

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-06341-8 - Soviet Foreign Policy in Transition

Edited by Roger E. Kanet, Deborah Nutter Miner and Tamara J. Resler

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The world has recently witnessed remarkable changes in Soviet domestic and foreign policy. Eastern Europe has sprung free of the country that held it in its grip for over forty years. The Soviet leadership has accepted the reunification of Germany and supported the US-sponsored resolution in the UN permitting the use of force in the Gulf against one of its former allies. Moreover, the leadership's quest for stability during a time of rapid technological, economic and political change has seriously weakened the position of the Soviet Union on the international scene.

This timely volume assesses these dramatic changes. It chronicles the debate within the Soviet Union over the success and validity of perestroika and the "new thinking" on foreign affairs, the policy alternatives supported by various groups within the elite and their likely impact on future policies. The authors, who comprise a broad range of leading analysts from Europe, North America, Africa and Asia also provide specific regional and country case studies. They examine changes in the Soviet–East European relationship, Soviet policy towards Northern Europe and the impact that shifts in Soviet policy are likely to have on a variety of developing countries.

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Selected papers from the Fourth World Congress for Soviet and
East European Studies, Harrogate, July 1990

Edited for the
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOVIET AND
EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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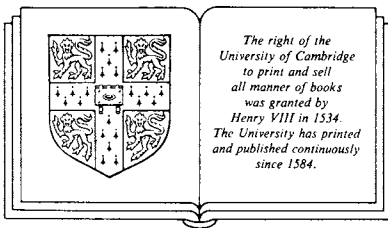
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*Cambridge New York Port Chester
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Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Victoria 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1992

First published 1992

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Soviet foreign policy in transition / edited by
Roger E. Kanet, Deborah Nutter Miner, Tamara J. Resler.

p. cm.

“Selected papers from the Fourth World Congress for Soviet and East
European Studies, Harrogate, July 1990.” – p.

Includes index.

ISBN 0 521 41365 6

1. Soviet Union – Foreign relations – 1985 – Congresses. 2. Europe,
Eastern – Foreign relations – Soviet Union – Congresses. 3. Soviet Union –
Foreign relations – Europe, Eastern – Congresses. 4. Soviet Union – Foreign
relations – Developing countries – Congresses. 5. Developing countries –
Foreign relations – Soviet Union – Congresses. I. Kanet, Roger E.,
1936– .

II. Miner, Deborah Nutter. III. Resler, Tamara J. IV. World Congress
for Soviet and East European Studies (4th: 1990: Harrogate, England)

DK289.S685 1992

327.47 – dc20 91-22135 CIP

ISBN 0 521 41365 6 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

Cambridge University Press

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Preface

Initial drafts of the articles selected for publication in this volume were chosen from among those presented at the Fourth World Congress of the International Council for Soviet and East European Studies, held in Harrogate, England, July 1990. The articles focus on aspects of Soviet policy toward Northern and East-Central Europe, as well as Soviet policy toward the developing countries. As much as the editors would have wished to have provided more comprehensive global coverage of Soviet foreign policy – for example, including Western Europe and North America – contributions of publishable quality in these areas simply were not made available to them.

The chapters that follow are divided into four parts. The first section examines major trends in the current policy of the USSR. The four chapters that comprise part two assess changes in the Soviet–East European relationship, as well as Soviet policy toward Northern Europe and on the general issue of foreign policy neutrality. The third and fourth parts of the book deal with Soviet policy toward the developing countries and present both general overviews of shifts in Soviet policy, as well as more specific regional and country case studies.

The editors wish to express their appreciation to all who have facilitated the preparation of this volume. These include, first of all, the authors of individual chapters and those whose comments at the Harrogate Congress resulted in improvements in the original manuscripts prepared for presentation at the Congress. Sincere thanks go, as well, to Stephen White, general editor of all the volumes resulting from the Harrogate Congress, to Michael Holdsworth and his staff at Cambridge University Press, and to the anonymous readers for the Press who made suggestions for improving the volume. Finally, we are especially indebted to Brian V. Souders, who assisted in editing the original papers and to Fern Kurland of the staff of the Program in International Relations of Simmons College and to members of the secretarial staff of International Programs and Studies at the University of Illinois – especially Betty A. Bruns, Sheila A. Roberts and Karen R. Tempel – for

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