

## Index

- Abominable Snowman, 124  
 Academy of Medical Sciences of the Soviet Union, 130  
 Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union  
 collaboration with KSE, 120–121, 123–126, 129–130  
 Commission on Meteorites and Cosmic Dust, 129–130  
 concern for Soviet scientific image, 190  
 funding of Kulik's expeditions, 41–42, 48, 50, 55, 62, 79–80  
 Kulik's career at, 39–40  
 meteorite collection, 78  
 reduced autonomy under Stalinism, 70  
 support for nature reserve, 165, 169  
*Aelita*, 87  
 aerial surveys  
 1938 survey, 79–81, 105  
 1949 survey, 96  
 1953 survey, 113  
 funding, 62, 77  
 and geodesic analysis, 67  
 Kulik's calls for, 49, 70  
 unsuccessful attempts, 50, 68–69, 77, 186  
 Afghanistan, 150  
 Afonsky, Anatoly, 67–68, 76  
 airburst explosion  
 Brazilian twin, 202  
 Chelyabinsk meteorite, 111  
 initially opposed by Academy of Sciences, 100  
 proposed by Kazantsev, 115  
 theory accepted by scientists, 3, 103, 115, 134, 194, 199  
 airplanes, 56, 81, 113, 159, *see also* aerial surveys  
 Akhmatova, Anna, 173  
 Aksenov, Ivan, 13, 17, 37  
 Akulina, 21, 24–25, 44  
 alcohol, 72–73, 114, 140, 159  
 aliens. *see also* Mars and Martians, *see also* UFOs (unidentified flying objects), *see also* nuclear spaceship hypothesis  
 counter-motion hypothesis, 104  
 discussed by voluntary researchers, 148  
 Lavbin's museum, 108  
 portrayed in science fiction, 87, 90, 98–99  
 probability of extraterrestrial life, 103–104, 183  
 Zigel's concerns about extraterrestrial contact, 107  
 all-terrain vehicles, 170–171  
 All-Union Astronomical and Geodetic Society, 93–94, 129, 168  
 alternative knowledge, 9, 106–108, *see also* antimatter hypothesis, *see also* black hole hypothesis, *see also* technogenic explanations, *see also* nuclear spaceship hypothesis  
 Alvarez, Luis, 198  
 Alvarez, Walter, 198  
 Andreev, Gennady, 30, 195  
 Anfinogenov, John, 32, 131–133, 136, 149, 159

- Anfinogenova, Nina, 32, 133  
 Angara River, 25–26, 57, 171  
 animals. *see also* insects  
   bears, 52, 54, 72, 142  
   cattle, 85  
   chickens, 31  
   chipmunks, 68, 143  
   dinosaurs, 31, 199  
   dogs, *see* dogs  
   ducks, 47, 54, 145  
   elk. *see* elk  
   falcons, 181  
   fish, 47, 145, 159  
   frogs, 181  
   grouse, 44, 54, 145  
   horses, 31, 45, 47, 51, 63, 68  
   interactions with voluntary researchers,  
     142–145  
   interspecies relations, 142  
   partridges, 145  
   reindeer. *see* reindeer  
   saved as specimens, 67  
   snakes, 74  
   squirrels, 68  
   swans, 145  
   taiga bean geese, 31  
   unusual behavior during explosion, 31  
   wolves, 52  
 animism, 18  
 anniversaries, 114, 161, 182, 201, 203–204  
 Antarctica, 193  
 Anthropocene, 175, 182, 208–209  
 antimatter hypothesis, 106, 187–190  
 ants, 30, 133, 143  
 apocalypse, 28  
 apocalypticism, 33, 207–208  
 Aprelov, Nikolai, 82  
*Arctic Bridge*, 91  
 Arctic Ocean, 17, 98  
*Arenida*, 88  
 Arizona. *see* Meteor Crater  
*Around the World*, 90  
 art. *see* science fiction, *see* films, *see* songs,  
   *see* poetry, *see* drawings,  
 Asimov, Isaac, 99  
 Askenov, Pavel. *see* Okhchen (Pavel  
   Askenov)  
 Astapovich, Igor, 71, 77, 95, 186  
 asteroids. *see also* meteorites  
   compared to comets, 194  
   depicted in science fiction, 88  
   first observed in 1800s, 38  
   potential for catastrophe, 9, 31, 184, 199,  
     203  
*Astronauts* (Lem), 98  
 astronomy, 190, *see also* meteorites, *see also*  
   near-earth objects  
 atheism, 78, 84, 147  
 atomic bomb. *see* nuclear weapons  
 atomic-powered spaceship. *see* nuclear  
   spaceship hypothesis  
 Avarkitta River, 21  
 “Ballad about KSE”, 148  
 Baltics, 153, 176  
 Baratova, Sofia, 94–96  
 Barringer, Daniel, 38, 73, 185  
 bathing, 140, 159  
 bears, 52, 54, 72, 142  
 Belykh, Sergei, 67, 76  
 Beria, Lavrenty, 96  
 Bermuda Triangle, 101  
 Bible, 7, 163, 198  
 Bidiukov, Boris, 160, 171, 182  
 Bigfoot, 101  
 Biichaninova, Albina, 149  
 birds. *see* animals  
 Biriukov, Yuri, 106  
 black hole hypothesis, 106, 191  
 Black Sea, 15, 81  
 Black Stone, 7  
 Black Swan events, 32  
 blast site. *see* epicenter  
 Blinova, Olga, 149  
 Blok, Alexander, 17  
 Bogdanov, Alexander, 87  
 bogs. *see also* Southern Bog, *see also*  
   wetlands  
   definition, 65  
   feature of taiga landscape, 17  
   hazard during expeditions, 68, 159  
   Kandyba’s love of, 147  
 Boguchanskaya hydroelectric dam, 171  
 Boiarkina, Alena, 127, 131, 139, 145, 155,  
   159, 167, 169, 195  
 bolide, 159  
 Bolsheviks. *see also* Russian Civil War, *see*  
   *also* Soviet Union  
   1917 revolution, 36  
   New Economic Policy, 39  
   revolutionary activity of Kulik family, 16  
 boots, 60, 82

- boyars, 161  
 Brazilian twin, 201  
 Brezhnev, Leonid, 108, 157  
 bright nights, 29, 93, 131, 185–186. *see also*  
   noctilucent clouds  
 Britain  
   attempted expeditions by British  
     scientists, 77, 186  
   blast phenomena observed in, 185  
 Briukhanov, 57  
 Bronshten, Vitaly, 105, 194  
 Budaeva, Larisa, 133, 136, 149  
 burial grounds. *see* graves  
*Burning Island*, 88, 101  
 butterfly pattern, 126, 130–131  
  
 campfires, 147, 160  
 canals. *see* Mars and Martians  
 cannibalism, 57  
 capitalism  
   and development of Siberia, 17  
   and environmental crisis, 32, 176, 208  
 carbon-14 dating, 189–190  
 catastrophes. *see* disasters  
 catastrophism, 198  
 Caucasus, 153, 176  
 cauldron, 47, *see also* epicenter  
 censorship, 101, 103, 107, 158  
 Central Asia, 153, 176  
 Central Radio Laboratory, 77–78  
 Chakrabarty, Dipesh, 209  
 Chalakov, Ivan, 128  
 Chambe River, 18, 43, 45–46, 51, 72, 145,  
   149, 160  
 Chekaren, 21–22  
 Chelyabinsk meteorite, 14, 111, 202  
 Chernikov, Viktor, 135–136, 149  
 Chernobyl explosion, 172  
 Chernomyrdin, Viktor, 177  
 Chicago, 149  
 Chicxulub crater, 199  
 China, 7, 15, 17  
 Christianity, 17, 23, 28, 87, 147  
 Chuchancha, 21–22  
 Chuna River, 24, 43  
 Church of the Chelyabinsk Meteorite, 202  
 Churgim waterfall, 135  
 civilizational theory, 174, 208  
 class, 151–153  
 climate change, 30, 35, 181, 205–206, 208,  
   *see also* environmental crisis  
  
 Cold War, 172  
 collectivization, 23, 50  
 colonialism, 17, 32, 44, 177  
 comet hypothesis  
   dominant view of mid-century scientists,  
     100, 104, 126–127, 137, 192–194  
   evidence against, 133–134, 193–194, 199  
   in international research, 77, 185–186,  
     191–193  
 comets. *see also* comet hypothesis  
   composition of, 191–194  
   Pons-Winnecke comet, 42, 71, 186  
   potential for catastrophe, 9, 31  
   Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet, 202  
   Velikovsky's Venus theory, 100  
 comic books, 105  
 Commission on Meteorites and Cosmic  
   Dust of the Siberian Branch of the  
   Soviet Academy of Sciences, 129–130  
 Committee of State Security (KGB). *see* KGB  
   (Committee of State Security)  
 Committee of the North, 23, 43  
 Committee on Meteorites of the Soviet  
   Academy of Sciences. *see also* Academy  
   of Sciences of the Soviet Union  
   applied for state prize, 127  
   assessed airburst explosion, 103  
   ceased fieldwork after 1962, 127, 129  
   creation, 79  
   criticized nuclear theory, 99–100  
   evacuation during World War II, 83  
   restricted access to blast site, 165–166,  
     168  
   role in 1950s expeditions, 102, 113,  
     119  
   study of soil samples, 102, 113  
   support for KSE, 120–121  
   support for nature reserve, 169  
 communism. *see also* Soviet Union  
   portrayed in science fiction, 87–88, 98  
   Soviet class hierarchies, 151  
   “war communism,” 39  
 Communist Party, 39, 70, 74, 83, 95, 117  
 Communist Youth League. *see* Komsomol  
   (Communist Youth League)  
 Complex Amateur Expedition. *see* KSE  
   (Complex Amateur Expedition)  
 computer modeling  
   of Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet, 202  
   of Tunguska data, 131, 200  
 conferences, 105, 121, 195, 201

- conservation. *see also* Tunguska State Nature Reserve  
 focused on preserving Tunguska evidence, 60–62, 165, 168  
 goal of nature reserves, 163  
 impact of Soviet collapse, 172–173, 176  
 mystery-solving technique, 61–62, 162  
 non-governmental organizations, 176  
 researchers' attitude toward nature protection, 141, 145, 160, 166, 169  
 Soviet and post-Soviet environmental policy, 165, 168–169, 171, 176–177  
 threats to blast site, 81, 113, 121, 164, 167–172, 181–182
- conspiracy theories, 105
- contraterrene. *see* antimatter hypothesis
- cosmic dust, 77, 127, 131
- cosmic snowflake, 193
- cosmism, 79, 87–88
- cosmos  
 and environmental history, 36  
 extraterrestrial life in, 183  
 and mystery, 8  
 space colonization, 174
- covid-19, 206
- Cowan, Clyde, 189
- Cranberry funnel, 68
- craters. *see also* Meteor Crater  
 impact craters, 38  
 lacking at blast site, 3, 93, 100, 115  
 Lake Cheko as possible crater, 145, 181, 200
- crime and criminals, 56–57, 153
- Crocodile (Krokodil)*, 89
- Crowther, James, 185
- cultural appropriation, 147
- Cultural Base, 44
- Curuçá River, 201
- dam, 171
- Danilov-Danilian, Viktor, 178
- dark matter, 190
- “dead forest,” 51, 55
- Dean, James, 203
- death ray, 196
- Demin, Dmitry, 148
- denunciations, 74–77, 96
- depression funnels  
 Cranberry funnel, 68  
 hypothetically caused by meteorite shards, 47, 62, 70, 113
- non-cosmic explanations for, 49, 63, 75
- Suslov funnel, 58, 65–67, 69, 72–73, 75
- Devil's Cemetery, 85, 197
- dialectics, 198
- Diliushma River, 18
- disasters  
 and apocalypticism, 207–208  
 aspects of disaster in Tunguska, 27–33, 211  
 and climate change, 206  
 ecological catastrophe, 173–175, 199, 208–209  
 potential for cosmic catastrophe, 9, 31–33, 209–210
- diseases and injuries  
 during 1928 expedition, 55, 58  
 appendicitis, 74  
 axe injury, 160  
 boils, 51, 55, 58  
 cancer, 122  
 digestive, 76  
 among Evenki, 27, 100  
 fatalities, 141–142  
 frostbite, 58, 72, 120  
 heart, 76, 141  
 infection, 82  
 influenza, 76  
 mental health, 74, 76  
 scurvy, 51, 55, 74  
 smallpox, 27  
 snakebite, 74
- dissidents, 126, 157–158
- diving, 122
- divots. *see* depression funnels
- dogs  
 included in expeditions, 56, 68, 143  
 unusual behavior during explosion, 31
- Doonov, Afanasy, 114
- double burden, 155–156
- Dravert, Peter, 76
- drawings, 143, 147, 150, 154
- drinking. *see* alcohol
- dry river, 44–46, 68, 119
- Dublin, 185
- Duma, 16
- Dutch empire, 15
- Dyadkin, Iosif, 158
- Dyatlov pass incident, 117
- Dzhenkoul family, 33, 113
- Dzhenkoul, Anastasia, 27

- Dzhenkoul, Ivan, 68  
 Dzhonkoul, Andrei, 114
- Earth, 14–15, *see also* environmental crisis  
 earthquakes, 29, 37, 78, 89, 198  
 Eastern Sayan Mountains, 141  
 ecology. *see* explosion: impact on  
   ecosystem, *see* conservation, *see*  
   environmental crisis  
 ecopause, 174  
 education, 113, 116, 151, 155  
 elk  
   food source for expeditions, 44, 54, 56,  
   145  
   hunted by Evenki, 13, 46  
 Elkin, 82  
 Elkin, Valery, 177  
 Elster, Alexandra, 71  
*Engineer Memi*, 87  
 England. *see* Britain  
 Eniseisk, 28  
 Enomoto, Yuji, 203  
 environmental crisis  
   climate change, 30, 35, 181, 205–206, 208  
   ecological catastrophe, 173–175, 199,  
   208–209  
   escapist solutions, 210–211  
   interspecies relations, 142, 210–211  
   planetary thinking, 209  
   rise of global awareness, 167  
 environmental determinism, 137  
 environmental ethics, 61, 175  
 environmental history  
   of capitalism and communism, 209  
   and conquest of nature, 35  
   and extreme environments, 36  
   and mystery, 8, 206–207  
 environmental practices. *see* conservation  
 environmentalism. *see* environmental crisis  
*Epic of Gilgamesh*, 7  
 epicenter. *see also* explosion, *see also*  
   conservation, *see also* infrastructure,  
   *see also* Tunguska State Nature  
   Reserve, *see also* expeditions  
   absence of crater, 3, 93, 100, 115  
   avoided by Evenki, 22, 35, 37, 46, 56,  
   164  
   burn markings, 47–48, 64, 75, 114  
   cauldron shape, 47  
   contrast with surrounding taiga, 54–55  
   environmental impact of explosion, 30  
   features inconsistent with meteorite  
   explanation, 48–49, 62–63, 90, 93,  
   133  
   funnels. *see* depression funnels  
   immediate impact of explosion, 13  
   inaccessibility of, 35, 43, 138  
   Kulik’s first view of, 46–47  
   possible 1911 visit, 37  
   “telegraph poles,” 47, 90, 93  
   threatened by human traffic, 121, 165,  
   168, 181  
   threatened by industrialization, 168–172,  
   181  
   threatened by wildfires, 79–81, 113, 164,  
   168, 170–171, 181  
 equipment  
   backpacks, 140, 156  
   compasses, 68, 140–141  
   drilling bores, 63, 67  
   magnetometers, 58  
   meteorological instruments, 63  
   nets, 144  
   radiometers, 117, 119  
   repellent, 144  
   sleeping bags, 140, 143, 153  
   tents, 21, 33, 135, 140, 156  
   walkie-talkies, 138  
   water pumps, 63  
 Esenin, Sergei, 149  
 esotericism, 86, 137  
 ethnicity, 153  
 ethnography, 23–25, *see also* Suslov,  
   Innokenty  
 eugenics, 174  
 Eurasianism, 173  
*Evening Moscow*, 56  
 Evenki. *see also* Okhchen, Vasily, *see also*  
   Akulina, *see also* Machakugyr, Ivan,  
   *see also* Okhchen (Pavel Askenov),  
   *see also* Liuchetkan (Ilya Petrov)  
   avoided blast site, 22, 35, 37, 46, 56, 164  
   displaced from Tunguska homeland,  
   155  
   explanations for explosion, 22–23, 37  
   eyewitness accounts of explosion, 4,  
   18–23, 26–27, 80–81, 119–120  
   graves, 120, 155  
   guides for expeditions, 43, 46, 51, 64, 68,  
   82, 113–114  
   nomadic lifestyle, 17–18  
   portrayed in science fiction, 91, 98

- Evenki (cont.)  
 religious beliefs, 22–25, 37, 147; *see also*  
 Ogdy, *see also* shamans and  
 shamanism  
 researchers' attitudes toward Evenki  
 culture, 44–45, 120, 147, 153–155  
 Soviet attempts to assimilate, 23–25,  
 44  
 and Tunguska nature reserve, 164, 170,  
 177–178  
 Evenki Autonomous District (Evenkia), 155,  
 170, 177  
 exile, 17, 40, 57, 60  
 expeditions. *see also* food and drink, *see*  
*also* diseases and injuries, *see also*  
 infrastructure, *see also* hunting, *see also*  
 KSE (Complex Amateur Expedition),  
*see also* research techniques, *see also*  
 transportation  
 1921 (Kulik), 40–41  
 1927 (Kulik), 42–49, 185  
 1928 (Kulik), 49–59, 62  
 1929–1930 (Kulik), 62–77  
 1934 (Suvorov), 78  
 1937 (Kulik), 79–80  
 1938 (Kulik), 80–81  
 1939 (Kulik), 81–83  
 1949 (Soviet secret police), 96  
 1953 (Florensky), 112–113  
 1958 (Florensky), 102, 110, 114–115  
 1959 (KSE, Zolotov), 102, 116–120, 148,  
 156  
 1960 (KSE, group sponsored by Korolev,  
 Zolotov), 121–123  
 1961 (KSE and Florensky), 123–127,  
 137, 166  
 1968 (KSE), 157  
 1984 (KSE), 158–160  
 1990s–2000s (Romeiko), 196  
 1990s–2000s (University of Bologna),  
 200  
 overseen by Tunguska nature reserve,  
 182  
 explosion, *see also* airburst explosion  
 aspects of disaster, 27–33  
 destruction at epicenter, 13  
 impact on animals, 31  
 impact on ecosystem, 30–31, 170  
 initial media reports, 25–26, 37  
 trajectory of object, 26, 105, 113, 131  
 “Explosion” (Kazantsev story), 89–92  
 extinction  
 mass extinction, 199, 210  
 of species, 31, 35, 208, 210  
 extrasensory perception (ESP), 101  
 extraterrestrials. *see* aliens, *see* UFOs  
 (unidentified flying objects), *see* nuclear  
 spaceship hypothesis  
 extreme environments, 36  
 eyewitness accounts of explosion  
 collected by researchers, 26–27, 41, 113,  
 119–120, 131  
 of Evenki survivors, 3–4, 13, 18–23,  
 80–81  
 Florensky's skepticism toward, 113  
 phenomena seen farther from epicenter,  
 25–27, 31, 39, 78, 185  
 fantasy, 85–86, 88, 98, 100–101, 107, 109,  
 174, *see also* science fiction  
*Farewell to Matyora*, 171  
 Fast, Nina, 136, 155  
 Fast, Wilhelm  
 participation in KSE expeditions,  
 126–127, 131, 136, 159, 167  
 political dissidence, 158  
 Fedorov, Nikolai (artist), 81, 159  
 Fedorov, Nikolai (philosopher), 87,  
 159  
 Fedynsky, Vsevolod, 94, 193  
 Fersman, Alexander  
 death, 83  
 mentorship of Kulik, 16, 39  
 oversight of Kulik's expeditions, 42, 50,  
 56, 62, 83  
 support for Ilmen nature reserve,  
 163–164  
 Fesenkov, Vasily, 98, 100, 104–105, 127,  
 189, 193  
 fiction. *see* science fiction  
 films, 59, 87, 92, 98, 104, 107, 150  
 fires  
 KSE volunteers recruited as firefighters,  
 81, 118  
 recent wildfires near Vanavara, 181,  
 205–206  
 threats to blast site, 79–81, 113, 164,  
 168, 170–171, 181  
*First Spaceship to Venus*, 98  
 fish  
 fishing in Tunguska nature reserve, 178  
 food source for expeditions, 47, 145, 159

- five-year plan, 50, 77  
 Florensky, Kirill, 17, 88, 102, 105  
   1953 expedition, 112–113  
   1958 expedition, 102, 114–115  
   1961 expedition, 123–127, 166  
   conflict with Zolotov, 166  
   endorsed comet hypothesis, 127  
 Florensky, Pavel, 17, 88, 112, 126  
 “Flying Saucers” (Karpunin), 149  
 flying saucers. *see* UFOs (unidentified flying objects)  
 food and drink, 47, 55, 74–75, 140,  
   144–145, 159, *see also* alcohol, *see also*, hunting  
 Foot, Robert, 190  
 foreign researchers  
   antimatter hypothesis, 187–190  
   Bologna scholars, 200  
   during Cold War, 190–191  
   comet hypothesis, 77, 185–186, 191–193  
   comparison of Tunguska with other  
     cosmic impacts, 201–202  
     conflict with Russian scientists, 196  
   early interest in expeditions, 77, 186–187  
   excluded from blast site during Soviet era,  
     194  
   interest in Kulik’s work, 185  
   international conferences, 195, 201  
   language barriers, 200  
   observations of blast phenomena, 185  
   recent focus on asteroid explanation,  
     199–200  
   at Tunguska nature reserve, 182  
 forest fires. *see* fires  
 forest guards, 140  
 forests. *see* trees  
 Free Search Group, 132  
 frostbite, 58, 72, 120  
 funding  
   of aerial surveys, 62, 77  
   of KSE, 129–130, 196  
   of Kulik’s expeditions, 41–42, 48, 50, 55,  
     62  
   of Tunguska nature reserve, 179–180  
 funnels. *see* depression funnels  
 Gagarin, Yuri, 122  
 gender  
   gender ratio of KSE expeditions, 117,  
     121, 123  
   women’s roles in KSE expeditions, 140  
     women’s roles in Kulik’s expeditions, 64,  
       82  
     women’s roles in Soviet society, 155–156  
 genetic mutations, 29–30, 133, 143  
 geodesic analysis, 49, 64, 66–67, 80–82,  
   146  
 geology, 67, 175, 198  
 geomagnetic anomalies, 133  
 Ghost Rocket Scare, 92  
 Giulikh, Alexander, 43  
 Gladysheva, Olga, 194  
 global warming. *see* climate change, *see*  
   environmental crisis  
 Gorbachev, Mikhail, 172–173, 195  
 Gorbunov, Nikolai, 79  
 Gordin, Michael, 100  
 Gotovtsev, Igor, 141  
 gradualism, 198–199  
 graves, 120, 155  
 Great Acceleration, 208  
 Great Terror (1936–1938), 74–75, 78–79,  
   81, 146  
 Grechko, Gregory, 122, 156  
 Gridiukha, Lavrenty, 72, 74–77  
*A Guest from the Cosmos*, 98–99, 102  
 Gulag, 70, 112, 115, 158  
 Gumilev, Lev, 173–174  
 Gumilev, Nikolai, 173  
 Halley’s Comet, 194  
 Hampe, Michael, 10  
 Harvard University, 192  
 helicopters, 4, 81, 121, 140–141, 205  
 Hiroshima, 83, 89–90  
 hooliganism, 153  
 horseflies, 122, 144, 156  
 horses  
   mode of transportation on expeditions,  
     45, 47, 51, 63, 68  
   unusual behavior during explosion, 31  
 humanism, 109  
 hunting  
   by Evenki, 13, 46  
   food source for expeditions, 56, 67–68,  
     74, 144–145, 159  
   scarce at epicenter, 44, 47, 54–55  
   threat to preservation of blast site, 166,  
     181  
   in Tunguska nature reserve, 170, 178,  
     181  
 huts, 33, 51, 64, 119, 145, 167, 170

- “Hymn of the Kosmodrantsy”, 149  
 hypotheses. *see* antimatter hypothesis, *see*  
   black hole hypothesis, *see* technogenic  
   explanations, *see* nuclear spaceship  
   hypothesis, *see* tectonic explanations,  
   *see* comet hypothesis, *see* meteorites
- Iankovsky, Konstantin, 72, 74, 114, 119,  
 132
- Iarkino, 25
- Ice Trilogy*, 35, 108
- Ilin, Anatoly, 135
- Ilmen Mountains, 163
- Ilmen nature reserve, 162–165
- impactite, 67
- imperialism, 15
- Indigenous peoples. *see* Evenki
- industrialization, 168–172, 181
- infinity, 17
- infrastructure  
   bathhouses, 51, 140, 145  
   created by Kulik, 52, 64, 119, 145  
   created by voluntary researchers, 145  
   declared historical monuments,  
     167  
   huts, 33, 51, 64, 119, 145, 167,  
     170  
   storehouses, 51  
   trails, 64, 138, 145, 159–160, 171
- injuries. *see* diseases and injuries
- insects  
   ants, 30, 133, 143  
   butterflies, 161  
   horseflies, 122, 144, 156  
   midges, 122  
   mosquitoes, 43, 51, 122, 144  
   nuisance for voluntary researchers, 122,  
     143–144  
   ticks, 60
- International Asteroid Day, 204
- International Astronomical Union,  
 192
- interspecies relations, 142, 210–211
- iridium anomaly, 199
- Irkutsk, 37
- iron  
   in meteorites, 3, 38  
   in Tunguska soil samples, 81, 102,  
     114–115
- Ivan the Terrible, 161
- Izvestiia*, 104, 179
- Jackson, Albert, 191
- Japan  
   fears of Japanese invasion, 28  
   Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 83, 90  
   Japanese researchers, 194–195  
   Russo-Japanese War, 16, 28
- Jews, 153
- John’s Stone, 132–133, 145
- journalists. *see* newspapers
- Jupiter, 100, 202
- Kaaba, 7
- Kagarlyk meteorite, 41
- Kan River, 40
- Kandaratskaya, Lydia. *see* Kulik, Lydia (née  
 Kandaratskaya)
- Kandyba, Yuri, 123, 147–148, 159, 166
- Kansas, 188
- Kansk, 39–40
- Kardashev, Nikolai, 104
- Karpunin, Gennady, 136, 149
- Kashin meteorite, 38
- Kazakhstan, 86, 128
- Kazantsev, Alexander  
   consulted by KSE, 116  
   defended alien theory as scientific  
     explanation, 93–94, 99, 101–103, 108  
   defended by Baratova, 94–96  
   early science fiction works, 88  
   family background, 86–87  
   fiction about Tunguska, 89–92, 98–99, 102  
   humanism of, 108–109  
   later years, 108  
   open to antimatter hypothesis, 189  
   planetarium show, 84, 92–93  
   relations with Communist Party, 95
- Ket, 26
- Kew Observatory, 186
- Kezhma  
   destroyed by Boguchanskaya  
     hydroelectric dam, 171  
   eyewitness testimony gathered in, 26  
   role in Kulik’s expeditions, 57–58, 69,  
     72–74, 81
- Kezhma regional committee (*raikom*), 75
- KGB (Committee of State Security), 117,  
 157–158
- Khibinogorsk, 77
- Khrushchev, Nikita, 151
- Khushma River, 27, 31, 46, 82, 145
- Kimchu River, 145



- Kirensk, 78  
 Kirichenko, Lena, 122  
 Kletetschka, Gunther, 190  
*Knowledge is Power*, 96–99, 102  
 Kokhanov, Konstantin, 85  
 Kolesnikov, Evgenii, 194  
 Kolobkova, Galina, 120  
 Komsomol (Communist Youth League), 95, 130, 136  
 Konenkina, Nadezhda, 28  
 Konstantinov, Boris, 103, 127  
*Kopek Paper*, 25  
 Korolev, Sergei, 122  
*kosmodrantsy*, 145, 149  
 Kosolapova, Anfisa, 27  
 Kova River, 85  
 Kovalev, Vladimir, 150  
 Kovalevsky, Alexander, 158  
 Kozhemiakin, Vladimir, 136, 150, 159–160, 171  
 Krasnoyarsk, 40, 43, 48, 107  
 Krasnoyarsk meteorite, 38  
 Krasnoyarsk Pillars, 141  
 Krasnoyarsk region, 155, 197  
 Krinov, Evgenii  
   accused of burning photographic negatives, 105  
   assisted Kazantsev, 90–91  
   consulted by KSE, 116  
   criticized alien theory, 94–95, 99–100  
   discovery of iron fragments in soil samples, 102, 114  
   endorsed comet hypothesis, 127  
   face of postwar generation of researchers, 83  
   interaction with foreign researchers, 188, 192  
   negative assessment of radioactivity data, 121  
   participation in Kulik's expeditions, 58, 64, 68, 71–74, 76, 223  
   support for historical preservation of blast site, 167  
 Kriviakov, Stanislav, 60–62, 174  
 Kriviakova, Eleonora, 131  
 Kronstadt uprising, 39  
 KSE (Complex Amateur Expedition)  
   academic publications, 196  
   accidents and injuries, 141–142  
   agnostic stance, 105–107, 117, 132, 137  
   annual rhythm of season, 138–139  
   attitude toward Evenki culture, 147, 153–155  
   camaraderie, 120  
   campfires, 147, 160  
   class hierarchies, 151–153  
   collaboration with Academy of Sciences, 120–121, 123–126, 129–130  
   creation of, 116  
   disagreements with official scientists, 123–126  
   drawings and tree carvings, 143, 147, 150, 154  
   ethnic makeup, 153  
   fieldwork, 118–126, 130–133  
   films, 150  
   food and drink, 140, 144–145, 159  
   funding, 129–130, 196  
   gender ratio, 117, 121, 123  
   gender relations, 136, 140, 149, 155–157  
   harassed by Soviet authorities, 157–158, 172  
   hardships of wilderness, 139–140, 159  
   humor, 138, 151  
   infrastructure, 145  
   inspired by science fiction, 102  
   interaction with animals and insects, 142–145  
   interaction with foreign researchers, 189, 191, 195–196  
   *Kurumnik* magazine, 143, 151, 156  
   laboratory work, 129, 138–139, 145  
   leadership, 110–111, 127–129  
   love of wilderness, 110, 122, 136, 145–147  
   major research achievements, 130–131  
   motivations to participate, 136–137  
   name, 110, 116–117  
   nicknames and slang, 145  
   Novosibirsk branch, 130  
   physical training, 117, 129  
   poems and songs, 135, 140, 148–150, 154  
   radioactivity research, 117, 119–121, 165  
   recruitment, 128–129, 140  
   religion and spirituality, 147  
   research foci, 131–133  
   role in Tunguska nature reserve, 180–182  
   romances, 136, 149, 156  
   safety protocols, 140–141

- KSE (Complex Amateur Expedition) (cont.)  
 shift from entrepreneurial to enduring science, 128  
 Soviet cultural context, 115–116  
 theories about comet hypothesis, 193  
 unofficial support from Soviet authorities, 117, 120–121  
 waned after fall of Soviet Union, 134, 195  
 weekly and biannual meetings, 129, 138  
*KSE Continues the Search*, 150  
 Kudriavtsev, Ivan, 31  
 Kuiper belt, 192  
 Kulakov, Aleksei, 51  
 Kulik trail, 145, 159–160, 171  
 Kulik, Elena, 81–82  
 Kulik, Irina, 34  
 Kulik, Leonid, 4  
 1921 expedition, 40–41  
 1927 expedition, 42–49, 185  
 1928 expedition, 49–59, 62  
 1929–1930 expedition, 62–77  
 1937 expedition, 79–80  
 1938 expedition, 80–81  
 1939 expedition, 81–83  
 career, 37–40, 77–79, 162  
 conflict with expedition members, 70–77  
 death, 83  
 domineering personality, 64  
 health problems, 58, 74, 76, 81  
 interaction with foreign scientists, 185, 187  
 portrayed in science fiction, 88  
 revolutionary activity, 16, 39  
 speculation about Brazilian twin, 201  
 support for Ilmen nature reserve, 164  
 tenacity, 34–35, 50, 217  
 Kulik, Lydia (née Kandaratskaya), 16, 71, 73, 77  
 Kulik, Nestor, 16  
 “On the Kulikovo Field,” 17  
 Kulik-Pavsky, Viacheslav, 34  
 Kurenkova, Ekaterina, 135  
*Kurumnik*, 143, 151, 156  
 Kuvshinnikov, Valery, 110–111, 143, 158, 197  
 Kuznetsova, L., 113  
 Kyiv, 41  
 La Paz, Lincoln, 187–189  
 laboratories, 115, 129, 139, 145, 156  
 Lake Baikal, 111  
 Lake Cheko  
 food source for expeditions, 145  
 possible meteorite crater, 145, 181, 200  
 Lake Zapovednoe, 181  
 Lakura Ridge, 44–45, 68, 119  
 Latin America, 15  
 Lavbin, Yuri, 107, 197  
 Lem, Stanislaw, 98  
 Leningrad. *see* Saint Petersburg (Petrograd, Leningrad)  
 “Letter from Tunguska,” 150  
 Levin, Boris, 132, 188, 191  
 Liapunov, Boris, 96–97, 99–100  
 Libby, Willard, 189  
 lichens, 147  
*A Life without Legends*, 34  
*Life Magazine*, 189  
 Liuchetkan (Ilya Petrov)  
 assisted Suslov, 24  
 death, 81  
 family members, 21, 28  
 guide for Kulik’s expeditions, 43–46, 68  
 portrayed in science fiction, 91, 98  
 Liurbuman, 27, 33  
 Logunova, Lyudmila, 179  
 Longo, Giuseppe, 200  
 Lower Tunguska River, 30, 37  
 Lvov, Yuri, 169  
 advocated for Tunguska nature reserve, 168, 180  
 contempt for alternative hypotheses, 191  
 ecological concerns, 173  
 participation in KSE expeditions, 132, 154  
 studied ecological impact of explosion, 30, 126  
 Lysenko, Trofim, 95, 100  
 Lysenkoism, 191  
 Machakugyr, Ivan, 21, 27, 33, 46  
 Main Administration of the Northern Sea Route, 80  
 Makirta River, 45  
 Maksimov, Oleg, 150  
 Malthus, Thomas, 174  
 Manila, 191  
 Mao Zedong, 150  
 maps, 43, 141  
 March of the Parks, 179

- Mars and Martians. *see also* aliens  
 canals, 87, 93  
 hypothetical cause of John's Stone, 133  
 portrayed in science fiction, 87, 90,  
 98–99  
 proposed by Kazantsev as explanation for  
 Tunguska, 93, 98–99  
 marshes, 52, 65  
 Martinique, 191  
 materialism, 102, 147  
 Mauritius, 191  
 Mayakovsky, Vladimir, 149  
 Mecca, 7  
 Medvedev, Zhores, 116  
 Meidus, Artur, 181  
 Memorial, 158  
 Menzel, Donald, 103  
 Messina earthquake, 29  
 Meteor Crater, 38–39, 49, 185, 188  
 Meteorite Department. *see* Mineralogical  
 Museum  
 meteorites  
 airbursts. *see* airburst explosion  
 characteristics of epicenter inconsistent with  
 meteorite explanation, 90, 93, 133  
 Chelyabinsk meteorite, 14, 111, 202  
 definition, 3  
 development of meteoritics, 38–39, 192  
 found in Antarctica, 193  
 found in Tunguska soil samples, 102, 126  
 iron, 3, 81, 102, 114–115  
 Kagarlyk meteorite, 41  
 Kashin meteorite, 38  
 Kulik's passion for, 52  
 and mystery, 7–8  
 mythology, 7  
 names for hypothetical Tunguska  
 meteorite, 40, 105  
 nickel to iron ratio, 115  
 Pallas iron (Krasnoyarsk) meteorite,  
 38  
 and potential for catastrophe, 31–33  
 Sikhote-Alin meteorite shower, 94, 102,  
 115, 188, 192  
 stony, 3, 134, 194, 199, 202  
 uranium, 91  
 meteoritics, 74, 187  
*Meteoritika*, 83  
 meteoroids, 3  
 meteors, 3  
 Mexico, 199  
 Miass, 37, 83, 162, 164  
 microspherules, 123, 125, 131  
 Mineralogical Museum, 38–39, 41–43, 52,  
 71, 78  
 Ministry of Finance of the Russian  
 Federation, 177  
 Ministry of Geology of the Soviet Union,  
 168  
 mires, 65  
*Mirovedenie* (journal), 42, 70  
*Mirovedenie* (society), 39, 64, 70  
 mirror matter, 190  
*Monday Starts on Saturday*, 104  
 Mongolia, 17  
 moon, 38, 47  
 Moroz, Evgeniya, 203, 205  
 Morozov, Nikolai, 38  
 Moscow, 70, 78, 85, 115, 121, 126  
 Moscow Planetarium, 84–85, 91–93, 101,  
 105  
 mosquitoes, 43, 51, 122, 144  
 moss, 22, 66–67, 75, 147  
 Mount Farrington, 146, 151  
 Mount Rainier UFO incident, 92  
 Mount Stoikovich, 132  
 movies. *see* films  
 museums, 49, 107, 177, 188, 196 *see also*  
 Mineralogical Museum  
 music videos, 105  
 mutations. *see* genetic mutations  
 mystery  
 and alternative knowledge, 9, 96, 101  
 from culture, 8  
 and disaster, 9  
 dispute over whether Tunguska is a  
 mystery, 4, 75, 100, 127, 187, 203  
 etymology, 8  
 fictional genre, 10, 206  
 and landscape interactions, 9, 61–62,  
 130  
 and meteorites, 7–8  
 from nature, 8, 36  
 term used after 1928 expedition, 58  
 “The Mystery of the Tunguska Meteorite”  
 (planetarium show), 84–85, 91–94, 96,  
 101, 103  
*Mystery Science Theatre 3000*, 98  
 Nagasaki, 83, 89  
 NASA, 193, 196, 199, 203  
 national parks, 163, 175–177, 182

- nature  
 conquest of, 75, 166, 218, 242  
 superior power of, 8, 35–36, 41, 46,  
 50–51, 123  
*Nature* (journal), 189, 191  
 nature reserves. *see also* national parks,  
*see also* Tunguska State Nature Reserve  
 focused on conservation rather than  
 tourism, 163  
 impact on Indigenous peoples, 164,  
 177–178  
 impacted by Soviet collapse, 176  
 inspired by American national parks, 163  
 reduced during the late Stalinist era, 165  
 Naumenko, Tikhon, 28  
 Nazis, 83  
 near-earth objects, 9–10, 31–33, 36,  
 198–199, 203–204  
 neo-Eurasianism, 173  
 neo-Malthusianism, 174  
 Neptune, 192  
 neutrinos, 189  
 Neva River, 65  
 New Age, 106, 147  
 New Economic Policy, 39, 50  
*New York Times*, 91, 184  
 newspapers  
 reports of Astapovich's conclusions, 71  
 reports of explosion, 25–26  
 sensationalist coverage of 1928  
 expedition, 56–58  
 Nicholson, Oliver, 196  
 Nicholas II, 16  
 nickel, 115, 189  
 Nininger, Harvey, 186–189  
 Nitzke, Solvejg, 10, 86  
 noctilucent clouds, 29, 100, 131, 134, 155,  
 159, 196, *see also* bright nights  
 nocturnal brightness. *see* bright nights  
 nomadism, 18, 33, 164  
 non-governmental organizations, 176  
 noosphere, 88, 174  
 Norilsk oil spill, 206  
 Novosibirsk, 129  
 nuclear physics, 190  
 nuclear spaceship hypothesis  
 and antimatter hypothesis, 189  
 criticized by scientific establishment, 94,  
 96–100, 102–104, 121, 190  
 features of blast site consistent with  
 nuclear explosion, 90, 93, 123, 133  
 Kazantsev presented as scientific  
 explanation, 99, 103, 108  
 KSE's research on, 102, 105–107, 117,  
 119–123, 143  
 Kuvshinnikov's theory of colliding  
 spaceships, 111  
 later variations of, 105, 197  
 Plekhanov ceased to believe, 110–111  
 portrayed in science fiction, 89–92,  
 98–99  
 public openness to paranormal  
 explanations, 85–86, 96  
 revived during Thaw era, 101–102  
 Sakura's theory of ancient Japanese  
 spaceship, 195  
 and Stalinist scientific ideology, 95–96,  
 100–101  
 Stroganov's research on, 85  
 nuclear weapons  
 arms race, 95, 175, 208  
 bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 83,  
 89, 91  
 Chernobyl explosion, 172  
 Ob River, 17  
 Obruchev, Sergei, 37, 42, 88  
 Obruchev, Vladimir, 88  
 observatories, 131, 191  
 observer testimony. *see* eyewitness accounts  
 of explosion  
 occultism, 86, 88, 137, 147  
 Odyn, 24  
 Ogdy, 22–24, 37, 45, 68, 120, 147, 153,  
 165  
 Okhchen (Pavel Askenov), 45–46, 57–58,  
 68, 81  
 Okhchen, Vasily, 21, 24  
 Old Believers, 87  
 Olkhovатов, Andrei, 197  
 Olonov, Nikolai, 181  
 Olson, Valerie, 36  
 Omsk, 76, 78  
*On the Path of the Tunguska Catastrophe*,  
 150  
 Oort cloud, 192  
 Öpik, Ernst Julius, 38  
 Optovtsev, Boris, 72  
 Orthodox Christianity. *see* Russian  
 Orthodoxy  
*Osoaviakhim*, 50, 62  
 outer space. *see* cosmos

- Ovchinnikov, Sergei, 150  
 overpopulation, 174  
 Oxford, 185
- Pacific Ocean, 15, 17  
 Pallas iron meteorite, 38  
 Pallas, Peter Simon, 38  
 Pamir Mountains, 124  
 Pape, Valery, 153  
 paranormal phenomena. *see also* UFOs  
   (unidentified flying objects), *see also*  
   nuclear spaceship hypothesis  
   explored in science fiction, 101  
   high public interest, 102, 107  
   Russian cultural context, 85–86  
 patriotism, 150  
 peat  
   digging for meteorites in, 52, 67  
   feature of bogs and mires, 65  
   hills at the epicenter, 63  
   samples, 61, 67, 82, 119, 122, 132  
 perestroika, 107, 172–173, 176, 194  
 permafrost, 30, 49, 63, 93  
 Perry, Robert, 196  
 Peter I, 65, 161  
 Petrograd. *see* Saint Petersburg (Petrograd,  
 Leningrad)  
 Petrov, Grigory, 107  
 Petrov, Ilya. *see* Liuchetkan (Ilya Petrov)  
 pine needles, 22, 30, 133  
 pits. *see* depression funnels  
 Planet Earth Park No. 1, 178  
 planetary defense, 203  
 plasmoid, 106, 134  
 plate tectonics, 198  
 Plekhanov, Gennady  
   advocated for Tunguska nature reserve,  
   180  
   concern about ecological disaster,  
   173–174  
   conservation work, 169  
   disagreed with later direction of KSE,  
   128  
   interactions with Academy scientists,  
   121  
   and international Tunguska research, 191  
   interrogated by KGB, 158  
   leadership of KSE, 127, 135  
   opinions on hypotheses, 110–111, 127  
   participation in expeditions, 120, 123  
   rarely wrote poetry, 150  
   reminiscences of expedition life, 144,  
   147–148  
 Plekhanova (née Tolstaya), Lyudmila, 116,  
 136  
 Poddyakova, Liubov, 64, 68  
 poetry  
   of Kulik, 41  
   Symbolist, 17  
   of Sytin, 55  
   Temnikov's mocking poems, 75  
   of voluntary researchers, 135, 140,  
   148–150, 154  
 police. *see* secret police, *see* KGB  
   (Committee of State Security)  
 pollution, 167, 170, 173, 175–176, 181  
 Polzer, Gottlieb, 196  
 Pons-Winnecke comet, 42, 71, 186  
 Popper, Karl, 100  
 Popravko, Irina, 128  
 population growth, 174  
 posthumanism, 10  
 pressure waves, 185  
*Principles of Meteoritics*, 192  
 “Prisoners of the Earth,” 89–90  
 privatization, 176  
*Proceedings of the Tunguska Nature  
 Reserve*, 180  
 pseudoscience, 100, 112, 124–125  
*puchki*, 47  
 Pushkin, Alexander, 149  
 Putin, Vladimir, 171  
 Pynchon, Thomas, 104
- Qing dynasty, 15  
*Quarterly Journal of the Royal  
 Meteorological Society*, 186
- radiation, 133, 155  
 radioactivity  
   and antimatter hypothesis, 189  
   false reports of illness from exposure to  
   blast site, 43–46  
   heightened levels in the epicenter,  
   119–122, 165  
   inconclusive evidence, 105  
   Kazantsev called for research on,  
   121–122  
   studied by KSE, 111, 117, 119–121  
   studied by Zolotov, 102  
 Rand, Lisa Ruth, 36  
 Rasputin, Valentin, 171

- Red Army, 39, 89, 112  
 red giant, 210  
*Red Star*, 87  
 reindeer  
   food source for expeditions, 44  
   herded by Evenki, 18, 178  
   killed by explosion, 13, 21, 31  
   mode of transportation on expeditions, 45, 68, 114  
 religion. *see also* Christianity, *see also* shamans and shamanism  
   Evenki religious beliefs, 22–25, 37, 147  
   spirituality of voluntary researchers, 147  
 research techniques  
   aerial surveys. *see* aerial surveys  
   charting tree azimuths, 119, 130  
   chemical analysis, 119  
   collecting eyewitness testimony, 23–27, 43, 68, 119–120  
   collecting observatory data, 131, 191  
   collecting rock fragments, 67, 74, 123  
   computer analysis, 131, 200  
   draining wetlands, 64–67  
   drilling, 63–67  
   geodesic analysis, 49, 64, 66–67, 80–82, 146  
   grave exhumation, 120, 155  
   isotopic analysis, 120, 132, 189  
   magnetometric surveying, 49, 52, 58, 64, 83, 122  
   mapping forest fall, 80, 113, 126, 130–131  
   radioactivity testing, 99, 102, 105, 117, 119–121  
   sampling peat, 61, 67, 82, 119, 122, 132  
   sampling resin, 132, 200  
   sampling soil, 81, 102, 113–115, 119, 125–126  
   sampling vegetation, 52  
   search for geomagnetic anomalies, 133  
   search for thermoluminescence, 133  
   spectral analysis, 132  
   study of genetic mutations, 29–30, 133, 143  
   study of tree burn marks, 64, 75, 114, 122–123, 125  
   study of tree rings, 61, 123, 133, 159, 200  
   topographic measurements, 49, 52, 67  
   underwater diving, 122  
   x-ray analysis, 132  
 resin samples, 132, 200  
 revolution. *see* Russian Revolution  
 Ride, Sally, 155  
 risk assessment, 32  
*Roadside Picnic* (Strugatsky), 104  
 rocketry, 50, 79, 99, 190  
 Rodimova, Olga, 29–30  
 Roe, Alan, 176  
 Romanov dynasty, 16  
 Romeiko, Vitaly, 182, 196  
 Roswell UFO incident, 92, 188  
 Rubstov, Vladimir, 197  
 Rukosueva, Lukerya, 25  
 Russia. *see* Russian Federation, *see* Russian Empire, *see* Soviet Union  
 Russian Civil War, 36, 39–40  
 Russian Empire  
   apocalypticism in late years, 207  
   biodiversity of, 15–16  
   political upheaval in, 16, 36  
 Russian Federation, 173–174, 176–177  
 Russian Orthodoxy, 23, 87, 147  
 Russian Revolution  
   1905, 16, 28, 36  
   1917, 36, 38, 207  
 Russian State Library, 85  
 Russo-Japanese War, 16, 28  
 Ryan, Michael, 191  
 Sagan, Carl, 104  
 Saint Petersburg (Petrograd, Leningrad), 39, 65, 157  
 Saint Petersburg University, 37  
 Sakharov, Andrei, 116  
 Sakura, 195  
*samizdat*, 158  
 samples  
   bark, 114  
   bone, 120, 196  
   illegally removed by foreign researchers, 196  
   lakebed sediments, 200  
   magnetic materials, 115, 126, 131  
   metallic fragments, 102, 113  
   microspherules, 125  
   peat, 61, 67, 82, 119, 122, 132  
   resin, 132, 200  
   silicate spherules, 126, 131  
   snow, 77  
   soil, 81, 102, 113–115, 119, 125–126  
   tree pieces, 114

- tree rings, 61, 123, 133, 159, 200  
 vegetation, 52  
 Sapozhnikova, Valeria, 150  
 Saprnov, Nikolai, 197  
 Schmidt, Otto, 80  
 science  
   “anti-science” accusations, 95, 99–100, 102, 104, 106  
   blurred boundary between official and unofficial, 100, 112, 124–125  
   political culture in postwar era, 116  
   relationship to fantasy, 85–86, 88, 98, 100–101, 109  
   scientific culture of Stalinism, 95–96, 101  
*Science* (magazine), 185  
 science fiction  
   creative form of mystery-solving, 85–86, 95–96  
   depictions of aliens, 87, 90, 98–99  
   depictions of communism, 87–88, 98  
   emergence of genre, 87–88  
   inspired voluntary researchers, 102  
   by Kazantsev. *see* Kazantsev, Alexander  
   in popular culture, 104–105  
   scorned by scientific establishment, 106  
   written by active scientists, 88  
*Scientific American*, 185  
 scientific knowledge, 10  
 Scientific-Research Institute on Biology and Biophysics of Tomsk State University, 169  
 scurvy, 51, 55, 74  
 seasons. *see* weather  
 secret police, 16, 96, 108, 112, *see also* KGB (Committee of State Security)  
*Seeing is Believing*, 150  
 seismography, 90  
 Sekanina, Zdenek, 134  
 Semenov, Manuil, 89  
 Semenov, Semen, 27  
 Serra, Romano, 200  
 sexuality, 155–157  
 shamans and shamanism  
   in Evenki culture, 4, 18, 22, 165  
   looting of shamans’ tombs, 155  
   portrayed in science fiction, 91  
   Soviet anti-religious campaign, 23, 155, 170  
 Shaniagir, Ulkigo, 28  
 Shapley, Harlow, 77, 100, 186  
 Shipulin, Vladimir, 128, 150  
 Shishkov, Viacheslav, 37  
 Shlovsky, Viktor, 104  
 Shnitke, Vladimir, 157–158  
 shockwaves, 3, 30, 63, 79, 89  
 Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet, 202  
 Shtaudinger, Anna, 156  
 Shumilova, Liudmila, 64–65, 68, 76, 126  
 Siberia. *see also* taiga  
   climate change in, 205  
   colonized by Russian Empire, 17, 40, 60  
   place of exiles, 17, 40, 57, 60  
   Trans-Siberian railroad, 17, 40, 43, 60  
*Siberia* (newspaper), 25  
*Siberian Life*, 25  
 Siberian Traps, 83  
 Sicily, 200  
 Sikhote-Alin meteorite shower, 94, 102, 115, 188, 192  
 Silver Age, 16–17  
 Sizykh, Izmail, 25  
 Sizykh, Konstantin, 51  
 Skorokhodov, Sergei, 180  
 Skriabina, Olga, 150  
 Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, 192  
 snowmobiles, 170, 180  
 Sochi, 81  
 socialism  
   attempt to collectivize Evenki, 23, 44  
   and culture of voluntary expeditions, 116, 136  
   depicted in science fiction, 87  
   and environmental destruction, 209  
   impact on Soviet science, 50, 79  
   market-based, 172  
 Society for Research on Meteorites, 187  
 soil samples, 81, 102, 113–115, 119, 125–126  
 solar system, 8, 14, 38, 97, 101, 183, 192  
 songs, 135, 140, 154  
 Sopin, Vladimir, 181  
 Sorokin, Vladimir, 35, 105, 108  
 Southern Bog, 68, 70, 80, 82–83, 113–114, 122  
 Soviet Council of People’s Commissars, 62  
*Soviet Siberia* (newspaper), 56  
 Soviet Union. *see also* Bolsheviks, *see also* Stalinism  
   attempts to assimilate Evenki, 23–25, 44  
   Brezhnev era, 157

- Soviet Union (cont.)  
 class hierarchies, 151–153  
 collapse, 107, 147, 172, 195  
 cultural context of voluntary expeditions,  
 115–116, 136–137, 150  
 environmental policies, 35, 165, 167, 208  
 New Economic Policy, 39, 50  
 official agendas supported by newspapers,  
 56  
 political culture of postwar science, 116  
 prohibited international researchers,  
 186  
 Thaw era, 26, 101, 108, 120, 125, 136,  
 157, 192  
 women's roles in Soviet society, 155  
 space. *see* cosmos  
 Space Age, 10, 86, 99, 101, 115, 125, 183,  
 199  
 space colonization, 210  
 space race, 79, 122, 150  
 "Spartak" tourist club, 130  
 species. *see* extinction, *see* interspecies  
 relations  
 sphagnum moss, 66–67, 75, 147  
 spirituality, 147, *see also* religion  
 Sputnik, 92, 103, 114, 122, 192  
 Stalin, Joseph, 50, 112  
 Stalinism  
 cultural radicalism, 70  
 environmental policies, 165  
 Great Terror, 74–75, 78–79, 81, 146  
 ideology present in science fiction, 92  
 loss of academic freedom, 42, 70  
 scientific culture, 95–96, 101  
 transition to, 50, 70  
*Stalker*, 104, 159  
 Staniukovich, Kirill, 94  
 Stevens, Catharine, 185  
 Stony Tunguska River, 17–18, 20–21, 24,  
 30, 45, 47, 57, 80, 91  
 storehouses, 51  
 Strelka on the Chuna River, 27, 43  
 Stroganov, Andrei, 85  
 Strugatsky, Boris and Arkady, 104  
 Strukov, Nikolai, 51–52, 58  
 Sumgin, Mikhail, 49  
 sun, 210  
 Suslov funnel, 58, 65–67, 69, 72–73, 75  
 Suslov, Innokenty, 23–25, 28, 43–45,  
 57–58, 62, 104, 158  
 sustainability, 169, 173  
 Suvorov, Ivan, 78  
 Suvorov, Konstantin, 78  
 Suzdalev, Karl, 37  
 Sviatsky, Daniel, 39, 51, 70  
 swamps, 65, *see also* wetlands  
 Symbolism, 17  
 Sytin, Viktor, 90  
 Sytinskaya, Nadezhda, 113  
 taiga. *see also* weather, *see also* trees  
 author's visits to, 60  
 characteristics, 17, 35  
 density of forest, 45  
 landscape processes, 48–49, 62–63  
 loved by voluntary researchers, 110, 122,  
 145–147  
 modern-day appearance, 4–7  
 "In the Taiga for a Meteorite", 58  
 Tarkovsky, Andrei, 104, 159  
 technogenic explanations, 197  
*Technology for the Youth*, 94–95, 99, 102,  
 106  
 tectonic explanations, 197  
 telepathy, 107, 110, 148  
 television, 98, 103, 105, 150  
 Temnikov, Sergei, 72–76  
 Tereshkova, Valentina, 155  
 Tesla, Nikola, 196  
 Thaw era, 26, 101, 108, 120, 125, 136, 157,  
 192  
 theology, 17  
 thermokarsts, 49  
 thermoluminescence, 133  
 Tibilova, Tamara, 147  
 Tikhonravov, Mikhail, 98  
 Tikhov, Gavryl, 93  
 Tiraspol, 16  
 Tolstaya, Lyudmila. *see* Plekhanova (née  
 Tolstaya), Lyudmila  
 Tolstoy, Aleksei, 87  
 Tomsk, 29, 60, 110, 116–117, 180  
 Tomsk Group for the Study of Anomalous  
 Phenomena in the Environment, 107  
 Tomsk Medical Institute, 117  
 Tomsk Polytechnic Institute, 117  
 Tomsk State University, 180–181  
 Torch (*Fakel*), 130  
 tourism, 115, 117, 128, 163, 176–177  
 tractors, 170  
 trading posts, 17–18  
 trails, 20, 45, 64, 138, 145, 159–160, 171



- trajectory, 26, 105, 113, 131
- transportation
- airplanes, 56, 81, 113–114, 159
  - boats, 47, 51
  - helicopters, 4, 81, 121, 140–141, 205
  - horses, 45, 47, 51, 63, 68
  - rafts, 46
  - reindeer, 45, 68, 114
  - sleds, 45–46, 51
  - trains, 39, 41, 48, 114
- Trans-Siberian railroad, 17, 40, 43, 60
- trees
- birch, 123, 147
  - burn marks, 47–48, 64, 75, 114, 122–123, 125
  - butterfly pattern of forest fall, 126, 130–131
  - cedar, 168
  - charting tree azimuths, 119, 130
  - chemical analysis, 119
  - fallen in straight rows, 46, 76, 114
  - forest fascinated voluntary researchers, 146
  - larch, 17, 123, 133, 147, 168
  - pine, 17
  - radial pattern of forest fall, 46–47, 75, 80, 113
  - ring data, 61, 123, 133, 159, 189, 200
  - stump, 67, 72
  - “telegraph poles” at epicenter, 47, 90, 93
- Tsiolkovsky, Konstantin, 79, 87–88
- Tulsky, Albert, 141
- Tunguska Herald*, 196
- Tunguska Meteorite: A History of Searches*, 85
- Tunguska Phenomenon* (website), 29
- Tunguska State Nature Reserve
- creation, 177
  - current threats to preservation, 181–182
  - directors, 177
  - early discussions about preserving site, 164–165
  - funding, 179–180
  - impact on Evenki, 164, 170, 177–178
  - jurisdiction, 161–162
  - KSE leaders advocated for, 160, 170–171
  - oversight of researchers, 182
  - Planet Earth Park No. 1, 178–179
  - preceded by temporary reserve, 167, 172
  - role of KSE, 180–182
- Tver region, 38
- Uchir, 19, 24
- UFOs (unidentified flying objects)
- ensorship of ufology, 107
  - first reported sightings, 92, 188
  - idea developed in science fiction, 101
  - impact of Tunguska on Soviet ufology, 101, 103
  - interest in postwar era, 86, 92
  - investigated by Soviet authorities, 96, 107
  - Kuvshinnikov’s sightings of, 111
  - La Paz’s green fireballs, 189
- Uiban, 27, 33
- Ukhagitta River, 46
- Ukraine, 41
- uniformitarianism, 198
- Union of Writers of the Soviet Union, 91
- United Nations, 178, 204
- United States
- imperialism, 15
  - meteorite research, 39, 187–189
  - meteorite theory supported by American scientists, 199–200
  - proposed aerial survey, 186
  - visits to blast site by American researchers, 196
- University of Bologna, 201
- University of Chicago, 146
- University of Tomsk, 39
- Ural Mountains, 162
- Urals Society of Nature Lovers, 164
- uranium, 37, 91
- USA. *see* United States
- Usoltsev, Anatoly, 153
- USSR. *see* Soviet Union
- vacuum decay, 210
- Vanavara
- airport, 205
  - author’s visits to, 4–7, 161, 200, 202–203, 205
  - in “Ballad about KSE,” 148
  - base for Kulik’s expeditions, 45–47, 51, 55, 57, 68, 72, 80
  - eyewitness accounts gathered in, 26
  - headquarters of Tunguska nature reserve, 179
  - hosting economy, 138, 153
  - industrial development, 168
  - population, 153
  - proximity to blast site, 32

- Vanavara (cont.)  
 residential school, 153  
 trading post, 17  
 wildfires, 81, 118, 181, 205–206
- Vasilev, Kitian, 55–56, 58
- Vasilev, Nikolai  
 discouragement about lack of  
 conclusions, 198  
 disparaging comments, 106, 130  
 environmental concerns, 175  
 on environmental impact of blast, 30  
 esteemed by official scientists, 130  
 interactions with Zigel, 106  
 interceded for imprisoned KSE member,  
 158  
 and international Tunguska research,  
 191, 195  
 leadership of KSE, 127–129, 141  
 participation in expeditions, 118–119,  
 144, 159  
 questioned comet hypothesis, 134  
 role with Tunguska nature reserve, 162,  
 168, 175, 180  
 views on technogenic explanations, 197
- vegetation  
 rapid regrowth, 29, 114, 125, 133  
 samples, 52
- Velikovskiy, Immanuel, 100, 186
- Venus, 98, 100
- Verkhoyansk, 205
- Vernadsky, Vladimir  
 concept of noosphere, 88, 174  
 cosmic dust theory, 77  
 death, 83  
 influence on Gumilev's socio-ecology,  
 174  
 mentorship of Florensky, 112  
 mentorship of Kulik, 16, 37–38  
 support for Ilmen nature reserve,  
 163–164  
 support for Kulik's expeditions, 41–42,  
 49–50, 62, 79
- Verne, Jules, 87
- video games, 105
- Vitebsky, Piers, 22
- Voice of Tomsk*, 25–26
- volcano hypothesis, 197
- volcanos, 198, 209
- voluntary researchers. *see* KSE (Complex Amateur Expedition)
- Vorobev, Vladimir, 141, 150, 160, 174
- Vostrukhov, Evgenii, 150
- Voznesensky, Arkady, 37, 42
- Vronsky, Boris, 115, 119, 123–124, 145,  
 155, 166
- vulnerability, 14, 32–33
- Vysotsky, Vladimir, 149
- “war communism,” 39
- Wardencllyffe tower, 196
- Watson, Ian, 104
- weather  
 autumn thaws and frosts, 72  
 drought, 51  
 spring thaw, 45–46, 51  
 summer heat, 139  
 summer rains, 139–140  
 winter cold, 43
- wedding, 135
- Weiner, Douglas, 163
- Weinger, Otto, 157
- Wells, H. G., 87
- wetlands. *see also* bogs  
 disputes over existence of peatbog,  
 125–126  
 draining of, 64–67  
 fascinated voluntary researchers, 147  
 types of, 65
- Whipple, Francis, 77, 186, 188, 192
- Whipple, Fred, 192–194
- White Army, 39
- white dwarf, 210
- white nights. *see* bright nights
- White Sea-Baltic Canal, 70
- wildfires. *see* fires
- witness testimony. *see* eyewitness accounts  
 of explosion
- World War I, 36, 38, 69
- World War II, 83, 110, 112, 164
- World's Fair of 1939, 88
- Worlds in Collision*, 100
- Yellowstone National Park, 163
- Yeltsin, Boris, 173
- Yenisei River, 48, 80
- Yeomans, Donald, 199
- yeti, 124
- yoga, 120
- Yucatán Peninsula, 199
- zakaznik*, 163, 165, 167, 172, 177
- zapovednik*, 163, 167, 177–178, 182

*Index*

305

- Zhdanov, Andrei, 95
- Zhuravlev, Viktor, 106–107, 134, 156, 169, 182, 195, 197
- Zhuravleva, Rufina, 156
- Zigel, Felix
- concerns about extraterrestrial contact, 107
  - conflict with scientific establishment, 105, 107
  - endorsed Kazantsev's theory, 102–103
  - environmental concerns, 169
  - founder of Soviet ufology, 84
  - relationship with KSE, 106–107
  - role in planetarium show, 92
- Zolotov, Aleksei
- analyzed treefall data, 131
  - expeditions to Tunguska, 102, 119, 121, 123–124, 166
  - proponent of nuclear hypothesis, 103, 106, 121, 189