

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

Prof. F. Hirsch  
Fall 2015  
Tu/Th 11-12:15

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Office hours Friday 9:30-10:45 and by appointment

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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.

Skills: This course will help students develop skills in critical reasoning, research, source evaluation, and analytical writing. Students will work individually and in small groups to do original research in preparation for our in-class debate. Students will share their research findings and arguments in written and oral presentations. This course will also encourage students to make connections between the past and

the present—between the events of the 20th century and the world we live in today.

The History Lab: New this semester, the History Lab is a resource center where PhD students can assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process—choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts—the History Lab staff is here, along with your professors and teaching assistants, to help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>

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.

Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End* (2006)

Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War* [purchase used, different editions available]

Kurban Said, *Ali and Nino: A Love Story* (2000)

Oleg Kalugin, *Spymaster: My Thirty-Two Years in Intelligence and Espionage Against the West* (2009)

Vladislav Tamarov, *Afghanistan: A Russian Soldier's Story* (2001)

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern* (1990)

### **Week 1: 9/3: Introduction**

#### **Begin reading:**

\*Kurban Said, *Ali and Nino*

### **Week 2: 9/8, 9/10: War and Revolution**

#### **World War I, The Bolshevik Revolution**

#### **Background:**

\*Peter Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chap. 1, 2

#### **Readings for Section:**

Said, *Ali and Nino*

Tom Reiss, "The Man from the East" (Packet, pp. 1-15)

#### **Browse Virtual Archive:**

The Allied Intervention ([www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org))

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

### **Week 3: 9/15, 9/17: The 1920s I**

#### **Communist Internationalism and Civil War, Americans in "Bololand"**

##### **Background:**

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

##### **Readings for Section:**

*The Communist International: Documents* (Packet, pp. 16-34)

*To See the Dawn: Baku 1920* (Packet, pp. 35-43)

Maurice Hindus, "Henry Ford Conquers Russia" (Packet, pp. 44-47)

Ruth Kennell and Milly Bennett, "American Immigrants in Russia" (Packet, pp. 48-57)

"More Than 600 Americans Are Now Working for the Soviets" (Packet, pp. 58-59)

##### **Browse Virtual Archive:**

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

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

### **Week 4: 9/22, 9/24: The 1920s II**

#### **Stalin Revolution I, Revolution in Asia**

##### **Background:**

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

##### **Reading for Section:**

Selection from William Henry Chamberlin, *Russia's Iron Age* (Packet, pp. 60-71)

Selection from Mukhamet Shaiakhmetov, *Silent Steppe* (Packet, pp. 72-90)

Selection from Wang Fan-hsi, *Memoirs of a Chinese Revolutionary* (Packet, pp. 91-110)

##### **Browse Website:**

Photographers in Central Asia (Anahita Gallery)

<http://www.anahitaphotoarchive.com/>

### **Week 5: 9/29, 10/1: The 1930s I**

#### **Stalin Revolution II, Soviet-German Relations (and the League of Nations)**

##### **Background:**

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

##### **Reading for Section:**

Ilya Zbarsky and Samuel Hutchinson, *Lenin's Embalmers* (Packet, pp. 111-161)

Francine Hirsch, "National Types" (Packet, pp. 162-167)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

Revelations from the Russian Archives (Library of Congress)

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

**Week 6: 10/6, 10/8: The 1930s II**

**The Comintern and the Terror, Hitler and Stalin**

**Reading for Section:**

Selection from George F. Kennan, *Memoirs 1925-1950* (Packet, pp. 168-183)

Selection from *Enemies Within the Gates?* (Packet, pp. 184-204)

Documents on "International Trotskyism" and "Collective Security" (Packet, pp. 205-209)

"The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact" and "The Secret Additional Protocol" (Packet, pp. 210-211)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

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

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

**Week 7: 10/13, 10/15: War**

**The Great Patriotic War, From War to Peace**

**Background:**

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

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "Open Doors, Iron Curtains"

**Reading for Section:**

Selection from Ilya Ehrenburg, *The War* (Packet, pp. 212-229)

Selection from Vasily Grossman, *A Writer at War* (Packet, pp. 230-249)

Selection from Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate* (Packet, pp. 250-270)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

Seventeen Moments in Soviet History (NEH)—For 1943

<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/>

**Week 8: 10/20, 10/22: The USSR and the Postwar World**

**The USSR and the Postwar World, Midterm**

**Background:**

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

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapters on "Two Declarations of Cold War" and "Two Halves of the Same Walnut"

**Reading for Section:**

"Teheran Conference: Roosevelt-Stalin Meeting," 1943 (Packet, pp. 271-273)

"Protocol of the Proceedings of the Crimea [Yalta] Conference," 1945 (Packet, pp. 274-281)

Selection from A. Poltorak, *The Nuremberg Epilogue*, 1971 (Packet, pp. 282-291)

"The Novikov Telegram," 1946 (Packet, pp. 292-303)

George F. Kennan, "Telegraphic Message," 1946 (Packet, pp. 304-322)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

Cold War International History Project: Cold War Origins

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/27/cold-war-origins>

**Week 9: 10/27, 10/29: Postwar Stalinism**

**Soviet Expansion, The Bomb and Foreign Relations**

**Background:**

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "NSC-68"

**Reading for Section:**

"A Report to the National Security Council" (Packet, pp. 323-391)

*History of Soviet Foreign Policy*, 1973 (Packet, pp. 392-402)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

Cold War International History Project: The Korean War

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/50/korean-war-1950-1953>

**Week 10: 11/3, 11/5: Khrushchev**

**De-Stalinization and Shockwaves, The Space Race**

**Background:**

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

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "East and West of Suez"

**Reading for Section:**

Nikita Khrushchev, "The Crimes of the Stalin Era" (Packet, pp. 403-433)

Documents on "De-Stalinization and Polycentrism" and on "The Hungarian Revolution" (Packet, pp. 434-442)

Mao Tse-Tung, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions" (Packet, pp. 443-473)

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

National Security Archive: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution

<http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB76/>

## **Week 11: 11/10, 11/12: Cold War Debate**

### **Week 12: 11/17, 11/19: From Khrushchev to Brezhnev Cuba and Berlin, From Bluster to Stagnation?**

#### **Background:**

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapters on "New Frontiers and Old Dilemmas" and "Southeast Asia—And Elsewhere"

#### **Reading for Section:**

Anatoly Dobrynin, *In Confidence* (Packet, pp. 474-510)

#### **Browse Virtual Archive:**

Cold War International History Project: The Cuban Missile Crisis

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/31/cuban-missile-crisis>

## **Week 13: 11/24: Soviet Espionage**

### **Espionage in the Nuclear Age**

#### **Background:**

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

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "A New Containment"

#### **Reading for Section:**

\*Oleg Kalugin, *Spymaster: My Thirty-Two Years in Intelligence and Espionage Against the West*

#### **Browse Virtual Archive:**

Cold War International History Project: Intelligence Operations in the Cold War

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/45/intelligence-operations-in-the-cold-war>

## **Week 14: 12/1, 12/3: Brezhnev and the World**

### **Cold War Politics East and West, "Third World" Politics**

#### **Background:**

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "From Cold War to Old War: Reagan and Gorbachev"

#### **Reading for Section:**

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

#### **Browse Virtual Archive:**

Cold War International History Project: Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/76/soviet-invasion-of-afghanistan>

**Week 15: 12/8, 12/10: Gorbachev Era  
New Thinking?, The Pepsi Generation**

**Background:**

Kenez, *History of the Soviet Union*, chaps. 10, 11

LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, chapter on "A New World Order—  
Or the Age of Fragmentation?"

**Reading for Section:**

\*Timothy Garton-Ash, *The Magic Lantern*

**Browse Virtual Archive:**

National Security Archive: The Revolutions of 1989

<http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/news/19991105/>

**Week 16: 12/15, Collapse and Dissolution**