

Professor F. Hirsch
fhirsch@wisc.edu
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Office Hours: T 4-5, W 2:30-3:30

History 424
The Soviet Union and the World, 1917-1991

This course surveys the relationship between the Soviet Union and the rest of the world from 1917 to 1991. We will look at the Bolsheviks and their dream of worldwide socialist revolution, the creation of the Soviet socialist state, the postwar transformation of the USSR into a superpower, and the eventual collapse of the Soviet colossus. We will evaluate the diplomatic relations between the USSR and other states, the connections between Soviet domestic and foreign policies, and the movement of culture, ideas, armies, and institutions across borders.

Format: Lectures and discussion section. Attendance at discussion section is mandatory. Students are expected to show up prepared and ready to participate.

Grading: Course grades determined as follows: discussion section 20%, midterm exam 20%, position paper and debate presentation 20%, short weekly response papers 15%, map quiz 5%, final exam 20%. Students taking the course pass/fail must pass all components of the course. The midterm and final exam will be based on lectures and on readings for section.

Readings: Books listed below are available at the University Book Store. A required course packet is available at Student Print in Memorial Union. All course materials are on reserve at College Library.

Kurban Said, *Ali and Nino: A Love Story* (2000)
Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End* (1999)
Ilya Zbarsky and Samuel Hutchinson, *Lenin's Embalmers* (1998)
Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1996* (2001)
Anatoly Dobrynin, *In Confidence: Moscow's Ambassador to America's Six Cold War Presidents (1962-1986)* (1995)
Vladislav Tamarov, *Afghanistan: A Russian Soldier's Story* (2001)
Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (1990)

Week 1: 9/5, 9/7

Introduction, The Bolshevik Revolution

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 1

Begin reading:

Said, *Ali and Nino*

"The Man from the East" (Packet)

Week 2: 9/12, 9/14

The Civil War Years, Communist Internationalism

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 2

Readings for Section:

Said, *Ali and Nino*

To See the Dawn (Packet)

"The Founding of the Communist International" (Packet)

"Leninist Discipline in the Comintern" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

The Allied Intervention (www.marxists.org)

<http://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/government/foreign-relations/subject/allied.htm>

Week 3: 9/19, 9/21

Americans in "Bololand," Soviet Emigres in Europe

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 3

Readings for Section:

"Henry Ford Conquers Russia" (Packet)

"American Immigrants in Russia" (Packet)

"More than 600 Americans" (Packet)

Excerpt from *Selected Letters of Sergei Prokofiev* (Packet)

Excerpt from Ilya Ehrenburg, *Memoirs* (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

Memoirs (some from U.S. and British writers) about 1920s in Russia (www.marxists.org)

<http://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/archive/index.htm>

Week 4: 9/26, 9/28

The Stalin Revolution I, Revolution in the East?

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 4

Reading for Section:

Excerpt from *Russia's Iron Age* (Packet)

Excerpt from *Red Bread* (Packet)

Excerpt from *Memoirs of a Chinese Revolutionary* (Packet)

Documents on "The Rise of Communism in China" (Packet)

Browse Website:

Photographers in Central Asia (Anahita Gallery)

<http://www.photocentralasia.com/soviet.html>

Week 5: 10/3, 10/5

The Stalin Revolution II, The USSR and Germany from Rapallo to Hitler

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 5

Reading for Section:

Zbarsky and Hutchinson, *Lenin's Embalmers*

Browse Virtual Archive:

Revelations from the Russian Archives (Library of Congress)

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/intro.html>

Week 6: 10/10, 10/12

The Comintern and the Terror, Soviet Foreign Policy "On the Eve"

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 6

Reading for Section:

Excerpt from *Enemies Within the Gates?* (Packet)

Maxim Litvinov, "Speech at the Assembly of the League of Nations" (Packet)

"The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact" and "The Secret Additional Protocol" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

Nazi-Soviet Relations, 1931-1941 (Avalon Project)

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/nazsov/nazsov.htm>

Week 7: 10/17, 10/19

World War II, Postwar Stalinism and the Origins of the Cold War

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 7

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chap. 1, 2

Reading for Section:

Excerpt from Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate* (Packet)

"Protocol of the Proceedings of the Crimea [Yalta] Conference" (Packet)

Excerpt from A. Poltorak, *The Nuremberg Epilogue* (Packet)

Joseph Stalin, "Election Speech of February 9, 1946" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

Cold War Origins (International Cold War History Project)

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=va2.browse&item=Cold%20War%20Origins

Week 8: 10/24, 10/26

Midterm, Socialism in One Zone

Background:

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chaps. 3, 4

Reading for Section:

"The Novikov Telegram" (Packet)

George Kennan, "Russia's International Position," "Telegraphic Message," and "The United States and Russia" (Packet)

Andrei Zhdanov, "Report on the International Situation" (Packet)

"The Communist Coup in Czechoslovakia" (Packet)

Browse Website:

The Cominform and the Soviet Bloc, etc. (Seventeen Moments in Soviet History, NEH)

<http://www.soviethistory.org>

Week 9: 10/31, 11/2

Atomic Diplomacy in Europe and in Asia, Debate

Background:

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chaps. 5, 6, 7

Reading for Section:

A. Y. Vyshinsky, "For the Peace and Friendship of Nations" (Packet)

"Atomic Explosion in the U.S.S.R." (Packet)

"Soviet Misinterpretation of U.S. Position" (Packet)

Excerpt from "NSC 68 " (Packet)

"The Soviet Union's Struggle for Disarmament" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II (National Security Archive)

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB162/index.htm>

Week 10: 11/7, 11/9

Destalinization and Shockwaves, The Space Race

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 8

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chap. 8

Reading for Section:

Nikita Khrushchev, "The Secret Speech" (Packet)

Documents on "The 'October Revolution' in Poland" (Packet)

Documents on "The Hungarian Revolution" (Packet)

Excerpt from Mao Tse-Tung, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution (National Security Archive)

<http://www.gwu.edu/%7Ensarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB76/>

Week 11: 11/14, 11/16

Cuba and Berlin, Guest Lecturer

Background:

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chaps. 9, 10

Reading for Section:

Dobrynin, *In Confidence*, pp. 13-114

Browse Virtual Archive:

The Cuban Missile Crisis (Cold War International History Project)

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=va2.browse&item=Cuban%20Missile%20Crisis

Week 12: 11/21, 11/23

Espionage in the Nuclear Age, Thanksgiving

Reading for Section:

Excerpt from *Venona: Decoding Soviet Espionage* (Packet)

"Beria's Memo to Stalin" (Packet)

"Interrogation of Niels Bohr" and "Kurchatov's Evaluation" (Packet)

"Interviews with Oleg Kalugin and Aldrich Ames" (Packet)

Browse Website:

Venona and the Russian Files (NYU.edu)
<http://homepages.nyu.edu/~th15/venona.html>

Week 13: 11/28, 11/30

Brezhnev and the World, Sino-Soviet Relations Redux

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 9

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chap. 11

Reading for Section:

Dobrynin, *In Confidence*, pp. 191-286

"The Action Program" (Packet)

"The Brezhnev Doctrine" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

Sino-Soviet Relations (Cold War International History Project)

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=va2.browse&item=Sino-Soviet%20Relations

Week 14: 12/5, 12/7

The Struggle for the "Third World," "Star Wars"

Background:

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chap. 12

Reading for Section:

Vladislav Tamarov, *Afghanistan: A Russian Soldier's Story*

Dobrynin, *In Confidence*, pp. 434-454

"Star Wars Speech" (Packet)

Browse Virtual Archive:

The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (Cold War International History Project)

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=va2.browse&item=Soviet%20Invasion%20of%20Afghanistan

Week 15: 12/12, 12/14

The Sinatra Doctrine, Generation "Pepsi" and the End of the Cold War

Background:

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 10

Reading for Section:

Excerpt from *Discovering America* (Packet)

Garton-Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

Browse Virtual Archive:

The Revolutions of 1989 (National Security Archive)

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/19991105/index.html>