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Stalin's Cancelled Projects



Termination of construction of the Transpolar Highway

On March 25, 1953, a special resolution was passed by the Council of Ministers of the USSR to halt the construction and preserve the Transpolar Railway. What was this railway? After the end of World War II, in the face of the growing military threat posed by the United States, the top military and political leadership of our country decided to build a naval base in Igarka on the Yenisei River. The plan was to build a railway to Igarka to connect the central regions of the country with the Yenisei River. The road was supposed to run from the pre-Ural station of Chum to Salekhard, then to Yermakovo and Igarka. In the future, construction could continue from Igarka to Dudinka. There was already a railway from Dudinka to Norilsk.

Construction began in 1947. It involved more than 80 thousand people, about a third of them—special contingent, the rest—freelancers. The work was carried out in difficult conditions, but in five years the road was practically built. A telegraph connection was established between the

northern territories of the country and Moscow. There were trains running, but only in a small section between Pur and Novy Urengoy, the road was not yet put into operation.

After Stalin's death, the decision was made to preserve the road. However, when the calculations were made, it was found that preserving the road would cost approximately the same amount as it had already been spent, and the road was simply abandoned. As a result, we lost billions of rubles and our hopes for a rapid and efficient development of the North.

Back in the 1970s, we had to use helicopters to transport workers and housing for the oil workers to the construction sites in Nadym and Novy Urengoy. We then had to transport concrete slabs, build runways for airplanes, and use airplanes to transport parts for a housing factory, assemble the factory, cast concrete slabs on site, build houses, and so on. As a result, the construction projects in these oil towns cost us tens of billions of gold rubles. If the Transpolar Railway were operational, we could get all of this for a much lower cost.

The road was abandoned, but the topic has not been forgotten. The need to restore the Transpolar Highway was discussed in the early 2000s. In 2003, the resumption of construction was announced, but it was postponed for ten years, to 2013.

In 2018, during Vladimir Putin's election campaign, they returned to this topic and said that the road will be built anyway: we are gaining sovereignty, the country is recovering, the economy is growing, and we need a Transpolar road, despite the fact that even today, after seventy years, the prospects for building this road frighten our citizens. western "partners".

Construction of a tunnel crossing to Sakhalin has been halted

The tunnel crossing to Sakhalin was necessary primarily for moving a significant military group to the island in the event of a threat on the Far Eastern borders of our Fatherland. The ferry crossing did not allow for the rapid transfer of a significant group, and there were no large cargo planes at the time. Additionally, the construction of a bridge or tunnel ensured the effective integration of the island into the national economic complex.

The construction of the bridge was comparable in cost to the construction of a tunnel, and the tunnel was chosen. In the spring of 1950, a decision was made to build a 540-kilometer railway and a 10-kilometer tunnel from Cape Lazarev to Cape Pogibi. By March 1953, a 120-kilometer railway line had been constructed on the mainland, a mine shaft had been dug, dams had been built, piers had been constructed, and so on.

On March 21, 1953, construction was halted. Essentially, the halt in tunnel construction benefited those who did not want the USSR to strengthen its presence in the Far East, those who dreamed of a different architecture of international relations and a different balance of power.

The topic of a tunnel or a bridge to Sakhalin is still relevant today. This issue is being discussed at the highest level, at the level of the country's president. Even today, the cost of such projects is extremely high, making it difficult to make a political decision. However, in 1950, the country's top political leadership, led by Joseph Stalin, made this decision.



Refusal to follow Stalin's legacy in developing a theory of social development

Stalin was always concerned about finding the theoretical foundations for the further development of Soviet society and the state. After the 19th Party Congress in October 1952, the Central Committee established three independent departments: Philosophy and History, Economics and Law, and Natural and Technical Sciences. D.I. Chesnokov, a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee and the editor-in-chief of the journal "Kommunist," became the head of the Philosophy and History Department. A.M. Rumyantsev, a member of the Central Committee, was appointed head of the Economics Department. Stalin set them the task of revitalizing theoretical work in the party, and to give an analysis of new processes and phenomena in the world. D.I. Chesnokov recalled that Stalin said then: "*Without theory, we are death, death, death!..*"

A little earlier, in 1951, Stalin said to D.T. Shepilov, head of the Department of Agitation and Propaganda: *"We are now thinking of carrying out very large-scale economic measures. We are reorganizing our economy on a truly scientific basis. In order to do this, we need our people, our cadres, and our youth to know real political economy. The situation is now such that either we will prepare our people, our managers, and our economic leaders on the basis of science, or we will perish. This is the question posed by history."*

Stalin looked deep into the future, but immediately after Stalin's death, discussions about developing a scientific theory ceased. All the people who had been appointed by Stalin to positions of leadership in the party and state were demoted to secondary and tertiary positions, and instead of seeking new theoretical foundations for the country's development, a dogmatic repetition of the principles of Marxism-Leninism began. As a result, a single mistake or deliberate actions to abandon Stalin's legacy led to significant challenges in the crucial area of ideology.

The curtailment of Stalin's plan for nature transformation

In October 1948, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) adopted a resolution titled "On the Plan for Field-Protective Forest Plantations, the Introduction of Grass-Field Crop Rotations, and the Construction of Ponds and Reservoirs to Ensure High and Sustainable Yields in the Steppe and Forest-Steppe Regions of the European Part of the USSR." This plan was immediately referred to in the press as the "Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature."

The comprehensive program for scientific nature management envisaged that 120 million hectares of land would be reclaimed from the steppe zone and put into agricultural use over a period of 15 years, more than four million hectares of forest would be planted, and state-owned field protection strips would be established with a length of over five thousand kilometers. These strips were intended to protect the fields from the hot, southeastern dry winds.

In addition to the main state forest belts that stretch for hundreds of kilometers, local forest belts were planted around individual fields, on the slopes of ravines, along old and new reservoirs, on sandy soils, etc.

According to the plan, methods of field cultivation were improved, and black fallow, autumn plowing, and stubble burning were introduced. The system of using mineral and organic fertilizers was improved, and selected seeds of high-yielding varieties adapted to local conditions were sown. Investments in agriculture increased, and collective and state farms received new equipment.

All of this allowed for high yields in the first year of Stalin's plan implementation: grain yields increased by up to 30%, vegetables by up to 70%, and grasses by up to 200%. A solid feed base was established for the development of animal husbandry. Machine-tractor stations played a significant role in the implementation of the plan.

With such a rapid growth rate of agriculture, we could have completely met our domestic food needs by 1960 and started exporting. However, in 1953, the implementation of the plan was halted, and even worse, forest plantations were cut down, and 570 forest protection stations were closed.

All the equipment that had been used in accordance with Stalin's plan for the transformation of nature—cars, tractors, combines, etc.—was transferred to the virgin lands. Soon, at Khrushchev's initiative, the machine-tractor stations were also closed.

The issue of our country's food security has not been resolved yet.



Abolition of honor courts

The Courts of Honor were introduced in March 1947 by a resolution of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks). According to this resolution,

special bodies were established in ministries and central departments to review cases of anti-patriotic, anti-state, and anti-social actions committed by senior officials, operational personnel, and researchers in the ministries and central departments of the USSR, provided that these actions were not subject to criminal prosecution. The resolution required the establishment of Courts of Honor in the ministries of Health, Trade, and Finance within two weeks. In 1947 alone, 82 Courts of Honor were held.

These courts primarily dealt with manifestations of cosmopolitanism and subservience to the bourgeois culture of the West, which was quite common among the intelligentsia and was reflected in Sergei Mikhalkov's fable written in those years:

*We know there are other families,
Where our people are criticized and reviled,
Where they look with emotion
For foreign stickers...
And lard... they eat Russian!*

It should be noted that the Courts of Honor did not apply to ordinary citizens of our country, nor did they apply to regional-level employees. They only applied to federal-level ministries and central agencies. From 1947 to 1953, the Courts of Honor were held repeatedly, but they were forgotten after Stalin's death.

Stopping annual price reductions and eliminating individual entrepreneurship

Under Stalin, the economy was based on natural indicators such as tons, meters, etc. For each type of product, control figures were set according to the plan. This allowed for the restoration of the country's economy, which had been devastated during the Great Patriotic War, the implementation of a rearmament program, the resolution of major infrastructure challenges, and the annual reduction of prices starting in 1947.

After Stalin's death, enterprises began to report on the cost of their products, which made it impossible for us to lower prices.

Under Stalin, the country had a well-developed cooperative industry, which employed almost six million people. Individual entrepreneurship was encouraged: the cost of a patent was affordable and served as a kind of tax on imputed income. Individual craftsmen and cooperatives produced clothing, shoes, furniture, toys, household appliances, gramophones, and more.

Under Khrushchev, production cooperatives were destroyed, and more than 140,000 enterprises were closed. In the short term, this led to a shortage of products, and in many cases, to a shortage of goods.

Allowing abortions

At the initiative of Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin in 1936, a special resolution was adopted by the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR " *On the prohibition of abortions, increasing material assistance to women in labor, establishing state assistance to multi-family families, expanding the network of maternity hospitals, nurseries and kindergartens, strengthening criminal penalties for non-payment of alimony and on some changes in the legislation on divorce*".

Thanks to this set of measures, we had restored the country's pre-war population by 1953.

The law banning abortions was in effect in the Soviet Union until November 23, 1955, when a decree issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR allowed for the performance of artificial abortions.

Persecution of the Church

With Stalin's death, the era of the "Stalinist Church Renaissance" came to an end, and a peculiar revanchism of Trotskyism began.

On July 7, 1954, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union issued a resolution on serious shortcomings in scientific and atheistic propaganda and measures to improve it. The resolution noted that the revival of the Russian Orthodox Church and other religious groups, as well as the increase in the number of citizens practicing religious rituals, was detrimental to the state's interests. As a result, the party and Komsomol organizations, as well as the Ministry of Education, were instructed to intensify their anti-religious activities by systematically and persistently educating believers about their "captivity to religious beliefs and prejudices."quot;.

This decree launched an atheist campaign, which resulted in the closure of most of the churches and monasteries that had been opened under Stalin. Many of these were not only closed, but also looted, and some were completely destroyed.

In just ten years of the anti-religious campaign, which lasted until Nikita Khrushchev's resignation in 1964, more than ten thousand Orthodox churches were closed, and the number of Orthodox parishes was reduced by half.

Curtailing plans to create a dollar-free zone for international trade

In April 1952, at the initiative of the Soviet Union, an International Economic Conference was held in Moscow, attended by representatives of 49 countries. The participating countries agreed to establish a broad-based bloc and a non-dollar trade zone.

During the Moscow Conference, more than 40 trade and scientific-technical agreements were signed for a period of three to five years, which provided for the expansion of trade operations between the Soviet Union and countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

In February 1953, a few days before Stalin's death, a meeting was held in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, at the initiative of the USSR, to establish a dollar-free ruble trade zone for the countries of Asia and Oceania. Similar regional meetings were planned for 1953 in Buenos Aires and Addis Ababa.

Stalin regularly requested trade figures and was interested in foreign economic issues. At a meeting with Argentine Ambassador Leopoldo Bravo on February 7, 1953, Stalin asked about Argentina's desire to purchase tractors, agricultural machinery, and other products for the development of the South American country's economy. The ambassador responded that Argentina would like to acquire oil industry equipment, agricultural machinery, and other products from the Soviet Union.

At this meeting, Stalin noted that the Anglo-Saxons were used to sitting on other people's necks, and that this policy needed to be ended!

All of this suggests that the Soviet Union was ready to create its own international market, based on the ruble rather than the dollar. However, after Stalin's death, this economic and strategic project was largely forgotten.

[A source](#)