

HISTORY 486/686 TWENTIETH CENTURY RUSSIAN HISTORY

SOVIET HISTORY ON TRIAL

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For decades commentators in the United States have condemned the actions and laws of the leaders of the world's first experiment in socialism in the Soviet Union. In this course, we will look at some of the great 'trials' of 20th century Russian history and prosecute, defend and judge them ourselves. With readings, lectures and class discussions we will examine the full range of 20th century Russian history: radical socialism and the Russian Revolutions of 1917, the socialist social and cultural experiments of the twenties, forced collectivization of agriculture, the industrial revolution, World War II, late Stalinism, the Khrushchev reforms, Brezhnev-era stagnation, the Gorbachev experiment, the collapse of the Soviet Union and new parliamentary institutions.

In four trials staged in class we will debate the following topics: 1) revolutionary terrorism and political violence in pre-revolutionary Russia; 2) the Great Purges of the mid 1930s; 3) the dissident movements for civil rights and free expression in the 1960s; 4) the legacy of the communist party after its collapse in the 1990s. Each class member will be assigned to a legal team to either defend or prosecute one of the trials. Participation in the trials is mandatory. If for medical reasons a student cannot make a trial, it is important to contact Prof. Brown ahead of time. Trial procedures and assignments are discussed on page 3. Some class time will be used for meetings of the legal teams.

Students will turn in a five to seven page research paper in the form of a legal brief on their trial topic, three short papers pronouncing a verdict on the remaining trials, and take a comprehensive final exam. Preparation for and participation in a trial will count for 15% of the grade. The research brief will count 30%. The three short papers will count 10% each for a total of 30% and the final exam is worth 25%.

In researching and writing your research paper, as a registered UMBC student you can download Citation software for free at www.citationonline.net/laccess/umaryland. This software will help you organize your sources and generate footnotes and a bibliography in a standard format (Chicago Style is preferable).

REQUIRED BOOKS

RICHARD PIPES, *THE DEGAEV AFFAIR*

ANDREEV-KHOMIAKOV, *BITTER WATERS*

DAVID MARPLES, *MOTHERLAND: RUSSIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY*

LUDMILLA ALEXEYEVA, *THE THAW GENERATION*

SHEILA FITZPATRICK, *STALIN'S PEASANTS*

STEPHEN KOTKIN, *ARMAGEDDON AVERTED*

ON-LINE BLACKBOARD READINGS

Found at class Blackboard site

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week I, Jan 30 and Feb 1: Revolutionaries and Tsars

M Jan 30: Introduction

W: Richard Pipes, *The Degaev Affair*, pp. 1-67

Marples, *Motherland*, pp. 1-30

Week II: Feb 6 and 8, The Russian Revolutions and Civil War

M: Degaev, pp. 67-132

Marples, *Motherland*, pp. 31-66

W: Marples, *Motherland*, pp. 66-72

On-line Reading: Maslow, on Taking the Winter Palace

Lenin on Seizing Power

Military Revolutionary Committee Declarations

Trial 1 legal teams Trial Schedule due

Week III, Feb 13 and 15, The Experiments of the Soviet Twenties

M: TRIAL I: The Extradition Trial of Sergei Degaev, Feb., 1884

W. **Reading Day, No Class**

Marples, 73-98

Week IV: Feb 20 and 22, NEP and Stalinist Economics

M: TRIAL I, Day II (if needed)

Fitzpatrick, *Stalin's Peasants*, pp. 19-47

On-line Reading: Stalin on Lenin's Death

W: Andreev-Khomiakov, *Bitter Waters*, pp. 1-81
On-line Reading: Stalin on the Grain Front
Stalin on the Liquidation of the Kulak
Dizzy with Success

Trial I Jury Verdicts and Legal Briefs due

Week V: Feb 27 and March 1, Collectivization and Industrialization

M: Marples, pp. 98-117
Bitter Waters, pp. 81-152.

W: Fitzpatrick, pp. 3-18, 48-95
Bitter Waters, pp. 153-188.

Week VI: March 6 and 8, Stalinist Culture

M:
Fitzpatrick, 128-151, 204-224

W: On-line Reading:
Elena Osokina, *Our Daily Bread*, excerpt, pp. 166-195
Stalin on Stakhanovites
Changing the Landscape

Week VII: March 13 and 15, The Great Purges and Foreign Policy

M: Marples, pp. 117-127
Fitzpatrick, pp. 174-203, 233-261
Trial II Trial Schedule due

W: Marples, pp. 128-149
Fitzpatrick, pp. 286-313

March 20 and 22 Spring Break

Week VIII: March 27 and 29 World War II

M, TRIAL II, March 1938
Enemies of the People: Factory manager Grigorii Neposedov (from *Bitter Waters*)
Village Council Chairman Kochetov (from *Stalin's Peasants*)

W. TRIAL II, day 2

Marples, pp. 149-187

Week IX: April 3 and 5, and the Road to Cold War and Stalin's Death

M: "Cold War Readings" (online handout, Blackboard)

W: Marples, 204-218

Trial II Jury Verdicts and Legal Briefs due

Week X: April 10 and 12, Thaw

M: Marples, pp. 218-232

On-line: Virgin Lands Campaign
Virgin L-ands Experience

W: *The Thaw Generation*, pp.1-161

Week XI: April 19 and 21, Stagnation and "Neo-Stalinism"

M: Marples, 232-254

The Thaw Generation, pp.162-277

Trial III Trial Schedules due

W: *The Thaw Generation*, pp. 277-end

On-line Reading: "Interview with Yevtushenko" ,
and "Transcript of Brodsky Trial" (online handout, Blackboard)

Week XIII: April 24 and 26, Road to Reform

M: TRIAL III: Andrey Sinyavsky/Abram Tertz for Anti-Soviet Propaganda
And Joseph Brodsky for parasitism, February 1966

W: TRIAL III, DAY 2

Marples, pp. 254-289

Week XII: May 1 and 3, The Gorbachev Revolution and the Collapse of Communism

M: Marples, pp. 289-308

Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, pp. 1-85

Trial IV Trial Schedules Due

W: Kotkin: pp. 86-112

Trial III Jury Verdicts and Legal Briefs due

Week XIII: May 8 and 10, Russia and the Successor States

M: Marples, pp. 308-322

W: M: TRIAL IV The Trial of the Coup plotters, (held March 1993)
Kotkin, 112-196

Week XIV: May 15 Conclusions

M: TRIAL IV, DAY 2 and conclusions

Final Exam: Reasons for the Collapse of the Soviet Empire
Trial IV Jury Verdicts and Legal Briefs due