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Ronald Grigor Suny is Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at the University of Michigan, and Emeritus Professor of Political Science and History at the University of Chicago. His many publications on Russian history include Looking Toward Ararat: Armenian Modern History (1993), and The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States (1998).
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HISTORY OF
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VOLUME III
The Twentieth Century

Edited by
RONALD GRIGOR SUNY
University of Michigan and University of Chicago
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Notes on contributors

A L A N  B A L L  is Professor of History at Marquette University and the author of Russia’s Last Capitalists: The Nepmen, 1921–1929 (1987) and And Now My Soul is Hardened: Abandoned Children in Soviet Russia, 1918–1930 (1994).


A R C H I E  B R O W N  is Professor of Politics at St Antony’s, Oxford, and the author of The Gorbachev Factor (1996) and the editor of Contemporary Russian Politics: A Reader (2001).


P E T E R  G A T R E L L is Professor of History at the University of Manchester and the author of The Tsarist Economy, 1850–1917 (1986) and A Whole Empire Walking: Refugees in Russia during the First World War (1999).


Notes on contributors


David Holloway is Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and the author of The Soviet Union and the Arms Race (1983) and Stalin and the Bomb: The Soviet Union and Atomic Energy, 1939–1956 (1994).


Esther Kingston-Mann is Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and the author of Lenin and the Problem of Marxist Peasant Revolution (1983) and In Search of the True West: Culture, Economics and Problems of Russian Development (1999).

Lars T. Lih is an independent researcher based in Montreal and the author of Bread and Authority in Russia, 1914–1921 (1990) and co-editor, with Oleg V. Naumov, Oleg Khlevniuk and Catherine Fitzpatrick, of Stalin’s Letters to Molotov, 1925–1936: Revelations from the Russian Archives (1995).

Michael McFaul is Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University, and the author of Russia’s Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin (2001) and, with James Goldgeier, Power and Purpose: American Policy toward Russia after the Cold War (2003).


David R. Shearer is Associate Professor of History at the University of Delaware and the author of Industry, State, and Society in Stalin’s Russia, 1926–1934 (1996).

Notes on contributors

Jeremy R. Smith is Lecturer in Twentieth Century Russian History at the University of Birmingham and the author of The Bolsheviks and the National Question, 1917–1923 (1999) and editor of Beyond the Limits: The Concept of Space in Russian History and Culture (1999).


Mark D. Steinberg is Professor of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the author of Moral Communities: The Culture of Class Relations in the Russian Printing Industry, 1867–1907 (1992) and Proletarian Imagination: Self, Modernity, and the Sacred in Russia, 1910–1925 (2002).

Ronald Grigor Suny is Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at the University of Michigan, and Emeritus Professor of Political Science and History at the University of Chicago and the author of The Revenge of the Past: Nationalism, Revolution, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union (1993) and The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States (1998).

William Taubman is the Bertrand Snell Professor of Political Science at Amherst College and the author of Stalin’s American Policy: From Entente to Détente to Cold War (1982) and Khrushchev: The Man and his Era (2003).


Josephine Woll is Professor of German and Russian at Howard University and author of Invented Truth: Soviet Reality and the Literary Imagination of Iurii Trifonov (1991) and Real Images: Soviet Cinema and the Thaw (2000).

Serhii Yekelchyk is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Victoria and the author of The Awakening of a Nation: Toward a Theory of the Ukrainian National Movement in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century (1994) and Stalin’s Empire of Memory: Russian-Ukrainian Relations in Soviet Historical Imagination (2004).
Acknowledgements

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Note on transliteration and dates

The system of transliteration from Cyrillic used in this volume is that of the Library of Congress, without diacritics. The soft sign is denoted by an apostrophe but is omitted from the most common place names, which are given in their English forms (such as Moscow, St Petersburg, Archangel). For those countries that changed their official names with the collapse of the Soviet Union – Belorussia/Belarus, Kirgizia/Kyrgyzstan, Moldavia/Moldova, Turkmenia/Turkmenistan – we have used the first form up to August 1991 and the second form afterwards. Anglicised name-forms are used for the most well-known political, literary and artistic figures (e.g. Leon Trotsky, Boris Yeltsin, Maxim Gorky), even though this may lead to inconsistency at times. Translations within the text are those of the individual contributors to this volume unless otherwise specified in the footnotes. Dates pre-1918 are given according to the ‘new-style’ Gregorian calendar, although in the Chronology the ‘old-style’ Julian calendar dates are also given in brackets.
Chronology

1894  Tsar Nicholas II came to the throne
1902  Vladimir Lenin published *What Is To Be Done?*
1903  Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Workers’ Party split into the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
1904  Outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war
1905  9 January: Bloody Sunday
       30 October: Nicholas II issued the October manifesto
1911  Assassination of Prime Minister Petr Stolypin.
1914  1 August: Germany declared war on Russia; outbreak of First World War
1917  8–13 March (23–8 February) – the ‘February Revolution’
       15 (2) March: Nicholas II abdicated
       17 April: Lenin announced his ‘April Theses’ calling for all power to the soviets
       14 (1) May: After the ‘April Crisis’, the coalition government was formed
       1 July (18 June): ‘Kerensky Offensive’ began
       16–18 (3–5) July: the ‘July Days’ led to a reaction against the Bolsheviks
       6–13 September (24–31 August): the ‘mutiny’ of General Lavr Kornilov
       7 November (25 October): The ‘October Revolution’ established ‘Soviet power’
       15 (2) December: Soviet Russia signed an armistice with Germany
1918  3 March: Soviet government signed Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Central Powers
       19 March: the Left SRs resigned from the Sovnarkom
       May: revolt of the Czechoslovak legions, which seized the Trans-Siberian Railway
       26–8 May: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan declared independence from Russia
       16–17 July: murder by local Bolsheviks of Nicholas II and his family in Ekaterinburg
       31 July: fall of the Baku Commune
       July: First Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic adopted
       2 September: systematic terror launched by the government against their enemies
Chronology

1919
March: Eighth Congress of the RKP (b) decided to form a Political Bureau (Politburo), an Organisational Bureau (Orgburo) and a Secretariat with a principal responsible secretary
2–6 March: First Congress of the Third International (Comintern)

1920
25 April: Pilsudski’s Poland invaded Ukraine, beginning the Russo-Polish war
1–7 September: First Congress of the Peoples of the East was held in Baku

1921
28 February–18 March: revolt of the sailors at Kronstadt
8–16 March: Tenth Congress of the RKP (b); defeat of the Workers’ Opposition and the passing of the resolution against organised factions within the party; introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP)

1922
16 April: Treaty of Rapallo signed with Germany
May: Soviet government arrested Patriarch Tikhon, head of the Russian Orthodox Church
June: trial of the Right SRs
8 June: Glavlit, the censorship authority, established
August: Soviet government decided to deport over 160 intellectuals
4 August: Red cavalry killed Enver Pasha and put down the Basmachi rebellion
30 December: the USSR was formally inaugurated

1923
9 March: a stroke incapacitated Lenin, removing him from politics.
Triumvirate of Stalin, Zinoviev and Kamenev

1924
21 January: death of Lenin
31 January: Constitution of the USSR was ratified
April–May: Stalin’s lectures on Foundations of Leninism
December: Stalin promoted idea of ‘Socialism in One Country’, along with Bukharin

1925
January: Trotsky replaced as Commissar of War by Mikhail Frunze
18–31 December: the Stalin–Bukharin ’centrist’ position triumphed over the Opposition at the Fourteenth Congress of the RKP (b)

1926
April: united opposition formed by Trotsky and Zinoviev
November: the Code on Marriage, Family, and Guardianship was adopted

1927
May: Great Britain broke off relations with the Soviet Union and set off a ‘war scare’
Autumn: peasants began reducing grain sales to the state authorities
Eisenstein’s film October (Ten Days that Shook the World) released
12–19 December: Fifteenth Congress of the VKP (b) called for a Five-Year Plan of economic development and voluntary collectivisation

1928
18 May–5 July: Shakhtry trial
17 July–1 September: Sixth Congress of the Comintern adopted the ‘social fascist’ line
30 September: Bukharin’s ‘Notes of an Economist’ published in Pravda

1929
9–10 February: the Politburo condemned Bukharin, Rykov and Tomskii
21 December: Stalin’s fiftieth birthday, the beginning of the ‘Stalin Cult’

1930
2 March: Stalin’s article ‘Dizzy with Success’ reversed the collectivisation drive
14 April: Suicide of Mayakovsky
July: Litvinov replaced Chicherin as People’s Commissar of Foreign Affairs
Chronology

November: Molotov replaced Rykov as chairman of Sovnarkom; Ordzhonikidze became the head of the industrialisation drive
November–December: trial of the ‘Industrial Party’
1931 21 June: Stalin spoke against equalisation of wages and attacks on ‘specialists’; end of the ‘Cultural Revolution’; beginning of the ‘Great Retreat’
October: Stalin published his letter to Proletarian Revolution on writing party history
1932 November: Stalin’s wife, Nadezhda Allilueva, committed suicide
December: introduction of the internal passport system for urban population
1933 Famine in Ukraine (1932–3)
1934 May: suicide of Mykola Skrypnyk as a result of attacks on Ukrainian ‘nationalists’
16 November: United States and Soviet Union established diplomatic relations
1935 26 January–10 February: Seventeenth Congress of the VKP (b), the ‘Congress of the Victors’
August: First Congress of Soviet Writers adopted ‘Socialist Realism’ as official style
18 September: USSR entered the League of Nations
1 December: the assassination of Kirov
Vasil’ev brothers’ film, Chapaev, released
1936 May: Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance
July–August: Seventh Congress of the Comintern adopted ‘Popular Front’ line
30 August: beginning of the Stakhanovite campaign
27 June: New laws on prohibiting abortion and tightening the structure of the family
19–24 August: Moscow ‘show trial’ of Zinoviev and Kamenev, who were convicted and shot
5 December: Constitution of the USSR adopted
1937 28 January: attack on Shostakovich’s opera, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk
23–30 January: Moscow ‘show trial’ of Radek, Piatakov, Sokol’nikov and Serebriakov
18 February: Ordzhonikidze committed suicide
May–June: purge of army officers; secret trial and execution of Tukhachevskii and other top military commanders. Height of the Great Purges, the ‘Ezhovshchina’
1938 Eisenstein’s film Aleksandr Nevskii released; Meyerhold’s theatre closed
March: Moscow ‘show trial’ of Bukharin and Radek
13 March: Russian language was made compulsory in all Soviet schools
September: the Short Course of the History of the Communist Party published
December: Beria replaced Ezhov as head of the NKVD
1939 23 August: Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of Non-Aggression between the USSR and Germany
17 September: Soviet forces invaded Poland
30 November–12 March 1940 – Russo-Finnish war
14 December: USSR expelled from the League of Nations

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Chronology

1940
8–11 April: Soviet secret police murder thousands of Polish officers at Katyn
3–6 August: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia joined the Soviet Union
20 August: the assassination of Trotsky in Coyoacan, Mexico

1941
22 June: Germany invaded the Soviet Union
8 September: Leningrad surrounded; beginning of the 900-day ‘Siege of Leningrad’
30 September–spring 1942: the Battle of Stalingrad

1942
17 July–2 February 1943: Battle of Moscow

1943
17 July–2 February 1943: Battle of Stalingrad
23 May: dissolution of the Comintern
5 July–23 August: Battle of Kursk
28 November–1 December: the Tehran Conference
November–December: deportation of the Karachais and Kalmyks; later (February–March 1944) the Chechens, Ingushi and Balkars; and (May) the Crimean Tatars

1944
1 January: a new Soviet anthem replaced the ‘Internationale’
October: Stalin and Churchill concluded the ‘percentages agreement’

1945
4–11 February: Yalta Conference
8–9 May: the war in Europe ended
17 July–2 August: Potsdam Conference
8 August: USSR declared war on Japan
24 October: founding of the United Nations

1946
9 February: Stalin’s ‘Pre-election Speech’
14 August: attack on Zoshchenko and Akhmatova; beginning of the Zhdanovshchina

1947
September: founding of the Cominform

1948
13 January: murder of the Jewish actor Solomon Mikhoels
27 March: rupture of relations between Stalin and Tito’s Yugoslavia
24 June–5 May 1949: Berlin Blockade
13 July–7 August: Academy of Agricultural Sciences forced to adopt Lysenkoism

1949
The ‘Leningrad Affair’
29 August: USSR exploded its first atomic bomb
1 October: founding of the People’s Republic of China

1950
26 June: North Korea invaded the south and began the Korean war

1952
5–14 October: Nineteenth Congress of the VKP (b)
October: Stalin published Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR

1953
13 January: announcement of the ‘Doctors’ Plot’
5 March: death of Stalin. Malenkov became chairman of Council of Ministers
June: workers’ uprising in East Germany
26 June: arrest of Beria
September: Khrushchev became First Secretary of the Communist Party

1955
8 February: Bulganin replaced Malenkov as chairman of the Council of Ministers
14 May: formation of the Warsaw Pact
July: Geneva Summit Conference
Chronology

1956 14–25 February: Twentieth Congress of the CPSU; Khrushchev’s ‘Secret Speech’
April: dissolution of the Cominform
23 October–4 November: Soviet army put down revolution in Hungary

1957 17–29 June: ‘Anti-party Group’ (Malenkov, Molotov and Kaganovich) acted against Khrushchev
4 October: Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite of the Earth

1958 27 March: Khrushchev replaced Bulganin as chairman of the Council of Ministers
October–November: campaign against Nobel Prize winner, Boris Pasternak
27 November: Khrushchev initiated the Berlin Crisis

1959 September: Khrushchev visited the United States; ‘Spirit of Camp David’

1960 1 May: American U-2 spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union

1961 12 April: Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space
June: Khrushchev and Kennedy met in Vienna
August: the Berlin Wall was built
17–31 October: Twenty-Second Congress of the CPSU. Stalin’s body removed from the Lenin Mausoleum

1962 2 June: riots in Novocherkassk
22–8 October: Cuban Missile Crisis
5 August: Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed

1963 14 October: Khrushchev removed as first secretary by the Central Committee and replaced by Brezhnev

1965 Kosygin attempted to introduce economic reforms
24 April: Armenians marched in Erevan to mark fiftieth anniversary of genocide

1966 10–14 February: Trial of Siniavskii and Daniel’

1968 20–1 August: Soviet army invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia

1969 October: Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Prize for Literature

1971 1 September: Four-Power agreement signed on status of Berlin

1972 22–30 May: Brezhnev and Nixon signed SALT I in Moscow. Period of détente

1975 1 August: Helsinki Accords signed
December: Sakharov won the Nobel Prize for Peace

1977 7 October: adoption of new Constitution of the USSR

1979 24–6 December: Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan to back Marxist government

1982 10 November: Brezhnev died and was succeeded by Andropov

1983 1 September: Soviet jet shot down Korean airliner 007

1984 9 February: Andropov died and was succeeded by Chernenko

1985 10 March: Chernenko died and was succeeded by Gorbachev

1986 26 April: Chernobyl, nuclear accident
October: Gorbachev and Reagan met in Reykjavik, Iceland
December: Gorbachev invited Sakharov to return to Moscow from exile
Chronology

December: Kazakhs demonstrated in protest against appointment of a Russian party chief
1987 October–November: Yeltsin demoted after he criticised the party leadership
1988 February: crisis over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted
28 June: Nineteenth Conference of the CPSU opened
1989 9 April: violent suppression of demonstrators in Tbilisi, Georgia
25 May: Congress of People’s Deputies convened
9 November: the Berlin Wall was torn down
1990 January: Soviet troops moved into Azerbaijan to quell riots and restore order
6 March: Article Six of the Soviet Constitution removed
15 October: Gorbachev won the Nobel Peace Prize
1991 17 March: referendum on the future structure of the USSR
12 June: Yeltsin elected president of the Russian Federation
18–21 August: attempted coup against Gorbachev failed
25 December: Gorbachev resigned as president of the Soviet Union
31 December: end of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1992 2 January: Gaidar launched ‘shock therapy’ economic policy
March: Shevardnadze returned to power in Georgia
14 December: Gaidar was replaced by Chernomyrdin as prime minister
1993 25 April: referendum supported Yeltsin’s reform policies
June: Aliyev returned to power in Azerbaijan, overthrowing the Popular Front
21 September: Yeltsin dissolved the Russian parliament and called elections to a State Duma
3–4 October: clashes between forces backing the parliament and those backing the president
12 December: elections to the State Duma rejected the radical reformers and supported nationalists and former Communists; ratification of the new Constitution
1994 May: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Karabakh and Russia agreed to a ceasefire in the Karabakh war
11 December: Russian troops invaded Chechnya
1996 June–July: Yeltsin won re-election as president of the Russian Federation
31 August: peace agreement signed between Moscow and Chechnya
1999 31 December: Yeltsin resigned, and Putin became acting president
2000 26 March: Vladimir Putin elected president of the Russian Federation
2004 14 March: Putin re-elected president of the Russian Federation
Abbreviations

APRF
Arkhiv prezidenta Rossiiskoi Federatsii (Archive of the President of the Russian Federation)

ASR
Avtonomnaia sovetskaia respublika (Autonomous Soviet Republic)

Basmachestvo
Pan-Turkic movement in Central Asia, 1918–28

BPF
Belorussian Popular Front

Cheka
Chrezvychainaia komissia (Extraordinary Commission to Combat Counter-revolution and Sabotage)

CIS
Commonwealth of Independent States

COMECON
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

Comintern
Kommunisticheskii internatsional (an organisation based in Moscow that devised strategies for Communist Parties around the world)

CP(b)U
Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine

CPRF
Communist Party of the Russian Federation

CPSU
Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Dashnaks
members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutiun)

DCs
Democratic Centralists

GASO
Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Saratovskoi oblasti (State Archive of Saratov Region)

GIAgM
Gosudarstvennyi istoricheskii arkhiv goroda Moskvy (State Historical Archive of the City of Moscow)

GKO (alternatively GOKO)
Gosudarstvennyi komitet obrony – the Soviet war cabinet (1941–5)

glasnost’
‘Openness;’ policies ending censorship under Mikhail Gorbachev, 1985–91

glavniki
chief industrial branch administrations

Gosplan
Gosudarstvennaia planovaia komissiia (State Planning Commission)

Gulag
Gosudarstvennoe upravlenie lagerei (State Administration of Camps)

Hummet
‘Energy;’ early Muslim socialist party in Transcaucasia

ILWCH
International Labor and Working-Class History
List of abbreviations

IMEMO Institute of World Economics and International Relations
Ittifak 'Independence'; a post-Soviet Tatar political movement
JAC Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee
Kadets Constitutional Democratic Party
KGB Komitet gosudarstvennoi bezopasnosti (Committee for State Security), the Soviet political police in the late Soviet period, successor to Cheka, GPU, OGPU, NKVD and other organisations
khозрасчет khoziaistvennyi raschet (cost-accounting basis)
kombedy committees of poor peasants
Komsomol Kommunisticheskii soiuz molodezhi (Communist Youth League)
Komuch Committee to Save the Constituent Assembly
Korenizatsiia 'Rooting' or 'indigenisation'; Soviet nationality policies, 1920s
Narkomnats Commissariat of Nationalities
Narkomprod Food Supply Commissariat
Narkompros Commissariat of Enlightenment
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NEP Novaia ekonomicheskata politika (New Economic Policy)
NKVD Narodnyi komissariat vnutrennykh del (People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs)
NOT Nauchnaia organizatsiia truda (Scientific Organisation of Labour)
NTR Nauchno-tekhnologicheskata revoliutsiia (Scientific-Technological Revolution)
OGPU United Main Political Administration (political police, successor to the CheKA and GPU, predecessor of the NKVD)
OUN Orhanizatsiia ukrainskykh natsionalistiv (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists)
perestroika 'restructuring'; the reformist policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, 1985–91
Politburo Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU
politruk politicheskii rukovoditel' (political adviser to military officers in the Red Army)
Proletkul’t proletarian cultural-educational organisations
PSS Polnoe sobranie sochinenii (Complete Works)
Rabfak Worker faculties
Rabkhoi Workers’–Peasants’ Inspectorate
RAPM Russian Association of Proletarian Musicians
RAPP Russian Association of Proletarian Writers
RCs Revolutionary Communists
RGANI Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv noveishei istorii (Russian State Archive of Contemporary History)
RGASPI Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv sovetskoi politicheskoi istorii (Russian State Archive of Social and Political History),
List of abbreviations

the former archive of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, TsPA
RSDRP Rossiiskaia sotsial-demokraticheskaia rabochaia partiia (Russian Social Democratic Workers’ Party)
RSFSR Rossiiskaia Sovetskaia Federativnaia Sotsialisticheskaia Respublika (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic)
samizdat ‘self-published,’ the underground dissident publications in the Soviet Union
Sovnarkhoz Supreme Economic Council
Sovnarkom Council of People’s Commissars
SR Socialist Revolutionary
SSR Sovetskaia Sotsialisticheskaia Respublika (Soviet Socialist Republic)
STKs Sovety trudovykh kollektivov (Councils of Labour Collectives)
Transcaucasian Sejm Representative assembly in Transcaucasia, April 1918
TsDNISO Tsentr dokumentatsii noveishei istorii Saratovskoi oblasti (Centre for the Documentation of the Recent History of the Saratov Region)
Ukrainian Central Rada Ukrainian national government, formed 1917
USA United States of America
USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VTsIK Central Executive Committee of the Soviets
VTsIOM All-Soviet (later All-Russian) Institute for Public Opinion