

ATTEMPTS TO MODERNIZE THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ACCOMPANYING POLITICAL-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

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Abstract

The presented article deals with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and political-economic problems accompanying this process. Immediately after Stalin's death, Beria initiated an amnesty, liquidated the Gulag, abolished the special meetings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and began the process of rehabilitating innocent victims. The Kremlin party nomenclature could not tolerate these reforms in any way, therefore, just two weeks after the adoption of decrees, the party bosses arrested L. Beria. By criticizing Stalin's personality, N. Khrushchev literally began to methodically cut the branch on which the Soviet political-economic system sat. Corrupt political-economic bureaucracy began to form in the country at once and it pervaded in all spheres of Soviet political and economic life.

Thus, as soon as Khrushchev came to power, the Soviet communist-corrupt political-economic system began to form, which lasted until its overthrow. The rumors that the Soviet system was destroyed by foreign special services are not true.

Key words: Soviet Union, economic problems, corruption, collapse of the system.

1. Introduction

On December 25, 1991, the Soviet Union disappeared from the world political map. A flag that has been making the world rattle for seventy years has flown from the Kremlin. No important issues would have been resolved on the planet without the participation of the so called socialist political-economic system state being under this symbol.

Today it is written that by 1985 the Soviet Union was in a difficult economic situation. This seems to have been so if we trust the first and last president of the Soviet Union, M. Gorbachev. If he did not start the so-called „transformation, publicity and democratization, he would keep the ‘throne’ for only 15 years.

Politics is the most difficult field of science and thinking that finds its way into the labyrinths. This is confirmed by the statement of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A. Gromyko's before death, it was said: „If I write the truth in my memoirs, the whole world will turn over.“

2. Historical Background

On March 3, 1953, Joseph Stalin, the greatest politician, military strategist of all time and owner of Russia, died. On that same day, fighting for supremacy at the Kremlin began. Firstly, Lavrenty Beria has been promoted, the first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who, according to sources, aimed to systematically modernize the political and economic system of the Stalinist Soviet Union. Lavrenti Beria under his son S. Beria's testimony demanded special conference of the party, at which all members of the

Central Committee were to report on their personal participation in the repression. At the same time, he initiated systemic changes, which, as the subsequent events showed, were hasty and fundamentally opposed to the interests of the party nomenclature.

According to Beria's program, as a result of the political and economic changes of the Soviet system: 1. The policy of the Cold War should have been abandoned and the first clear example of this should have been the unification of Germany. 2. To reduce the punitive, repressive measures that should have been expressed by amnesty. By the cessation of coercion and physical pressure on detainees, the restriction of special assemblies, the transfer of the Gulag to the Ministry of Justice, and the rehabilitation of innocent victims. 3. To liquidate interfere of the party leadership of the country in the economic affairs. Real power should be transferred to the councils, while the party retained only an ideological function. 4. Republics would be given full sovereignty. To appoint local representatives as leaders of national republics; In the republics, the proceedings should be transferred to the local languages; to form national military units. 5. To pave the way for farms without disrupting collective farms and Soviet farms. To give them opportunity to prove their superiority within the competition. Abolish passport restrictions on villagers.

Indeed, immediately after Stalin's death, Beria initiated an amnesty, liquidated the Gulag, abolished the special meetings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and began the process of rehabilitating innocent victims [Rehabilitation, 2000]. On June 12, 1953, the presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union passed a resolution „on the transfer of proceedings in the national languages at the national republics“ and a secret resolution: „on the expansion of socialist construction in the GDR“, which was considered the first step towards unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany...

The Kremlin party nomenclature could not tolerate these reforms in any way, as this would deprive them of power. Therefore, just two weeks after the adoption of these decrees, the party bosses arrested L. Beria on June 26, 1953 and, as most sources testify, was immediately shot. The government was taken over by the Communist Party nomenclature, which in September of the same year „legally“ staged a coup d'etat at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and appointed Nikita Khrushchev, the organizer and instigator of the coup, as the first secretary of the Central Committee. Who for his own interests, firstly dismissed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union G. Malenkov and then took over the post himself.

The Soviet Union was a state where ideology was paramount, which is why Khrushchev, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, appointed his people, who helped him in the coup, to take advanced ideological positions. So for example Satyukov as the editor of „Pravda“, and Ilichev as the secretary of the Central Committee in the field of ideology.

In fact, it was another successful coup d'etat at the Russian imperial court, paving the way for another similar coup.

The ruler of a huge empire, N. Khrushchev, who came to power, realized that he needed to take his place not only in the Soviet Union but also in world politics. That is why he immediately started ideologization the politics of world peace and at the same time began the process of reducing the army. If by March 1, 1953 the Soviet Army numbered 5.4 million men, by the early 1960s it had decreased to 2.4 million men. At first, the Kremlin clown gave the impression that he was following a reformist course. According to the sources, N. Khrushchev during 1956-1957 considered the possibility of unification on the basis of the GDR and the GDR confederation. The Kremlin allegedly agreed to secede from the Kuril Islands with Japan and announced its intention to join NATO.



At the 20th congress of the CPSU, Khrushchev succeeded and began to criticize Stalin in a hall full of Stalinists. The delegates to the congress were so intimidated by the repressive nature of the repressive rule of the Soviet government that one of the representatives of the party elite and generals who prayed on Stalin's icon yesterday could not dare to speak out in protest. Everyone obediently agreed with the Kremlin's new „Grisha Otrapiev“.

By criticizing Stalin's personality, N. Khrushchev literally began to methodically cut the branch on which the Soviet political-economic system sat. Corrupt political-economic bureaucracy began to form in the country at once.

A clear example of the above mentioned was the sale of jewelry to the basic accumulation of property in Soviet society. For example, if in 1960 84 million rouble jewelry was sold; in 1965 it amounted 107 million roubles. By 1970, their number had grown to 533 million rouble. In 1980, its number reached to 4637 million. In other words, the sales of jewelry in the Soviet Union increased 45 times in 15 years.

Property acquired under the Soviet establishment was divided into: legal and criminal. In order to get rid of Stalinist stereotypes and legitimize the accumulated wealth, the communist nomenclature imposed high honorarium on the intellectuals and the representatives of the communist nomenclature.

For example, the editor of „Ogonyok“ magazine received a fee of 750,000 rouble for the first volume of his work. His writings consisted of five volumes. He therefore received totally 380,000 rouble.

Corruption has rampant in the Soviet system since the second half of the 1950s. A clear indication of this was that during a search of the directors of Moscow's central stores, Koltsov and Vodovozov, law enforcement officers found 650,000 rubles secretly confiscated; Millionaires in the field of illegal Soviet trade emerged. For example, the head of the university „Sokolniks“ owned 1 million Rouble. Corruption has engulfed the communist elite – Krasnodar Regional District Committee Secretary A. Trarada kept 450 thousand Rouble in the attic of his house. The secret millionaires were leading party and Soviet workers: Sushkov, the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister, and Ishkov, the Fish Industry Minister. Accordingly, the amount accumulated by them through seizures, correspondence and machinations was 1.5 million and 6 million. Rubles.

3. Property differentiation and the formation

In the Soviet Union, property differentiation and the formation of the wealthy began, consisting mainly of party nomenclature and people close to them. In the mid-1980s, there were 280 million people living in the USSR. The savings boxes at that time were 198 ml. The deposit on which was kept about 300 billion Rubles. From these, deposits up to 1,000 Roubles amounted to about 111 million. A savings book on which \$ 40 billion was kept and on the prosperous part of the population was 87 million deposits with 260 billion Roubles.

The purchase of a car was considered to be the highest condition of the life of a Soviet citizen. According to statistics, 30 million cars were sold by factories in their own country in 30 years. Which meant that it was owned by 10-15% of the population, for the other 85-90% this „happiness“ was unattainable. That is why a class of corrupt people was formed in the country, which accumulated a large amount of property, legally or illegally, and now they wanted to legalize it. When the President of the United States R. Reagan invited a Soviet scientist I. Zemtsov, who had immigrated to Israel, for a consultation and asked which forces could be a social pillar for liberal reforms in the Soviet Union. The addressee of the question did not think much

and answered „shadows“, or criminals, which in English sounded like „gangsters“.

Corruption pervaded all spheres of Soviet political and economic life. The head of the Main Criminal Investigation Division of the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Soviet Union unequivocally stated that as a result of the „fish case“ he came to the office of the Minister of the Fisheries Industry, a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU. And the „Tregubov case“ showed that 300 thousand workers working in trade in Moscow participated in it. It is clear from this that there was so-called chain in which people working at higher state and party bodies were involved.

The situation could not be improved by the fact that up to a million people were expelled from the ranks of the CPSU due to corruption and various crimes. Sometimes members of the political bureau also „managed“ to commit crimes, for example, Minister of Culture Furtseva used the materials available for the rehabilitation of the Bolshoi Theater in his own house, as indicated by his comrades. He angrily replied to the party bosses: „Before you reach out to me, look at yourself.“

The ruling party was so corrupt that money was paid everywhere to make people members of the CPSU. The amounts for the positions were differentiated. The secretariat of the city committee cost half a million rubles, the head of the interior department -300 thousand, and the start of work in the state auto inspection three thousand. It got to the point that in the 70s and 80s, the criminal world had its interests pursued everywhere and in everything – in region, city, district, Soviet and party governments. It was also a disaster that many of these people later became members of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Economic corruption lingered in foreign trade. For a quarter of a century, from 1961 to 1985, the USSR bought 150 million euro abroad. Dollar agricultural products. How this process went, was well shown in M. Gorbachev’s words in 1986: „We pay 160 US dollar to the USA for per ton of wheat, while in the USSR it costs 111. So we lose 50 gold roubles per ton“. According to the latest data, the Soviet wheat mafia was buying wheat abroad for \$ 225. While the same wheat in the Soviet Union cost 100 rubles. The reason for this, as we have mentioned, was the establishment of a state structural mafia in the wheat import system.

Such economic mafias have formed in all areas of the national economy.

In the mid-1980s, a quarter of the world’s diamonds were mined in the USSR. The state signed a cooperation agreement with the English firm „De Brice“ in this field in 1960. As a result, the USSR scored 4.8 billion rouble diamonds abroad. „De Brice“ earned \$ 2.6 billion as a result of Soviet diamonds sold in Israel in 1977-1978 alone. The point was that diamond crystals were a hundred times cheaper than a diamond. That is why the government has repeatedly raised the issue of making diamonds on the spot. The issue could not be resolved on the pretext that it is not in our interest to develop diamond production. Here, the main reason was the large army of state officials involved in corrupt deals with various foreign firms.

The collapse of the Soviet political-economic system was also indicated by the fact that the State Security Committee, the tower of the Soviet government, was in a political-economic crisis. This is evidenced by the fact that the representatives of this supervisory and punitive body began to flee en masse to the enemy camp. The Western agency worked very hard. For example, the State Security Committee general wrote: „Former American spies said you are good guys. We know that you have had success and you have the right to be proud..... But the time will come and you will understand what kind of agency the CIA and the State Department had above you“.

The CIA was present everywhere in all parts of the Soviet system: in the State Security Committee, in the Kremlin, in scientific research institutes.... As a result of the collapse of the Soviet political-economic



system, the CIA not only penetrated the intelligence services of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, but also manipulated them on a giant scale.

The political-economic and legal crisis of the Soviet system of government was also indicated by the fact that when the so-called „lie detector“ in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union came up with the idea to include this device in their „weapons“ and use it not only to check their own employees, but also to people who were suspected of a double lifestyle. But due to the instructions of the superior Soviet political bodies, the work was stopped in this regard, and the creator of the Soviet lie detector was fired from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

It is paradox, but the fact that the State Security Committee did not have its own security service.

It was no coincidence that in Soviet Union in the 1980s it was joked that the CIA had three residences in Moscow: one at the US Embassy, the second at the General Staff, and the third at the State Security Committee.

The result of all these processes was that political-economic and social corruption pervaded the entire upper population layer. The elite of the country and Moscow gathered in the restaurant „Arkhangelsk“, where for days and nights were held decapitated circles and orgies.

4. Conclusion

Thus, as soon as Khrushchev came to power, the Soviet communist-corrupt political-economic system began to form, which lasted until its overthrow.

At the head of this gradually decaying political-economic system was the Central Committee of the Communist Party and its Political bureau with a huge party nomenclature that neither wanted nor could modernize the system. The changes required flexible, mind-blowing, and in reality some youth energy politicians from beginning to end. Who, if they appeared, were severely persecuted by the degraded Soviet political-economic system. Whereas the reforms were against the interests of the party's political communist nomenclature.

The question is, how did the post-Stalin Soviet-political-economic system differ from the Stalinist system? We do not think that the loud slogan „Stalin“ was changed to the silent slogan „Stalinist-Stalin“ with the slightest difference that the genius was headed by weak leaders and the performers were representatives of the corrupt communist nomenclature.

Thus, the rumors that the Soviet system was destroyed by foreign special services are not true. The Soviet political-economic system depraved and collapsed as a result of the degradation of the political-economic-political and artificially inflated state bureaucracy.

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