government moves from Petrograd to Moscow.
 April 22 Decree on the nationalisation of foreign trade.
 June 28 Decree on the nationalisation of all large-scale industry.
 July 10 Fifth All-Russia Congress of Soviets (Moscow) adopts the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.
 October 29—November 4 . . First All-Russia Congress of the Young Communist League.
 November 13 Annulment of the Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty, following the revolution in Germany.

1919

- January 1 Formation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.
 March 18-23 Eighth Congress of the R.C.P. (B). The adoption of the new Party Programme.
 December 26 Decree on the abolition of illiteracy in Soviet Russia.

1920

- January Soviet power restored in Siberia. Victory on the Eastern Front.
 March 13 Red Army liberates Murmansk. Victory on the Northern Front.
 March 27 Final rout of Denikin. Red Army liberates Novorossiisk.
 March 29—April 5 Ninth Congress of R.C.P. (B).
 April 25 Polish White-guard troops invade Soviet Ukraine. Beginning of Polish-Soviet war.
 April 28 Formation of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.
 October 14 Peace treaty between R.S.F.S.R. and Finland.
 November 16 Final rout of General Wrangel's White-guard troops in the Crimea. Termination, in the main, of the period of foreign military intervention and the Civil War.
 November 29 Formation of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.
 December 22-29 Eighth All-Russian Congress of Soviets. Adoption of the State Plan for the Electrification of Russia (G.O.E.L.R.O.).
 1921-25 Period of rehabilitation of the national economy which suffered from two wars and from foreign intervention.

1921

- February 22 State Planning Committee (GOSPLAN) established.
 February 25 Formation of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.
 February 26 Soviet-Iranian Treaty.
 February 28 Soviet-Afghan Treaty.
 March 8-16 Tenth Congress of R.C.P. (B). Adoption of decision to introduce the New Economic Policy (N.E.P.) as a temporary step to help rehabilitate the country after the devastation of the imperialist war and the wars of intervention.
 March 18 Riga Peace Treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland.

1922

- March 12 The formation of the Trans-Caucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic (Z.S.F.S.R.) consisting of the Azerbaijan, Armenian and Georgian Republics.
 March 27—April 2 Eleventh Congress of R.C.P. (B).
 April 10—May 19 Soviet delegation participates in the Genoa International Conference.
 April 16 Rapallo Treaty between the R.S.F.S.R. and Germany; establishment of diplomatic relations.
 May Formation of the Young Pioneers.
 October 25 Liberation of Vladivostok from Japanese interventionists.
 December 30 First Congress of the Soviets of the U.S.S.R. Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1923

- April 17-25 Twelfth Congress of R.C.P. (B).

1924

- January 21 V. I. Lenin dies.
 January 31 Second Congress of the Soviets of the U.S.S.R. adopts the First Constitution of the U.S.S.R.
 February 2 Establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain.
 May 23-31 Thirteenth Congress of R.C.P. (B).
 October 27 Formation of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.
 October 27 Formation of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic.
 October 28 Establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and France.

1925

- December 18-31 Fourteenth Congress of C.P.S.U. (B). adopts historic decision for the socialist industrialisation of the country. The adoption of the new name of the Party: The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks).

1927		
December 2-19 .. ..	..	Fifteenth Congress of C.P.S.U. (B). decides to campaign for the collectivisation of agriculture, and to prepare First Five-Year Plan.
1928		
October 1 .. ..	..	Beginning of the First Five-Year Plan of development of the national economy of the U.S.S.R.
1929		
April 23-29 .. ..	..	Sixteenth Conference of C.P.S.U. (B.) adopts First Five-Year Plan.
1929-30 .. ..	..	Mass turn of peasantry towards collective farms.
December 5 .. ..	..	Formation of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic (from October 14, 1924, it had existed as an autonomous republic within the Uzbek S.S.R.).
1930		
June 26-July 13 .. ..	..	Sixteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U. (B) discusses the technical reconstruction of all Soviet economy.
August 14 .. ..	..	C.C. of the C.P.S.U. (B) and Government take decision on universal compulsory elementary education.
1932		
January 31 .. ..	..	First blast-furnace of the Magnitogorsk iron and steel combine put into operation.
October 10 .. ..	..	Dnieper Hydro-Electric Station opened.
December .. ..	..	First Five-Year Plan completed (fulfilled in 4 years and 3 months).
1933		
August 2 .. ..	..	The Baltic-White Sea Canal opened. Second Five-Year Plan launched.
November 6 .. ..	..	Establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.
1934		
January 26-February 10 ..	..	Seventeenth Congress of the C.P.S.U. (B) marks the victory of socialism in all branches of the economy.
September 18 .. ..	..	U.S.S.R. becomes a member of the League of Nations.
1935		
May 2 .. ..	..	Franco-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact signed.
May 16 .. ..	..	Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty of Mutual Assistance signed.
August 31 .. ..	..	Coal-cutter Alexei Stakhanov sets record at "Tsentralnaya-Irmino" mine in the Donets Coal Basin. Foremost workers start industrial drive.
1936		
December 5 .. ..	..	Eighth Congress of the Soviets adopts the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R. The transformation into Union Republics of the Kazakh S.S.R. (from August 26, 1920, existed as an autonomous republic), the Kirghiz S.S.R. (from February 1, 1926, existed as an autonomous republic), the Azerbaijan, Armenian and Georgian S.S.R.s (formerly parts of the Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics).
1937		
April .. ..	..	Second Five-Year Plan fulfilled in 4½ years.
July 15 .. ..	..	Opening of Moscow-Volga Canal.
1938		
January 1 .. ..	..	Beginning of the Third Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy of the U.S.S.R.
July 29-August 11 ..	..	Soviet Army routs Japanese troops which had provoked the conflict in the Lake Khasan area.
1939		
March 10-21 .. ..	..	Eighteenth Congress of C.P.S.U. (B). Adopted decision to overtake and surpass capitalist countries in <i>per capita</i> production (a decision whose implementation was interrupted by the Great Patriotic War). Warned that the policy of "non-intervention", which gave a free hand to fascist aggression, would end in disaster for its initiators.

May—September	..	..	Soviet and Mongolian troops end Japanese military adventure in the Khalkhyn-Gol River area (Mongolian People's Republic).
May—August	..	..	Failure of Anglo-Franco-Soviet negotiations in Moscow on measures of collective security against fascist aggression.
August 23	..	..	Soviet-German Non-aggression Treaty signed.
November 1	..	..	Re-unification of Western Ukraine with the Ukrainian S.S.R.
November 2	..	..	Re-unification of Western Byelorussia with the Byelorussian S.S.R.
November 30	..	..	Beginning of Finnish-Soviet war.

1940

March 12	..	..	Peace Treaty between the U.S.S.R. and Finland signed.
June 28	..	..	Romania returns Bessarabia and transfers northern part of Bukovina to the U.S.S.R.
July 21	..	..	Formation of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian Soviet Socialist Republics.
August 2	..	..	Formation of Moldavian Soviet Republic (from October 12, 1924, it existed as an autonomous republic within the Ukrainian S.S.R.).
August 3	..	..	Lithuanian S.S.R. accepted into the U.S.S.R.
August 5	..	..	Latvian S.S.R. accepted into the U.S.S.R.
August 6	..	..	Estonian S.S.R. accepted into the U.S.S.R.

1941

June 22	..	..	Nazi Germany attacks the U.S.S.R. Beginning of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the German Nazi invaders and their allies.
September	..	..	Beginning of the heroic defence of Leningrad.
September 29—October 2	..	..	Moscow Conference of the U.S.S.R., United Kingdom and the U.S.A.
December 6	..	..	Beginning of the counter-offensive of Soviet troops and the rout Nazi troops in the battle of Moscow.

1942

January 1	..	..	Soviet Union signs Washington 26-Power Declaration.
May 26	..	..	Treaty signed between U.S.S.R. and Great Britain on Alliance in the War against Hitlerite Germany and her associates in Europe and on collaboration and mutual assistance thereafter.
June 11	..	..	Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. "Regarding the Principles applied to Mutual Assistance in Waging War against Aggression".
July—September	..	..	German forces launch attack in direction of Stalingrad. Stalingrad under siege.

1943

February 2	..	..	Victorious end to the battle of Stalingrad. Encircled German troops surrender.
August 5	..	..	Victorious end of the Kursk battle. The liberation of Orel and Belgorod.
November 28—December 1	..	..	Conference of the heads of the three Allied powers—the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the U.S.A., held in Teheran (Iran).

1944

January 14—27	..	..	Leningrad liberated from blockade after 900 days' siege.
April 8	..	..	Soviet troops reach Romanian and Czechoslovak borders. Military operations transferred to territories beyond the U.S.S.R.
August 31	..	..	Soviet troops liberate Bucharest.
September 16	..	..	Soviet troops liberate Sofia.
October 20	..	..	Soviet and Yugoslav troops liberate Belgrade.
October 23	..	..	Soviet troops enter German territory in East Prussia.
December 10	..	..	Soviet-French Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance.

1945

January 17	..	..	Soviet and Polish troops liberate Warsaw.
February 4—12	..	..	Crimean (Yalta) Conference of the three Allied powers—U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the U.S.A.
February 13	..	..	Soviet troops liberate Budapest from German troops.
April 11	..	..	U.S.S.R.-Yugoslavia Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-war Co-operation.
April 13	..	..	Soviet troops liberate Vienna from German troops.
April 21	..	..	U.S.S.R.-Poland Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-war Co-operation.
April 25	..	..	Soviet and Allied troops meet on the Elbe River near Torgau.

May 2	..	..	..	Soviet troops capture Berlin.
May 9	..	..	..	Victory Day in the U.S.S.R.
May 10	..	..	..	Soviet troops liberate Prague from German troops.
June 26	..	..	..	The U.S.S.R. signs (among 50 states) the U.N.O. Charter.
June 29	..	..	..	Treaty between the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia on the Re-unification of Trans-Carpathian Ukraine with the Ukrainian S.S.R.
July 17—August 2	..	..	..	U.S.S.R., Great Britain and U.S.A. tripartite conference at Potsdam.
August 9	..	..	..	Soviet Union declares war on Japan.
August 16	..	..	..	Treaty between the U.S.S.R. and Poland on Soviet-Polish state border.
September 2	..	..	..	Unconditional surrender of Japan.
1946				
February 27	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and the Mongolian People's Republic.
March 18	..	..	..	The Fourth (first post-war) Five-Year Plan of the national economy of the U.S.S.R. adopted by the Supreme Soviet.
July 29—October 15	..	..	..	Paris Peace Conference.
1947				
February 10	..	..	..	The signing of peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland in Paris.
December 14	..	..	..	The monetary reform and the abolition of rationing for food and manufactured goods (introduced during the war) carried out in U.S.S.R.
1948				
February 4	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and Romanian People's Republic.
February 18	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and Hungary.
March 18	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.
April 6	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and Finland.
October 12	..	..	..	Soviet Union recognises the Korean People's Democratic Republic.
1949				
September 25	..	..	..	First test of Soviet atomic bomb announced.
October 2	..	..	..	Soviet Union recognises the People's Republic of China.
October 16	..	..	..	Soviet Union recognises the German Democratic Republic.
1950				
February 14	..	..	..	Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the U.S.S.R. and People's Republic of China.
1951-1955				
1951				
March 12	..	..	..	Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopts Law on the Defence of Peace.
1952				
July 27	..	..	..	Volga-Don Canal opened.
October 5-14	..	..	..	Nineteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U. (B.). The adoption of the new Rules of the Party. The adoption of the name of the Party: The Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
1953				
March 5	..	..	..	J. V. Stalin dies.
August 20	..	..	..	First test of Soviet H-bomb announced.
1954				
June 27	..	..	..	First atomic power plant starts to operate in Obninsk, near Moscow.
November 29—December 2	..	..	..	The Moscow Conference of European countries—U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania—on safeguarding peace and security in Europe.
1955				
January 25	..	..	..	Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on the termination of the state of war between Soviet Union and Germany.
May 7	..	..	..	Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. annuls the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of May 26, 1942, and the Franco-Soviet Treaty of December 10, 1944.

May 14	..	..	..	Warsaw Treaty between Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the U.S.S.R. on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance to safeguard peace in Europe.
December 29	..	..	..	Kuibyshev Power Station commissioned on the Volga.
1956				
January	..	..	..	First Soviet Antarctic expedition.
February 14-25	..	..	..	Twentieth Congress of C.P.S.U.
July 14	..	..	..	Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopts new law on state pensions.
July 16	..	..	..	Karelo-Finnish S.S.R. transformed into the Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic within the R.S.F.S.R.
October 9	..	..	..	Soviet-Japanese Declaration on ending of state of war and re-establishing Diplomatic and Consular Relations.
October 30	..	..	..	Declaration of the Government of the U.S.S.R. on the Principles for Further Developing and Strengthening Friendship and Co-operation Between the Soviet Union and other Socialist States.
1957				
April 22	..	..	..	Decision of Presidium of U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet on establishing International Lenin Peace Prizes.
April	..	..	..	First Synchrocyclotron goes into operation at Dubna, near Moscow.
August 2	..	..	..	Party and Government decision to speed up housing and to end the housing problem in the U.S.S.R. within ten to twelve years.
October 4	..	..	..	The world's first sputnik launched in the U.S.S.R.
November 14-16	..	..	..	Meeting of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties of socialist countries in Moscow.
November 16-19	..	..	..	Meeting of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties of over 60 countries in Moscow.
December 5	..	..	..	<i>Lenin</i> atomic icebreaker launched.
1958				
March 27-31	..	..	..	Supreme Soviet adopts a Law for the further development of agriculture under which the machine and tractor stations are re-organised and the collective farms empowered to purchase tractors and other machines from the M.T.S.
1959				
January 2	..	..	..	First Soviet space rocket to the Moon launched.
January 15-22	..	..	..	U.S.S.R. population census.
January 27-February 5	..	..	..	Special 21st Congress of the C.P.S.U.
September 14	..	..	..	Second Soviet space rocket places pennant with Soviet coat-of-arms on the Moon.
October 4	..	..	..	Third space rocket launched, carrying automatic interplanetary station which photographed the reverse side of the Moon invisible from Earth (pictures received October 27).
1959-1965	..	..	..	Soviet Seven-Year Plan.
1960				
May 7	..	..	..	U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet adopts law on completing the transition in 1960 of all factory and office workers to the 7-hour working day.
May 15	..	..	..	First spaceship launched in U.S.S.R.
November 17	..	..	..	Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University opens in Moscow.
November	..	..	..	Moscow conference of representatives of 81 Communist and Workers' parties.
1961				
February 21	..	..	..	Novosti Press Agency set up by public bodies.
April 12	..	..	..	First manned space flight made by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.
October 17-31	..	..	..	Twenty-second Congress of C.P.S.U. Party programme adopted, programme for building communism.
November 28	..	..	..	First unit of Bratsk hydro-electric station completed on River Angara (Siberia).
1962				
March 16	..	..	..	First <i>Cosmos</i> artificial Earth satellite launched in U.S.S.R.
July 9-14	..	..	..	World congress for universal disarmament and peace held in Moscow.
August 11-15	..	..	..	Group space flight by Andrian Nikolayev in <i>Vostok-3</i> , and Pavel Popovich in <i>Vostok-4</i> .
November 1	..	..	..	First Soviet Mars probe.

1963			
April 2	..	..	<i>Luna-4</i> launched.
June 16-19	..	..	Valentina Tereshkova makes first space flight by woman (<i>Vostok-6</i>).
August 5	..	..	Moscow Treaty banning atomic weapon tests in the air, cosmic space and underwater concluded by Soviet Union, Britain and U.S.A.
November 28	..	..	Unified power system for Siberia completed.
1964			
April 26	..	..	Beloyarsk atomic power station named after Kurchatov (Sverdlovsk Region) commissioned.
October 12-13	..	..	First three-seater spaceship (<i>Voskhod</i>) launched with Vladimir Komarov, Konstantin Feoktistov and Dr. Boris Egorov.
1965			
March 18	..	..	Spaceship <i>Voskhod-2</i> launched with Pavel Belyayev and Alexei Leonov. Leonov makes first space "walk".
April 23	..	..	Communications satellite <i>Molniya-1</i> launched in U.S.S.R.
May 20	..	..	Soviet <i>Zond-3</i> automatic station photographs reverse side of the Moon.
September 30	..	..	Decree of C.P.S.U. central committee and U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers on improving management of industry.
October 4	..	..	Decree of C.P.S.U. central committee and U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers on improving planning and increasing economic incentives for industrial production.
November 16	..	..	<i>Venus-3</i> automatic interplanetary station launched. On March 1 it delivered a U.S.S.R. pennant to Venus.
1966			
January 4-10	..	..	Tashkent meeting of Indian Prime Minister and Pakistani President. Tashkent Declaration signed on January 10.
February 3	..	..	<i>Luna-9</i> makes first soft landing on Moon (on February 4 the station transmitted picture of the Moonscape to Earth).
March 29-April 8	..	..	Twenty-third Congress of the C.P.S.U.
April 3	..	..	<i>Luna-10</i> placed in round-the-Moon orbit becoming the first artificial satellite of the Moon.
July 6	..	..	Soviet Union launches heavy cosmic station <i>Proton-3</i> and complex of scientific-measuring apparatus.
August 24	..	..	<i>Luna-11</i> launched and becomes second Soviet artificial satellite of the Moon.
October 20	..	..	Fourth in series of <i>Molniya-1</i> communications satellites launched.
October 22	..	..	<i>Luna-12</i> launched towards Moon and becomes third Soviet artificial satellite of the Moon.
November 2	..	..	Announcement on series manufacture of <i>Antheus</i> (AN-22) aircraft.
December 24	..	..	<i>Luna-13</i> makes soft landing on Moon's surface. December 25-26, station sends pictures to Earth of Moon's panorama.
1967			
October 1	..	..	Colour TV transmissions begin in U.S.S.R.
October 18	..	..	<i>Venus-4</i> makes soft landing on Venus and transmits data to Earth.
October 30	..	..	Automatic link-up of two unmanned space satellites. Then uncoupled and one returned to Earth.
November	..	..	70,000. million electron-volt synchrocyclotron commissioned at Serpukhov, near Moscow.
November	..	..	World's tallest man-made structure, the Ostankino TV tower (1,750 ft.) commissioned.
1966-1970	..	..	Sixth Five-Year Plan.

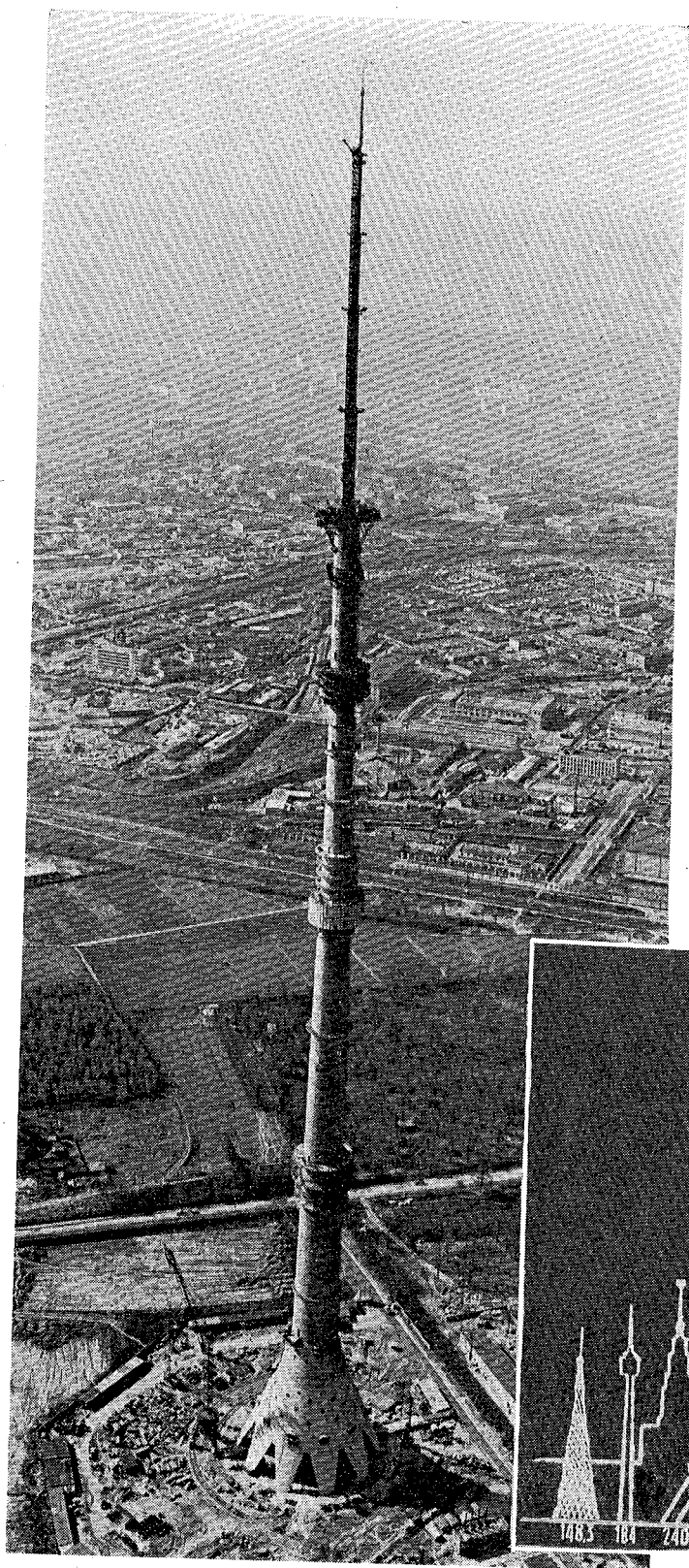
Historical Outline

The present-day territory of the U.S.S.R. was occupied by numerous peoples from earliest times. The first settlements appeared in the southern regions: Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Crimea. From there primitive man moved northwards.

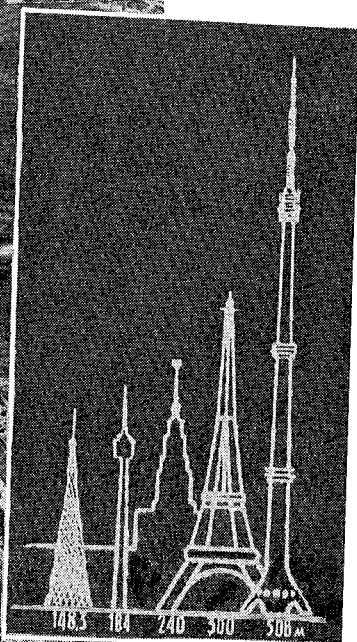
The earliest slave-owning societies arose in Transcaucasia and Central Asia. With the disintegration of the primitive communal structure in the 3rd-6th centuries, new feudal social

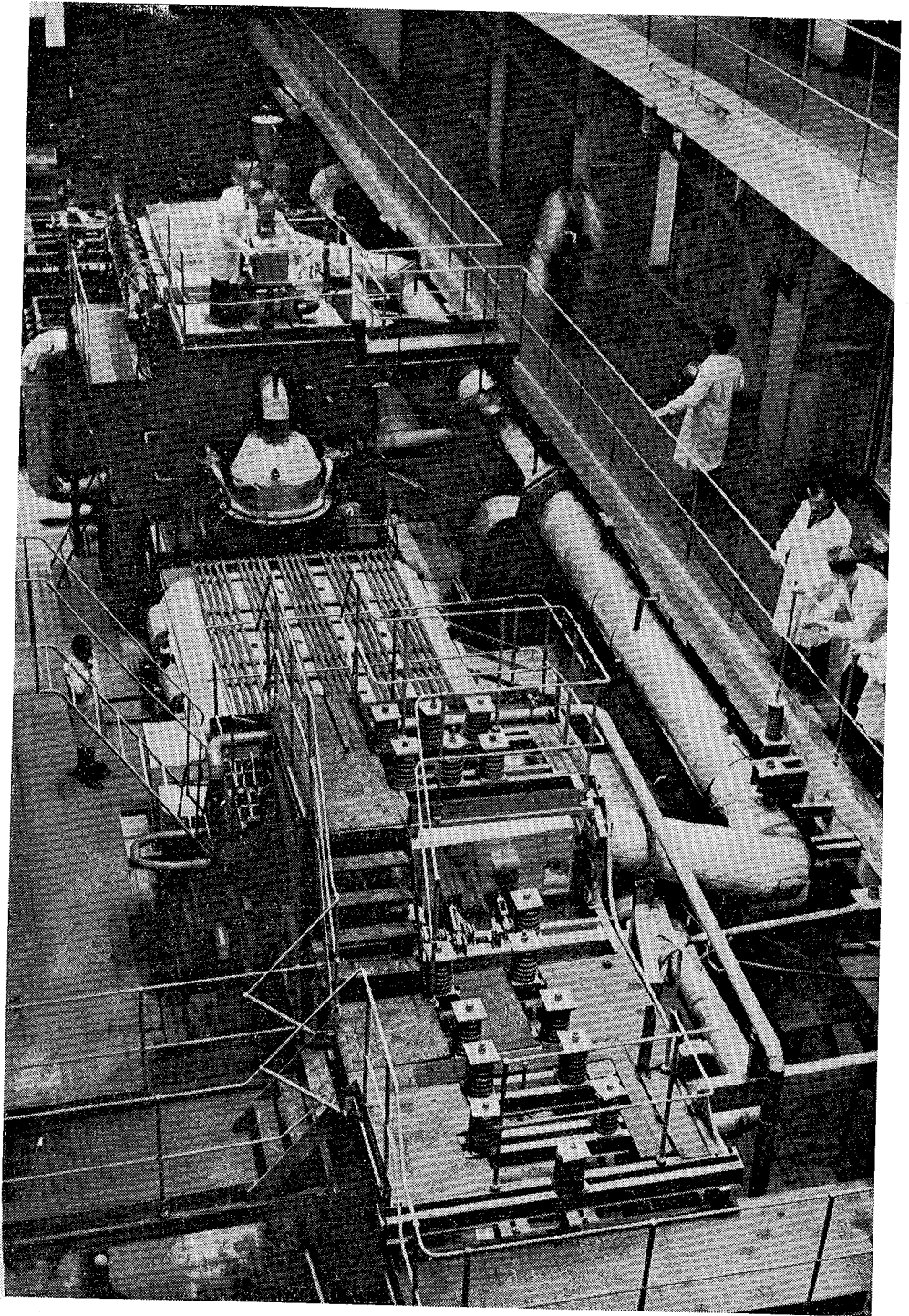
relations began to emerge and develop. In the 4th-5th centuries, feudal relations were established in Armenia, and in the 3rd-6th centuries they gradually began to form on the territory of Azerbaijan. By the 6th century a feudal state had been formed in Georgia.

The ancient Russian state with its capital in Kiev arose in the second half of the 9th century. In the period from the end of the 15th to the beginning of the 17th century a centralised

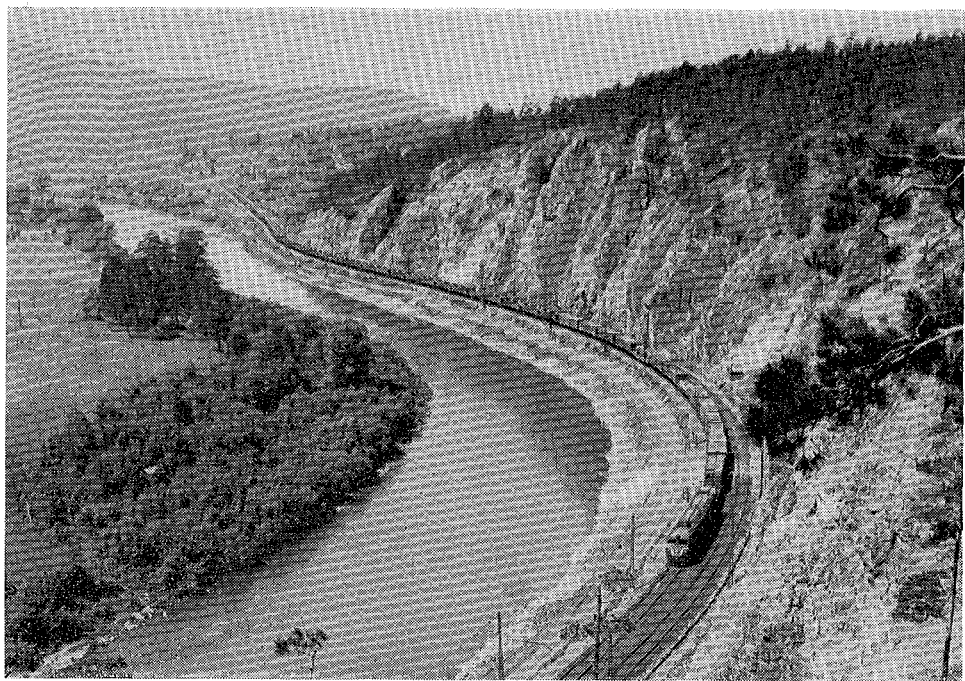


Moscow's new TV mast at Ostankino is the tallest man-made structure in the world. It is built of concrete except for the final 15-ton tip which is of metal. Its height of 1,730 feet is shown here against the old Moscow TV tower, the German one at Stuttgart, Moscow University, and Eiffel Tower.



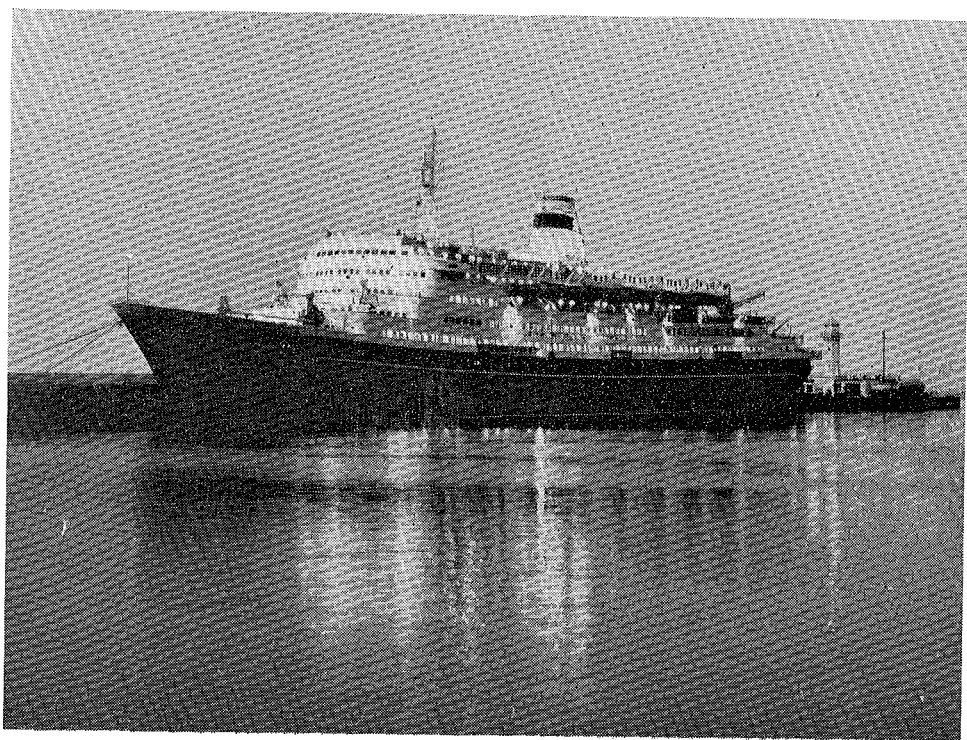


The powerhouse of the future is foreshadowed by this M.H.D. (magneto-hydrodynamic generator U-02) which is the model on which the Soviet Union is basing the 25 megawatt generating station shortly to be built. Such a plant dispenses with heavy rotating parts, using instead a stream of hot ionised gas.



The Trans-Siberian Railway. A long goods train being hauled by an electric locomotive along the Moscow to Lake Baikal section.

The Soviet liner "Alexander Pushkin" at Yalta in the Crimea. With its sister-ships "Taras Shevchenko" and "Ivan Franko" these modern liners of nearly 20,000 tons travel the Baltic to Leningrad, the Mediterranean to Sochi on the Black Sea, and cross the Atlantic to Montreal in Canada.





The new Soviet plane AN-22 can take a load of 100 tons, and has room for three buses or 15-20 tractors, or 720 passengers. Its four turbo-prop engines each develop 15,000 h.p. Cruising speed 462 m.p.h.; non-stop range 6,875 miles.

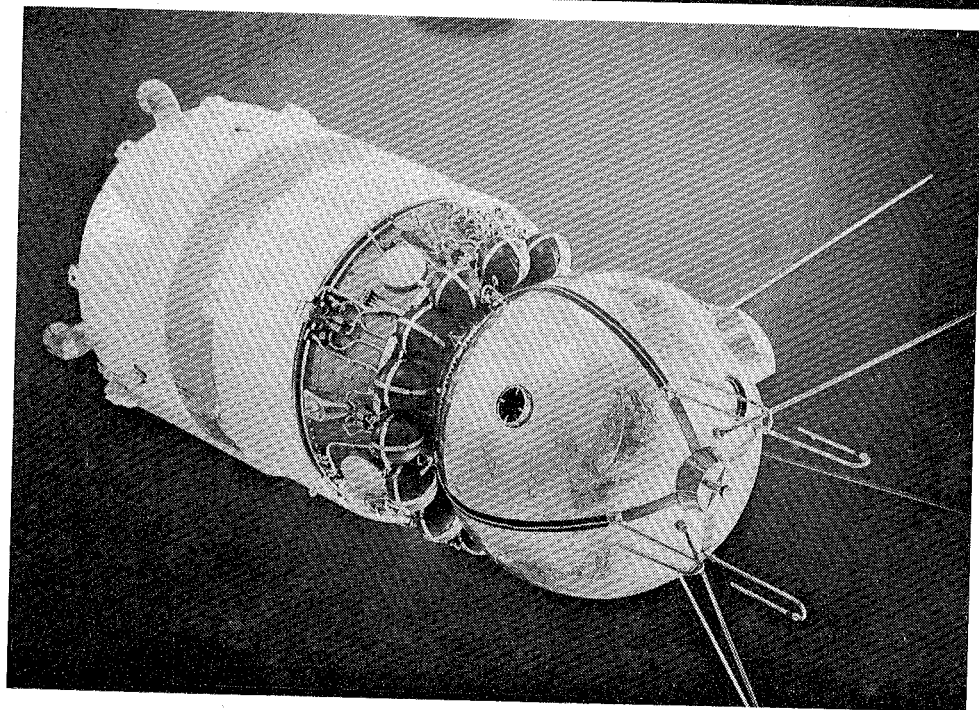
"The Flying Crane"—one of M. L. Mil's jet helicopters, is here showing that it can safely transport the field laboratory hut of a geological party.

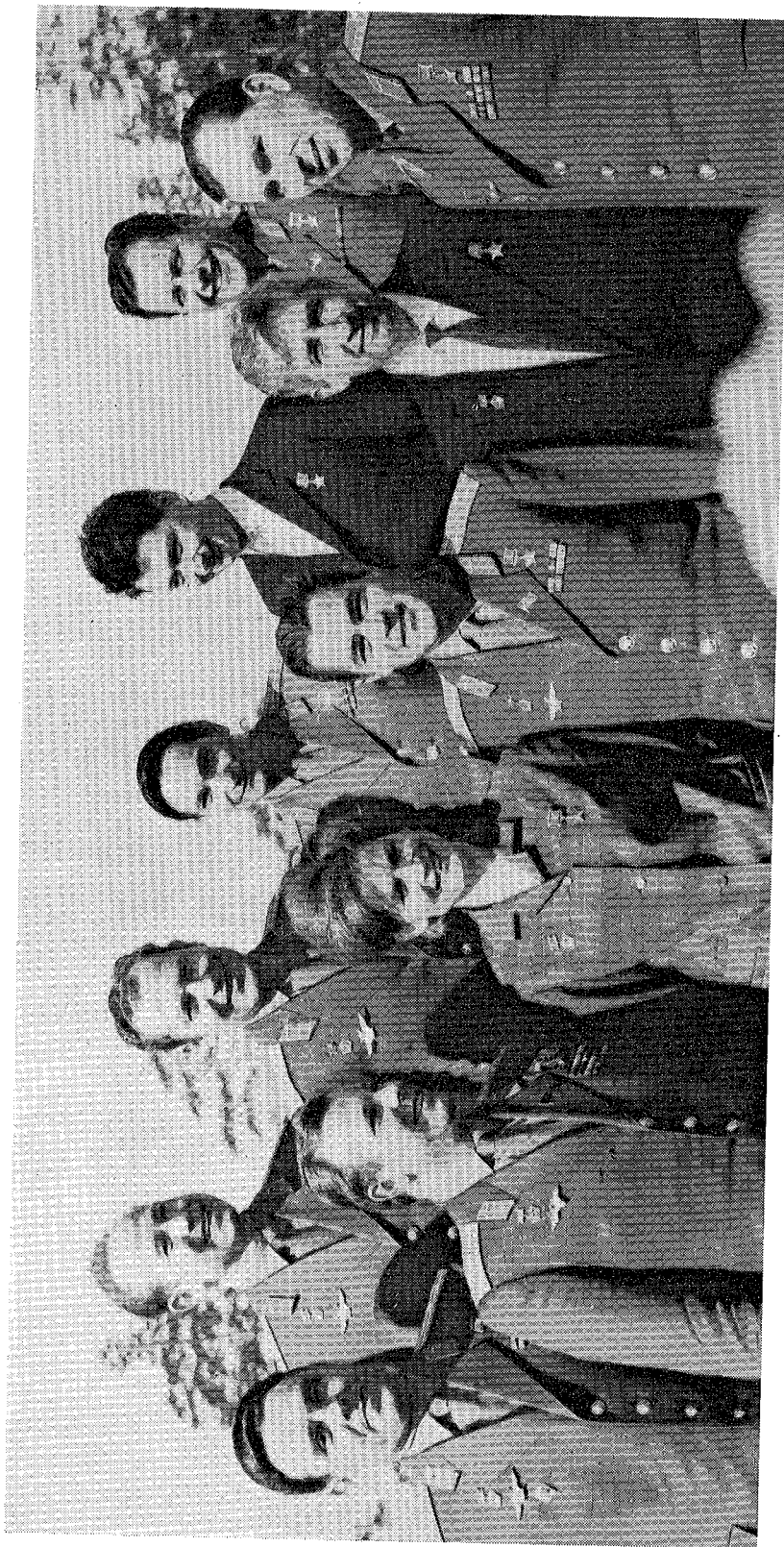


A great loss to the Soviet space programme was the death in January 1966 of Sergei Korolev, shown here. For over 30 years he was an outstanding designer in the field of rocket technique and space exploration.



The Soviet spaceship "Vostok". The sphere in front was Yuri Gagarin's cabin and the part which brought him back to Earth.





The gallant band of Soviet astronauts: from left to right (front) Vladimir Komarov, Yuri Gagarin, Valentina Nikolaeva-Tereshkova, Andrian Nikolaev, Konstantin Feoktistov, Pavel Belyaev; (back) Alexei Leonov, Herman Titov, Valeri Bykovsky, Boris Yegorov, Pavel Popovich. The first-named was killed in 1966 when, following his second flight, his capsule encountered difficulties whilst returning to Earth.

Russian state was formed and was consolidated through the unification of the Russian lands around Moscow. From the 17th to the first half of the 19th century the feudal-serf system was intensified, resulting in the rise and development of capitalist relations. Then a period of pre-monopolistic capitalism set in (1861–1900) bringing into being an organised movement of the working class.

In 1895 the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class, around which the first Russian Marxist revolutionaries rallied, was organised in St. Petersburg by Lenin. The 2nd Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (1903) established a Marxist party whose programme envisaged the seizure of power by the working class. Under Lenin's guidance it led the peoples of Russia for an assault on the tsarist autocracy.

In 1905–07 a bourgeois democratic revolution took place in Russia, and although it suffered defeat, it was, as Lenin put it, a dress rehearsal for the 1917 October revolution.

An important step towards the October revolution was the February revolution of 1917 which overthrew tsardom. The people demanded an end to the war and a democratic government. For a certain time there was a dual power in the country—the power of the bourgeoisie, as embodied in the Provisional government, and the power of the working people as embodied in the Soviets of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies.

The policies of the Provisional government brought the country to the brink of national catastrophe: the war was continued, industry and transport were disorganised and shortage of raw materials and fuel brought the closure of hundreds of factories and mass unemployment. There was an acute shortage of food, particularly in the towns and in the army, and food prices soared. The country was in the throes of financial bankruptcy (the market was flooded with paper money) and there was a tremendous foreign debt estimated at some 16,000 million roubles in gold.

Conditions had matured in Russia for an armed insurrection of the working class—the October Socialist Revolution. Under Lenin's leadership, a Revolutionary Military Committee, which became the legal staff headquarters for organising the uprising, was established in the Petrograd Soviet. Workers' detachments in the capital numbered 40,000, and in other towns they reached the figure of 200,000. The strength of the revolutionary soldiers in the Petrograd garrison was 150,000 men. The Baltic Fleet of 700 warships and auxiliary vessels with 80,000 men went over to the side of the revolution. The revolution was supported by millions of soldiers at the front and in the rear.

On November 7–8 (October 25–26 old style), the uprising was victorious in Petrograd, and between November 7–15 in Moscow. Even the Cossack troops on whom the Provisional government relied so heavily refused to obey

its orders and remained in their barracks. It was a bloodless insurrection in Petrograd, with casualties on both sides amounting to no more than a dozen men.

On November 7, the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets opened in Petrograd and in the name of the working people proclaimed the transfer of all power to the Soviets of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies. After Lenin's report, the Congress adopted the first decrees of the Soviet state: the Decree on Peace, proposing that all belligerent countries should immediately conclude a just and democratic peace, and the Decree on Land, providing for the nationalisation of the land and its transfer to the peasants. The Congress set up the first workers' and peasants' government—the Council of People's Commissars, headed by Lenin.

The democratic reforms of the first Programme of the Russian Communists included the introduction of the eight-hour working day, abolition of the social hierarchy, equal rights for women and the separation of the school from the church.

By February 1918, Soviet government had spread throughout the country. However, the bourgeoisie, overthrown by the revolution, refused to recognise the people's power. With foreign political and financial support the White-guard generals Kolchak, Denikin, Wrangel, Yudenich and others started a bloody civil war in an attempt to crush the Soviet government. Simultaneously the Entente Powers began armed intervention against the young Soviet Republic. From 1918 to 1920 the Red Army of workers and peasants had to resist an enemy armed to the teeth. In a fierce struggle the Soviet people defended the October Revolution and drove the enemy from their country.

In 1917–18 all big industrial enterprises, banks, transport and foreign trade were nationalised. The Soviet government freed the peoples of Russia from national oppression and proclaimed full equality and sovereignty of all nationalities. On March 3, 1918, a peace treaty was signed and Russia dissociated herself from the First World War.

The October revolution brought the peoples of Russia long-awaited peace and democratic freedoms. It abolished landed proprietorship, exploitation of man by man and national oppression and put forward a programme for transforming the country's economy from a capitalist into a socialist one.

After the end of the Civil War and foreign military intervention, the efforts of the Soviet people were directed towards restoring the war-ravaged economy and peaceful construction. In 1919, the 8th Congress of the Russian Communist Party adopted a second programme which put forward the task of building socialism. The 8th All-Russian Congress of Soviets (December 1920) approved a plan for the electrification of the Soviet republic—GOELRO—which envisaged the building of

30 large power stations, in the course of the following 10-15 years, with a total output of 1½ million kW. and the growth of industrial production by 180-200 per cent in comparison with 1913. The plan outlined the ways and means of industrialising the country: rational location of industries, reclamation and development of the country's eastern areas, utilisation of the natural resources, and so on.

In December 1922 the 1st Congress of Soviets ratified the Declaration and Treaty on the Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The first Constitution of the U.S.S.R. was adopted at the 2nd Congress of Soviets in January 1924. It granted all nations, members of the Union, the right to self-determination and abolished all national and national-religious privileges and restrictions.

By 1926 industrial production in the U.S.S.R. reached the 1913 level. Problems of industrialisation financed from profits of state-owned enterprises, trade and tax revenues and state loans were successfully tackled. A policy of strict austerity was necessary.

Up to 1929 the practice of economic management was based on annual national economic plans. Beginning with 1929 economic planning was effected on a five-year basis: 1929-32—the first five-year plan, 1933-37—the second five-year plan, and 1938-42—the third five-year plan.

Lenin's co-operative plan, which envisaged a transition from small peasant holdings to large socialist state-owned and collective farms on voluntary principles, was the backbone of the Soviet government's policy in the countryside. In 1929 the mass campaign by peasants for collective farms started overgrowing into the nationwide collectivisation of agriculture.

The 'thirties marked the sweeping development of socialism on all fronts. Workers were mastering machinery and new techniques. The number of higher technical schools in the country increased ten-fold under the first five-year plan and the number of specialised technical secondary schools went up four-fold. Some 100,000 engineers and technicians were made available for the growing heavy industry. The country was provided with fresh sources of scholars, scientists, engineers and technicians. The output of electricity rose more than two and a half times over. GOELRO was fulfilled.

During the second five-year plan the technical reconstruction of the entire national economy was launched. The volume of capital construction work doubled, compared with the first five-year plan. Collectivisation of agriculture was completed and a cultural revolution ensuring the renaissance of the formerly backward nations was in full swing.

In December 1936 the 8th (special) All-Union Congress of Soviets adopted a new Constitution of the U.S.S.R. which established the principle of universal equality, proclaimed universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot (instead of the formerly existing multi-

stage elections and open voting), and introduced a new system of organisation for state power and administration. The new constitution, endorsed nearly 20 years after the October revolution, proclaimed the victory of socialism in the U.S.S.R. (the 2nd Programme of the Communist Party had, in the main, been fulfilled).

All the major targets of the first two five-year plans were overfulfilled. The war against Nazi Germany, which treacherously attacked the U.S.S.R. in June 1941, prevented the Soviet people from fulfilling their third five-year plan. The country's national economy had to be switched to a war footing. Over 1,500 industrial enterprises together with their workers, engineering and technical staff were evacuated to the east of the country from the threatened regions from June to October 1941.

The German command hurled against the U.S.S.R. some five million officers and men, over 50,000 artillery guns and mortars and more than 3,500 tanks. Towards the end of 1941 the fascist troops succeeded in occupying a considerable part of European Russia. But the Soviet people displayed mass heroism in their stubborn resistance to the enemy, in fighting and in work. First they checked the enemy's advance and then started driving them back.

The first important victory was won at Moscow in December 1941. The defeat of the Nazis before Moscow dispelled the myth about the invincibility of the German army and frustrated the *blitzkrieg* plans of the Hitlerites. A powerful guerilla movement sprang up in the rear of the enemy.

The second important victory was scored in the winter of 1943 at Stalingrad. It was a turning point in the course of the Second World War. In the summer of 1943, the German army suffered its third crushing defeat—at Kursk.

Soviet industry and agriculture provided the country's armed forces with everything they needed.

In 1944, the war entered its final stage. The bloc of fascist countries fell apart under the shattering blows of the Soviet Army. The Soviet armed forces pursued the Hitler troops into Germany. On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered.

On August 9, in accordance with its Allied obligations, the U.S.S.R. entered the war against Japan. On September 2, 1945, the Japanese government signed the act of unconditional surrender. The Second World War ended.

The Soviet army brought freedom to the peoples of many countries in Europe and Asia. Eleven states with a population of over 700 million left the capitalist system. A world system of socialist countries was formed occupying more than a quarter of the world's territory and comprising 35 per cent of its population.

The Soviet-German front was the main front

in the Second World War, engaging more than 75 per cent of the armed forces of Nazi Germany. Of all the countries in the anti-Hitler coalition, the U.S.S.R. suffered the greatest material losses—equivalent to 500,000 million U.S. dollars. Some 20 million Soviet people were killed, 1,710 towns and urban settlements were demolished, over 70,000 villages were razed to the ground. The Nazis destroyed some 32,000 industrial enterprises, wrecked over 40,000 miles of railway track, and ruined and plundered 98,000 collective farms, 1,876 state farms and 2,890 machine and tractor stations.

Such was the condition of the post-war economy which the Soviet people had to rehabilitate. The fourth five-year plan (1946–50), adopted in March 1946, set the task of reconstructing the war-damaged areas, of achieving and surpassing the pre-war industrial and agricultural level. The plan was fulfilled in 1950 ahead of schedule. In 1952 directives for the 1951–55 five-year plan were approved and its targets were also accomplished.

In the course of socialist construction the Communist Party and the entire Soviet people encountered great difficulties, not only in foreign relations but in home affairs as well. After Lenin died in January 1924, Stalin became general secretary of the central committee of the party and head of the Soviet government.

Occupying this post for a long period, Stalin, along with the other leading members of the party and the Soviet government, worked actively to put into practice Lenin's behests. As a theoretician and an able organiser he headed the party's fight against the Trotskyites, the right-wing opportunists and bourgeois nationalists, and against the intrigues and machinations ensuing from capitalist encirclement. In this political and ideological struggle Stalin acquired great prestige and popularity.

However, Stalin's name began to be incorrectly associated with all the achievements of the Soviet people. The successes of the Communist Party and of the Soviet country and the tribute paid to him turned his head. Such were the circumstances in which the cult of Stalin's personality was established. This cult of the individual was extremely detrimental to the advance of Soviet society, but it could not and did not change the nature of the Soviet social system. Socialism was constructed in the U.S.S.R., the Soviet people won an historic victory in the Great Patriotic War, and the national economy and culture flourished anew.

The directives for the sixth five-year plan for 1956–60 were approved by the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in February 1956. The congress developed the Marxist-Leninist theory on the peaceful co-existence of the two world social and economic systems, on averting war in our time and on the forms of transition of different countries to socialism. By that time socialism had triumphed completely and finally. The congress entrusted

the central committee of the party with drafting the third party programme.

In February 1959 the 21st C.P.S.U. Congress endorsed the seven-year national economic plan, which was fulfilled in 1965. By the end of the plan the country was generating 101 times more electricity than it did in 1928, when the GOELRO plan was effected. The Soviet people were confidently making a reality of Lenin's idea: "Communism is Soviet power plus electrification of the whole country."

The 22nd Congress of the C.P.S.U. (October 1961) adopted the third programme of the party, a programme of communist construction. In 1964–65 measures were taken for a further advance in industry and agriculture. The structure of industrial management was modified and decentralised in keeping with the level of development of the productive forces and the methods of planning and material incentives were improved.

In March-April 1966, the 23rd Congress of the C.P.S.U. summed up the results of the seven-year plan and approved directives for the 1966–70 five-year plan. Fulfilment of the new five-year plan will ensure a further advance of the national economy and will create conditions for the fuller satisfaction of the material and cultural needs of the Soviet people.

In October 1967, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet approved the economic plans for 1968 to 1970. In 1968 the national income will go up by 6.8 per cent, compared with 1966, and industrial output will increase by 8.1 per cent (output of means of production by 7.9 per cent and output of consumer goods by 8.6 per cent).

The 1968 State Budget was approved, with revenue set at 123,911,922,000 roubles and expenditure at 123,603,547,000 roubles.

Over 50,000 million roubles of the budget were allocated to finance the economy, about 46,000 million for social and cultural purposes, 6,000 million for raising living standards, and 16,700 million for the country's defence.

The Supreme Soviet approved decrees on the reduction of income tax for lower paid workers, on increasing pensions for invalid servicemen, on lowering the pensionable age for women textile workers and for collective farmers, and on additional benefits for people working in the north and other areas where conditions are more arduous. The national minimum wage was increased.

The economic plans for 1968–70 were drafted in accordance with the five-year plan directives of the 23rd C.P.S.U. Congress, taking into account the results of the country's economic development in 1966 and 1967, the first two years of the five-year period.

A considerably higher rate of growth of consumer goods production was characteristic of the country's economic development in 1966 and 1967.

The new system of planning and economic incentives, making profitability an essential component of work in industry, is now

operating at more than 5,500 enterprises, which account for one-third of the country's total industrial output and for 45 per cent of profits in industry. The new system will be operative throughout the whole of industry by the end of 1968.

People's living standards are rising more rapidly than envisaged in the five-year plan directives. The average annual growth of real incomes in the period 1966-67 was 5.9 per cent, instead of 5.3 per cent, as envisaged in the directives. The main feature of the annual plans for 1968 to 1970 is the considerably higher rate of growth of living standards.

Monthly wages of factory and office workers will rise to an average of 108.6 roubles in 1968,

6 per cent higher than in 1967. By the end of the five-year period (1970) wages will have gone up by 20.5 per cent.

The national income will go up by 6.8 per cent in 1968, and by 39 per cent over the full five-year period.

Gross industrial output will increase by 8.1 per cent in 1968, and over the five-year period by 53 per cent, instead of the 47-50 per cent envisaged in the plan directives. Volume of gross agricultural production in 1968 will be 7.4 per cent above this year's figure, which is about the same as for 1966, a record harvest year.

By the end of the five years (1970), more than 60 million people will have been provided with new flats or improved housing conditions.

FURTHER READING:

- 23rd Congress of the C.P.S.U., 1966.* Texts of main reports, resolutions and directives. (3s. 6d.)
- In Addition to Wages.* Factual account of Soviet public consumption funds and the way they supplement earnings. (1s.)
- Industry.* Illustrated account of growth and transformation of Soviet industry from 1958 to 1970. (1s.)
- Social Security.* (1s.)
- 50th Anniversary Theses.* (2s.)
- Soviet Economic Reform.* (3s. 6d.)
- Housing Construction.* (1s.)
- Plan Problems and Prospects.* (2s. 6d.)
- Soviet Weekly.* (6d.)
- Obtainable from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.7.

Printed by
Farleigh Press Ltd.
(T.U.),
Watford, Herts.
