

Reevaluating the Soviet Collapse: Domestic and International Frameworks of Politics and Economics

London School of Economics, 32L.1.05
March 23, 2018

Workshop Agenda

9:00 – 9:15: Introduction and welcome by Workshop Chair, Vladislav Zubok. Established explanations and new questions for investigation.

09:15-11:00: Introductory Panel: 25 Years After the Fall. Reflections on and studies about the Soviet collapse.

Presenters: Michael Ellman, David Woodruff, Juliet Johnson, Janet Shapiro, Rudolf Pikhov, Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi, Vladimir Popov.

11:00-11:15: Coffee Break

11:15-14:00: Current work on Perestroika. What we can learn about perestroika from the archives and new sources.

Panel One: International and Institutional Influences (11:15-12:00)

Presenters: Egle Rindzeviciute and Yakov Feygin

Panel Two: Implementation(s) of Economic Reforms (12:00-13:00)

Presenters: Rudolf Pikhov, Isaac Scarborough, and Lars Fredrik Stöcker

Panel Three: Perestroika and the Periphery (13:00-14:00)

Presenters: Artemy Kalinovsky, Riccardo Cucciolla, and Irina Morozova

Presentations should each last ±15 minutes; discussion to follow each panel

14:00-14:45: Lunch

Thematic Roundtable Discussions

14:45-15:30: Thematic Roundtable One: Who Stole the Soviet State? And Why?

- 1. Does Steven Solnik's (Stealing the State) thesis hold up to new evidence? Should it be revised?*
- 2. Was Gorbachev's political liberalization necessary for Soviet economic reforms or harmful to them?*
- 3. Do we learn anything from the comparisons made between the Soviet Union and China?*

15:30-16:15: Thematic Roundtable Two: Liberal Economics and Soviet Reforms

1. *What impact did Western economists and Western ideas have on the perestroika reforms?*
2. *Why were more radical economic reforms not implemented earlier? Would this have mattered?*
3. *Could more Western assistance to Gorbachev have made a difference?*

16:15-16:30: Coffee Break

16:30-17:15: Thematic Roundtable Three: Centre-Periphery Dynamics in the Gorbachev era

1. *Does the metaphor of “the last empire” help or hurt in understanding the Soviet collapse?*
2. *What was the role of nationalism vs. the economy in the Soviet implosion?*
3. *Could and should the Soviet Union have been preserved?*

17:15-17:30: Concluding remarks. What have we learned? What remains to be studied?

19:00-21:00: Workshop Dinner at the “Goose and Pig” (213 The Strand).