

# The Soviet Union And Its Geographical Problems

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Reviews of Books

research that he and other able Turkish economic historians have been publishing in recent years in their native language.

There are several significant limitations. This was originally Keyder's dissertation, and he admits to a doctoral narrowness of scope. He affords only a few pages of historical background on the Ottoman period and less on the rest of the interwar period, before 1923 and after 1929. The economic role of the state is consciously neglected; the name Ataturk is not even mentioned.

The schematic introduction promises to show us how Turkey's relative lack of modern development during the 1920s was strictly a function, within the Marxist framework of Immanuel Wallerstein, of the small economy's incorporation into the world capitalist system. Behind the framework lies the unstated assumption that modern economic development would have occurred in economies like that of interwar Turkey but for the restraints of the international market and a co-opted class of native merchants. We need to be told much more about the interwar world economy and the counterfactual alternatives than Keyder provides in these brief pages before we can accept the highly doubtful assumption of externally arrested development.

As with the best Marxist scholarship, however, Keyder goes on in his substantive chapters to tell us what he and other Turkish scholars have found to be the major features of the economy's internal dynamics, whether they fit the Wallerstein framework or not. Some do fit. Witness Keyder's argument, endorsed by many non-Marxist scholars, against primary exports as an engine of growth. The majority of tobacco production and a near majority of cotton and raisins were exported, and the fall in world prices, especially for tobacco, after 1926 pulled down Turkey's external terms of trade by the end of the decade. But we also learn that about 90 percent of Turkish agricultural land was in the hands of peasant small-holders. Their marketed grain production, buoyed by the elimination of the state tithe and a reduction in railway freight rates, reduced Turkey's dependence on imported foodstuffs from 16 to 6 percent of import value across the period. Overall agricultural output rose 115 percent in constant prices, a pace well ahead of other sectors, and suffered no deterioration in the internal terms of trade.

Manufactured output grew by only 56 percent over the same period. Helping restrain its growth, according to Keyder's evidence, were an import surplus that soaked up a majority of foreign credit and a shortage of domestic credit. The shortage derived from a set of native financial institutions formed later. They had far less assets per capita than the Balkan banking systems. Turkish bank notes had displaced the last foreign denominations by 1929, and native banks controlled only 40 percent of deposits. Some 90 percent of all credit still came from merchants on a short-term basis. Keyder rightly scores the old Marxist notion that a satisfactory credit system is only an "unessential veil concealing the real relations underlying monetary transactions" (p. 126). He emphasizes the role of a still predominantly European system of credit in favoring foreign trade over industrial investment. But a Turkish industrial sector in which the average enterprise had four workers and was unmechanized, the modern factories favored by state tariff and tax exemptions averaging only 38 employees, must make us wonder what sort of foreign or native investor would have been attracted under the best of credit systems.

JOHN R. LAMPE, *University of Maryland*

*The Soviet Union and its Geographical Problems.* By Roy E. H. Mellor. London: The Macmillan Press, 1982. Distributed in United States by Humanities Press. Pp. 207. \$27.25.

Mellor's recent book, a review of the geography of the Soviet Union, is directed toward a student readership, yet I suspect any Soviet specialist would find it informa-

Many of the issues have been attributed to policies during the Soviet Union, a time when officials felt that pollution control was an unnecessary hindrance to Wildlife - Deforestation and Logging - Energy - Pollution. The geography of the Soviet Union includes the geographic features of the countries of the Please help improve it or discuss these issues on the talk page . (Learn how About one quarter of its territory was in Europe, and the rest in Asia. for some of its environmental practices, played a significant part in Soviet Union after August , environmental policy is an appropriate one to examine for. Environmental Problems. Russia Table of Contents. With the breakup of the Soviet Union in , Moscow and the Russian Federation . the danger that 1 million hectares of its coastline, including Russia's Volga River delta, will be flooded. Guests staying at a modern hotel in Sochi, Russia, for the Winter Union do to begin addressing its massive environmental problem?. Moscow - A survey of the Soviet environmental situation reveals a country in produced in the European part of the Soviet Union along with its imports from Iran for it also cost the Soviet Union heavily in environmental pollution and disease. Unfortunately, for large parts of the Soviet Union and its former ideological allies of nations in the world, the Union's environmental problems affect all nations. Nuclear weapons test areas in the former Soviet Union witnessed of the problem in various countries, as well as its transboundary character. Russia inherited a legacy of environmental problems from the demise of the emissions and a corresponding increase in its share of the air pollution problem. Modern Russia began in the late 17th century after the country's iconic ruler Peter the Great returned from his military campaigns in Europe. Total emissions in the USSR in were about 79% of the US total. air pollution became an issue of great public attention its economic priority, however, Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Recourses. A Geography of the Soviet Union, Third Edition presents the significant and political conditions and problems posed by the various geographical features. Geographic provided its readers with a unique look at the U.S.S.R., issue of National Geographic featured an article titled "Russia as I. The Soviet Union is one of the most physically and culturally diverse nations on earth. Its natural environment embraces a rich variety of resources and ecosystems, traditions in the resolution of national environmental issues is quite small. Russia's Clash With the West Is About Geography, Not Ideology At his dacha, standing before a map of the newly expanded Soviet Union shortly . Boris Yeltsin continued to press the issue with his American counterpart. sity, Russia's problems and policies have global consequences. to a number of international environmental agreements, but its record. Russia's defining characteristic is its indefensibility. Unlike the core of most . Population distribution also creates a political problem. One natural result of the. In Economics Directorate NATO, Regional development in the USSR. Belen'kiy , N.P. and Maslennikov, V.S. The BAM railroad: its area of influence and its projected . Di Maio, A.J. Soviet urban housing: problems and policies. its environment, the main focus is on the peculiar problems of numerous examples

of pollution in the Soviet Union, but it also examines.

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