

# Soviet Economic Planning and Growth, 1918-1982

## Unit 1 The Industrialization Debate and Soviet Planning for Growth, 1918-1952

### Tutorial Topics

#### 1. Examine the policies for military preparation and the organization of a war economy pursued by the Soviet Government, 1917-21

N Bukharin, *Ekonomika perekhodnogo perioda* (The economics of the Transition Period) 1920 edited with an introduction by K T Tarbuck, translated by O Field. *The Politics and Economics of the Transition Period* (1979), parts II and III.

E Preobrazhenskii & N Bukharin, *Azbuka komunizma* (The ABC of Communism) 1919 translation available in Penguin Books. See also the brief extract in A Nove, *An Economic History of the USSR* (1972), pp. 79-80 of the debates reported in the *Vestnik Sotsialisticheskoi Akademii*.

K Leites, *Recent Economic Developments in Russia* (1922) written from Russian newspaper articles published during the period of War Communism.

L Pasvolsky, *The Economics of Communism* (1922).

#### 2. Examine the relationship between financial policy, political control and the problems of recovery under NEP, 1922-1927/8.

G Y Sokol'nikov, *Soviet Policy in Public Finance, 1917-28* (1931)

S S Katzenellenbaum, *Russian Currency and Banking, 1914-1924* (1925)

L N Yurovsky, *Currency Problems and the Policy of the Soviet Union* (1925)

\*L Shanin, "The economic nature of the commodity shortage" and "Questions of the economic course" in N Spulber (ed.), *Foundations of Soviet Strategies for Economic Growth* (1965)

A Erlich, *The Soviet Industrialization Debate, 1924-1928* (1960) chapter 2, pp.24-31

R W Davies, *The Development of the Soviet Budgetary System* (1958), chapters 4-5.

S Johnson and P Temin, "The Macroeconomics of NEP", *Economic History Review, Second Series*, XLVI, 4 (1993).

#### 3. Examine the place of Kondrat'ev and the Conjunctural Institute in the Planning Controversy, 1925-9

N D Kondrat'ev, "Long Cycles", *Review of Economics and Statistics* 1936 reprinted in American Economic Association, *Readings in Business Cycle Theory* and the critique in G Garvey, "Kondratieff's Theory of Long Cycles" reprinted in A H Hansen and R V Clemence (eds.), *Readings in Business Cycles and National Income* (1953) and "Critical Remarks Upon the Plan for the Development of the National Economy" in N Spulber (ed.), *Foundations of Soviet Strategy for Economic Growth* (1965).

\*V Bazarov, "On the Methodology of Drafting Perspective Plans" and "Principals of Long Range Planning" in N Spulber (ed.), *Foundations of Soviet Strategy for Economic Growth* (1965).

\*V G Groman, "On the Certain Regularities Empirically Observable in Our Economy" in N Spulber (ed.), *Foundations of Soviet Strategy for Economic Growth* (1965) and S G Stumilin, "Answer to Our Critics", *ibidem*.

E Zaleski, *Planning for Economic Growth in the Soviet Union 1918-1932* (1962), chapter 2, pp.58-73 and chapter 3.

N Jasny, *Soviet Economists of the Twenties* (1972), chapters 6-8.

4. Examine the work of the "Chelintsev Committee" and the Timiryazev Institute of Agricultural Economy, 1925-8

A Y Chayanov, *The Theory of Peasant Economy* (ed. D Thorner et alii) 1966

L N Kritsman, "Class Stratification of the Soviet Countryside", translation in *Journal of Peasant Studies*, XI, 2 (1984)

M Lewin, *The Russian Peasants and Soviet Power* (1968), chapters 2-3.

N Jasny, *Soviet Economists of the Twenties* (1972), chapter 10, pp.179-184 and the same author's *The Socialized Agriculture of the USSR* (1949)chapter 8

D J Male, *Russian Peasant Organization before Collectivization* (1971), ch. 4, part 1.

M Dobb, *Soviet Economic Development since 1917* (sixth edition, 1966), statistics in note 2 pp.216-7

5. "The financial basis of the first five-year plan, until Stalin found it in levying tribute on the peasants, was extremely precarious... it seemed that everything would go to the devil..." (M Bogdenko). Discuss this post-hoc appraisal by an erstwhile Menshevik of the first draft of the First Five-Year Plan.

R W Davies, *The Industrialisation of the Soviet Union*, 2 vols. (1980)

Vol.1 *The Socialist Offensive: The Collectivization of Soviet Agriculture.*

Vol.2 *The Soviet Collective Farm.*

for reference as to the political and economic background to collectivisation

J R Millar, "Soviet Rapid Development and the Agricultural Surplus Hypothesis", *Soviet Studies*, XXII, 1 (1970); " Mass Collectivization and the Contribution of Soviet Agriculture to the First Five-Year Plan", *Slavic Review*, XXXIII, 4 (1974); "A Debate on Collectivization: Was Stalin Really Necessary ?", *Problems of Communism*, XXV, 4 (1976); "Collectivization and its Consequences: A New Look", *Russian Review*, LXI, 1 (1982) "Views on the Economics of Soviet Collectivization of Agriculture: The State of the Revisionist Debate" in R C Stuart (ed.), *The Soviet Rural Community* (1984) and with C A Guntzell, " The Economics and Politics of Mass Collectivization Reconsidered", *Explorations in Economic History*, VIII, 1 (1970)

M Ellman, "Did Agricultural Surplus Provide the Resources for the Increase in Investment during the First Five-Year Plan ?", *Economic Journal*, LXXXV,4 (1975)

6. How far did L M Kaganovich's plan for rail transport in 1935-1936 represent a belated recognition of the end of a policy aimed at achieving productivity increases through organisational change?

H Hunter, *Soviet Transportation Policy* (1957)

J N Westwood, "Transport" in R W Davies, Mark Harrison and S G Wheatcroft (eds.) *The Economic Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1913-1945* (1994)

\*A J Heywood, "Changes in the Russian and Soviet Steam Locomotive Stock, 1913-1928", *CREES. Discussion Papers. SIPS. No. 31* (1991)

\*E A Rees, "The Purge on the Soviet Railways 1937", *CREES. Discussion Papers. SIPS. No. 34* (1992)

7. Why did the Soviet authorities encourage "Stakanovism" during the years 1934-1938 ?

For a discussion of the differences between the 1935 and 1936 annual plans see

R W Davies, *The Development of the Soviet Budgetary System* (1958), chapter 9 which may be supplemented by reference to E Zaleski, *Stalinist Planning for Economic Growth, 1933-1952* (1980)

On their relationships to questions of changes in industrial labour productivity:

W Galenson, *Labour Productivity in Soviet and American Industry* (1955) and his "Industrial Labour Productivity" in A Bergson (ed.), *Soviet Economic Growth* (1953)

Whilst directly on the question of "Stakanovism" see

L H Siegelbaum, *Stakanovism and the Politics of Productivity in the USSR, 1935-1941* (1988)

\*F Benvenuti, "Stakanovism and Stalinism, 1934-1938", *CREES. Discussion Papers. SIPS. No.30* (1989)

B Markus, "The Stakanov Movement and Increased Labour Productivity in the USSR", *International Labour Review* (1936)

8. Examine and explain the effectiveness of Soviet military production during "The Great Patriotic War (1941-1945)

A Nove, *An Economic History of the USSR* (1969), chapters 10-11

R W Davies, M Harrison, S G Wheatcroft (eds.), *The Economic Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1913-1945* (1994), chapter 12.

M Harrison, *Soviet Planning in Peace and War, 1938-45* (1985) and the same author's "Resource Mobilisation for World War II: the USA, UK, USSR and Germany, 1938-1945", *Economic History Review*, Second Series, XLI, 2 (1988); "The Volume of Soviet Munitions Output, 1937-1945: A Reevaluation", *Journal of Economic History*, L, 3 (1990) and "New Estimates of Soviet Production and employment in World War II: A Progress Report", *CREES, Discussion Paper. SIPS. No.32* (1991).

W Moskoff, *The Bread of Affliction: the Food Supply in the USSR during World War II* (1990).