
REECAS NEWSLETTER

Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Center
Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

Winter, 1997

Letter from Tashkent

The following is a letter received by the REECAS Center in December from a colleague in the capital of Uzbekistan.

by George Wright

Greetings from Tashkent! You might be interested in recent goings on in Uzbekistan. The holiday is definitely manufactured—it has borrowed all the Russian “Pine Tree Festival” trappings replete with decorated pine trees, Father Frost, and a Snow Princess. Never mind that there are no trees to cut in most of this land of arid steppe and desert beyond the confines of the Fergana valley, or that Santa Claus stand-ins are about as far from an Islamic heritage as one can get! (As an adaptation, an Uzbek-speaking Father Frost appeared in a brilliant green robe.) But the Russians enjoy the festivities—it’s in a class with the stunningly anachronistic Bolshoi Ballet of Tashkent or the abandoned ice hockey arena. The Uzbeks primarily treat New Year’s Day as the equivalent of our Thanksgiving—everyone visits family for a fine feast and better-off Tashkent children are taken to theatrical events.

The holiday is a nice break since Tashkent is getting a tad bleak. It is definitely LA (or perhaps Denver) East—the pollution gets murkier by the day. With no rain prior to Christmas for six weeks or so and no wind, the smog piled up on top of us, masking beautiful snow-capped mountains 60 kilometers or so to the northeast. Christmas morning dawned weirdly clear, and there were the dramatic snowy foothills of the Tien Shen. But today, like most days, the Seattle-style TV tower in north Tashkent is lost in mist and smog.

This is a great metaphor for our understanding of Uzbek current events. This is partly due to our still nascent Uzbek, but more because, in grand Soviet style, all government data are treated as state secrets. Some offices still have large green safes in which they keep data (and their Xerox paper). U.N. personnel have been asked to pay hard currency for each table of data requested. Foreign trade statistics, for example, are not released. This allows the government to declare that Uzbekistan is self-sufficient in wheat, which is patently untrue. But with no information, who is to say any different? I’ve been having a fine time gathering data from the IMF, World Bank, UNDP etc., to whom the government must report, and sprinkling my lectures with overheads replete with Uzbekistan statistics. The effect is like pulling rabbits out of a hat—people are amazed.

The biggest mystery has been foreign exchange policy. Uzbekistan has cashed in on cotton exports. Surrounded by the sound of crashing economies among the other C.I.S. members, the Uzbeks entered the world market just as the world price of cotton moved up. The economy has slid downwards since independence, but nothing like the experience of its erstwhile sister republics. Ironically, the lack of industrialization, which made it the second poorest SSR, proved to be its salvation—ready global markets for cotton and gold and not so many factories to close! The government has been remarkably disciplined so that by 1995 both the budget and foreign trade were almost in balance—earning lots of pats on the back from the IMF and assorted Embassy commercial attaches.

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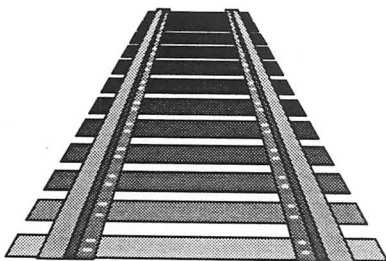


Discovering Vyatka

by Daniel C. Waugh

Vyatka (once Khlynov, now Kirov, with a population approaching half a million) has the misfortune of being known as a place of exile and the archetypal provincial backwater of Russia. The historian Kostomarov commented that there was “nothing in Russian History more obscure than the fate of Vyatka and its lands.” If we know of the town, 830 km northeast by east from Moscow and 330 km directly north of Kazan, it is from the literary portraits by two of its most famous unwilling visitors, M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin and Alexander Herzen, both of whom served in the local government there in the middle of the 19th century. Until very recently, Western scholars would not have been able to visit Vyatka and learn about it first-hand, since the city was closed on account of its concentration of military-related industry.

My recent opportunity to make the acquaintance of what is in fact a culturally and historically fascinating region came in an invitation to participate in a conference on religion and culture in the Russian North, held on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the birth of St. Trifon, the founder of the major monastery in Vyatka. Getting there today in some ways seems no easier than it might have been in the nineteenth century. The scheduled planes do not fly, as one sometimes learns only when showing up at the airport at 6 AM in Moscow. The trains, on the other hand, run on schedule and are comfortable, even if the Moscow-Vyatka trip takes 14 hours.



Vyatka in late October may greet the visitor with rain, mist, even some snow and ice, but the warmth of the welcome makes one forget the weather. As one of five foreign visitors participating in a conference that expected more than 200 participants, I began to feel as though my reception rivaled that of the future Tsar Alexander II when he visited the city in the 1830s (and helped to arrange that poor Herzen be transferred to a more propitious place of exile, Vladimir). Within hours of arriving, we were whisked off to the service at the Monastery of St. Trifon, presided over by Archbishop Khrisanf. In short succession came the opening plenary session of the conference, where, with some trepidation, I found myself on the platform with all the local dignitaries, including none other than the Archbishop himself. At least that way my paper presentation was behind me quickly, and I could more readily enjoy the concert that evening by several of the wonderful church choirs. One of the striking impressions was the beauty of the choral music, which is experiencing a major revival along with the revived fortunes of the Orthodox Church. A few years ago, a conference on the church and religion, with the active participation of clergy as well as lay scholars, would have been unthinkable in Vyatka.

The revival of the fortunes of the Church can be seen in the ongoing restoration of the Monastery of St. Trifon. The cathedral church (1689), with its very interesting frescoes depicting the life of the saint, has been returned to its former glory, and the adjoining bell tower is being re-built. The archdiocese is again publishing its own newspaper, whose pre-1917 predecessor is one of the major sources of material for historians of the region. As in so many old Russian towns, the spires of churches dominated the skyline of old Vyatka; wholesale destruction of many of them in the 1930s has left a void in the architectural and broader cultural history of the city. Most

of those which remain still await restoration. Yet the older center of town preserves much of the flavor of a 19th-century provincial center—many log houses remain, alongside interesting masonry residences and commercial buildings of that earlier era.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to nearby towns along the highway that in earlier times was the main road to Siberia. It crosses the Vyatka river, passing the village of Dymkovo, where the local craftsmen (actually most of them women) became famous for their painted clay figurines, now being produced in workshops located in the city. Beyond Dymkovo is the village of Makar'e, where the excellent acoustics of the cathedral church rendered the more ethereal the voice of the choir's soprano soloist during the Sunday service I attended.

Some 35 km from Vyatka is Slobodskoi, whose external appearance is little changed from its days as a significant, if small, commercial and industrial center. It was known for industries ranging from leather processing to bell casting and samovar manufacture. One of its citizens, Ksenfont Anfilatov, founded the first Russian private bank in 1809 and was the first Russian merchant to engage in trade with the United States carried in his own ships. The Slobodskoi museum, located in a former church on the central square, is a gem, providing in a small space an excellent overview of the history, life and arts of the region. Not the least of its surprises is a small art collection that includes paintings by the futurist artist Ol'ga Rozanova.

My visit to Slobodskoi and the nearby village of Karino was greatly enhanced by my guides, Irina Trushkova and Elvira Kasimova, ethnographers who work in the regional museum in Vyatka.

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As part of their work, they travel to remote villages to record the folklore, collect costumes, and document the traditional culture which is gradually disappearing. Elvira is a Tatar, whose family comes from Karino, a still largely Tatar village that is somewhat isolated from the major areas of Tatar settlement to the south in Kirov oblast. Visiting her grandparents and great aunt and learning first-hand about the unique culture of Karino was a great privilege. In her work, Elvira has written about the history and culture of the Muslims in the region, relying in part on oral histories from her family. While much of traditional Islam can no longer be found (for example, Karino no longer has a mosque, although there are still Friday prayers, led by a mullah who moved there from Bashkiria), burial traditions have been maintained, and the sense of a distinct Muslim cultural identity is still evident. The revival of Islamic traditions and practice in Kazan may eventually have some impact even in isolated Karino.

My days after the conference were largely taken up with library and archival work. The regional history collection in the Herzen Library (*Kirovskaia oblastnaia nauchnaia biblioteka imeni A. I. Gertsena*) is one of the best anywhere in Russia and offers a scholar from outside a unique opportunity to accomplish much in a short period. In the United States, one has to search far through inter-library loan to come up with even a fraction of some of the old Vyatka publications, but in Vyatka itself, volumes from the full runs of the *Eparkhial'nye vedomosti*, *Gubernskie vedomosti*, and *Trudy* of the regional historical-archival commission appear on one's desk within minutes of the asking. The library also has two important rare book collections—one of old Slavic books, many of which were formerly in the regional church libraries, and one of rare foreign books, including the libraries of many individuals who were exiled to Vyatka beginning back as early as the time of Tsar Peter the Great. While indexes of many of the 19th-early 20th

century serials are available (in some cases, yet unpublished), the proper descriptive cataloguing of the rare books is still some ways from completion. Other scholarly resources in the city include an excellent regional archive (*Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Kirovskoi oblasti*), which is a rich source of information for almost any subject for the period from the 18th century to the present (there are some earlier materials, but they are fragmentary; the most important ones have been published). The archive allows the readers to search the unpublished *opisi* and does provide photocopying services. Additional material for the scholar can be found in the regional museum of history and culture (*Kirovskii ob"edinennii istoriko-arkhitekturnyi i literaturnyi muzei*), which has a wonderful collection of "material culture" (among other things, traditional costumes of the Slavs and the many non-Slavic peoples in the region), as well as a small but valuable collection of old imprints and manuscripts, many of which have been collected among the Old Believers.

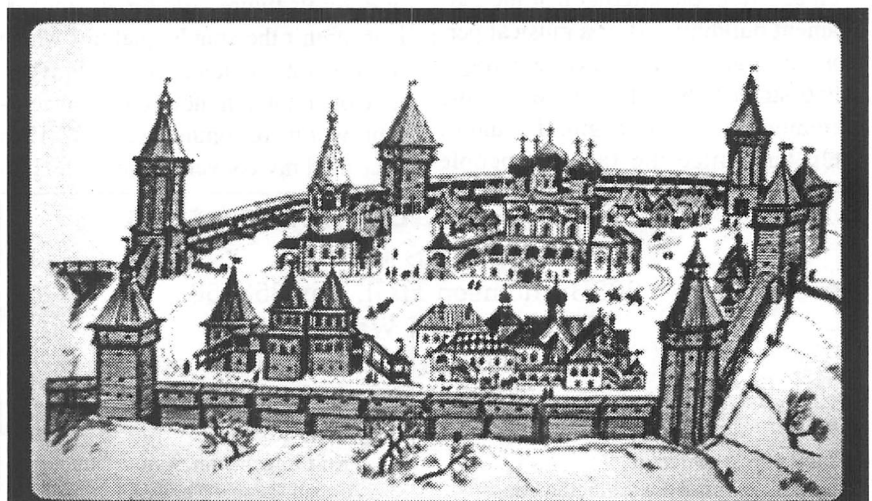
My evenings were not idle, as I was hosted by the local artists' circle, attended a meeting of the local literary circle, visited two artists' studios, and attended a polished production of Moliere's *Tartuffe* in the main theater,

which was packed with school children (presumably because the play was one of their assignments). When I went with other conference participants to a lecture/concert in the now restored early 20th-century Roman Catholic Church (many Poles were in exile in Vyatka, I had not expected to find there a wonderful new German tracker organ which someone in the local government had the vision to purchase a few years ago. Bach's Toccata in D minor played on the kind of instrument for which it was written was a real treat.



Vyatka has an interesting connection with the larger history of Russian art, through two of the local boys who made good, Viktor and Apollinariii Vasnetsov. They were instrumental in the founding of the local art museum, which was enriched in the Soviet period thanks to the fact that another former Vyatka resident was making decisions in Moscow concerning the distribution of "extra" paintings from the central museums in the late 1920s.

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KHLYNOV (VYATKA) KREMLIN, LATE 17TH CENTURY

Illustration by Tatyana Dedova

Budapest Revisited: A Moment of Truth

by Ursula Oaks

When I was planning my trip to Hungary last fall, I knew one of its highlights would be taking part in the celebrations on October 23, the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution. On the morning of the 23rd, I headed downtown, ready for a day of memorable sights, sounds and experiences.

I got to Kossuth Square at 9:40, and my first thought was: Where was everybody? I knew the first public celebrations had begun at 9:00. Was it the cold, rainy weather that had kept everyone away? As I read over the many planned events, I figured people were waiting until later to hit the streets. After I wandered around for a while, someone pushed a copy of the day's itinerary and a flag with a hole in the center in my hand. By the time of the revolution, the Soviet star had been placed in the center of the Hungarian flag. Cutting this out was a symbol of protest by freedom fighters and has since become one of the strongest symbols of the 1956 revolution.

Throughout the day, there were gatherings at sites across Budapest, but the grand finale was the memorial celebration at five in the afternoon at the Parliament building. After a musical performance and a silent play depicting a 1956 street battle, the votive-lighting ceremony was set to begin. I couldn't help but notice the faces of people

around me. There was no spontaneous participation or reaction from the crowd, just the blank looks of people waiting for something to happen. Conspicuously absent was the singing of the national anthem, a cornerstone of any Hungarian gathering.

Security and police had been pouring out of the depths of the parliament building for some time. Standing in the front row, I could hear the grumbling of people behind me: "What are they afraid of? Do they think we're going to rush the parliament building?" They carefully channeled the crowd to a narrow corridor which led past a giant Hungarian flag, draped on the main steps of the Parliament. Free candles were handed to each person who wanted to place one on the flag. They were then directed out into the main square. The crowd soon dispersed.

At the end of the day, I wondered why I felt such a strong sense of disappointment. Why had I expected more of this celebration? What did it mean to me?

I am definitely a product of my background. My family defected from Hungary in 1975; my parents alternately mourn Hungary's historical fate and pray for its future. But for all Hungarians, aren't the simple qualities which the revolution stands for — bravery, love of country, honor, self-reliance — traits worthy of commemoration? Then I recalled my conversations with Hun-

garian relatives and friends in the preceding days, and these told the story.

The night before, my aunt and I had gone to an event organized by local student organizations and civic groups. A march began at one of the city's universities. There was a wreath-laying ceremony at Bem Square, and the march continued to Castle Hill, where a service at the Matthias Cathedral concluded the evening. People sang, read poems, and chanted things like: "Don't fear, the students are here." My aunt told me that the people here (and many others) probably would not attend the government-organized celebrations on the actual anniversary. It seems that not participating in this national holiday — at least the official celebration — had become a form of political protest against Hungary's socialist leaders.

On another evening that week, I had attended an event at the Center for Independent Journalism, a distinctly western organization funded by the Freedom Forum and frequented mostly by expats. The most memorable moment came when Gyula Obershovsky, founder of the 1956 opposition newspaper *Igazság (Truth)*, spoke to the gathered audience of about 100. Imprisoned after the revolution was put down, Obershovsky was released in 1963. His words belied the bitterness and distress which he has carried with him since those terrible days in 1956. Fighting back tears, he complained of the West's abandonment of Hungary in its time of need. He was also extremely critical of today's Hungary, describing what he saw as its moral bankruptcy and corrupt political system. He called upon young people to take control of the future of their country.

On the way home that night, my Hungarian friends told me that they had a hard time understanding and appreciating the significance of this anniversary.

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Budapest Revisited

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And they were sure that though Obershovsky was clearly a person with much to offer his country, his style was not likely to be effective in inspiring a generation that had not been there in 1956 and had only been taught the "official story" of the revolution at school.

Putting all of these experiences together, I could start to make sense of the anticlimactic 1956 commemoration I had witnessed. At some level, Hungarians' preoccupation with the task of surviving in a quickly changing world might leave them little time to reflect on national holidays. Despite what the various political and economic "indicators" may tell us about the progress Hungary has made in recent years, many Hungarians are unsatisfied with the pace and direction of change in their country and feel deeply insecure about the future.

And Hungary is still a country strongly divided along political and ideological lines. It seems even this anniversary failed to be a point of unity. One important participant in the revolution, Miklós Vászárhelyi, had this to say to a Hungarian newspaper about the 40th anniversary: "On the one hand, I feel great satisfaction, that I lived to see this day become a national holiday. On the other hand, I feel deep sorrow, that the memory of '56 does not yet fill the role it should in Hungarian history."

Ursula, a second-year REECAS graduate student, spent two months in Budapest last fall.

Global Expedition on the WWW

The GlobaLearn Trans-Asia Expedition is an expedition from Italy to Hong Kong via the Internet. The expedition team will start in Venice, Italy and travel through Austria, Eastern Europe, Turkey, Central Asia, China, and Hong Kong. The team will end its trek in Hong Kong, having retraced Marco Polo's historic passage to the East.

Visit *GlobaLearn* at URL <http://www.globalearn.org/other/transasia.html>

Tolstoy Online

The Tolstoy Library is dedicated to the collection and dissemination of electronic texts related to the life and work of Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy. The home page itself includes links to full-length documents that can be downloaded, including biographies of Tolstoy, online copies of his works, literary criticism and analysis. A mailing list discussion group serves to link Tolstoy scholars and enthusiasts around the world, facilitating the exchange of ideas and information. Papers are invited for consideration to be included in the Tolstoy Library's collection.

Visit the *Tolstoy Library* at URL <http://users.aol.com/Tolstoy28/tolstoy.htm>

The Donald W. Treadgold Papers In Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

Order the following papers for your library:

- No. 6: *Post-Communist Traditions: The Rise of the Multi-Party Systems in Poland and Ukraine* (Deshchytsia, \$5.25)
- No. 7: *Russian Banking: An Overview and Assessment* (Moors, \$5.25)
- No. 8: *Nationalism and Religion in the Balkans Since the 19th Century* (Sugar, \$5.25)
- No. 9: *Modes of Communist Rule, Democratic Transition, and Party System Formation in Four East European Countries* (Golosov, \$5.25)
- No. 10: *The Politics of the Domestic Sphere: The Zhenotdely, Women's Liberation, and the Search for a Novyi Byt in Early Soviet Russia* (Fuqua, \$5.25)
- No. 11: *Ethnic Bipolarism in Slovakia, 1989-1995* (Lucas, \$6.45)

Forthcoming:

Literacy and Reading in 19th Century Bulgaria (Daskalova)

A ten issue subscription is available for \$45.00. Individual orders are as listed and must be accompanied by a check payable in US\$ to UW (international orders add \$1.00; WA residents add 8.2% sales tax). Send orders and subscriptions to Joan McCarter, managing editor, at the address below.

Inquiries and submissions should be sent to the address below with attention to Professor Sabrina P. Ramet, editor.

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Impressions of Russia (Part Two)

by Bobbi Morrison

In spring 1995, Nova Alternative High School in Seattle hosted a group of students from Perm, Russia. In March 1996, Nova Russian teacher Bobbi Morrison and eight Nova students went to Perm. Part One of Bobbi's impressions of Russia appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of the REECAS newsletter. This is the conclusion of her article.

Perhaps the results of economic competition seem obvious. But we must realize the terrible suffering of the Russian people during this century. I saw it one day in the eyes of an old grandmother. I was walking in a park with my host Svetlana. There were groups of small children playing, watched over by their "babushkas." I approached one "babushka," smiled and attempted to begin a conversation. She just gazed at me expressionlessly and said nothing. After rejoining Svetlana, I asked her about this. She said, "Our people have endured so many changes over the years, so many terrifying hardships, many of them have just forgotten how to smile. You perhaps forget that during the Great Patriotic War, what you call WWII, 20 million of our men died. And even before that there were civil war, purges, and great pressures to produce in the factories. Now once again we are forced to endure yet another change. Many who worked long and hard have lost their pensions. So for many here, these new economic changes bring even more hardship and poverty."



In the cities and at train stops there were endless tables selling every kind of food (from baskets of fresh lemons, tomatoes, bananas or home-canned mushrooms, bags of seeds, nuts, cookies), clothing and sundries. Only a few months ago, such foods were not so readily available, a testament to increased wealth and variety of goods now making their way into the economy.

We also visited a joint venture (internationally financed) factory that made *pivo* (beer), dry breakfast cereals and other cereal-based products. On the tour, the production manager proudly pointed out that all of their products were completely natural, with no additives or preservatives. But Marty, a market consultant from Wisconsin, said that in the future this would change in order to further the product's shelf life and profit margins. How ironic that as Americans are seeking ways to reduce the number of additives to make a healthier product, Russians are advised to use more in order to compete.

In the stores which sold high-tech products (tape players, televisions, VCRs, etc.), we saw a strange contrast, almost a disjunction of time. When you wanted to make a purchase, you approached a cashier who created your bill on an abacus. Here one of the oldest counting instruments in the world worked unabashedly beside the newest technology. Old and new Russia met in what appeared to us a strange partnership. One evening at home, Svetlana poked a little fun at her daughter-in-law for enrolling in a driver's education course. "But why, Nashenka, would you take driving lessons when we have no car?" Natasha belongs to a different generation, a generation who sees the promise of better times to come and wants to be prepared for the style of life they eventually want to live.

Thus our whole trip exposed us to a culture in dramatic transition, a culture burdened with a proud but in many ways inefficient past, a country quite rich in splendid cultural achievements that is growing more fascinated with cheap videos and daytime TV melodramas, a country seeking its spiritual roots that have grown dry with disuse. But for us, the Russians are most obviously a people of passion and generosity, taking joy in providing us with all they could gather for us to make us comfortable.

We sensed a certain fragility in these people, exposed to so much change, and the link we have established with them is itself fragile. As we were waiting for our train at the station, most of the host students and families were in tears, so emotional was this event. One of the Russian students said, "If our country votes Communist, who knows if we will ever be able to see each other again. Perhaps visits like this back and forth will not be allowed." Svetlana replied very soberly, "Never will the Communists have full sway as in the past. This trip is symbolic of the kinds of exchanges in ideas and friendships that cannot be stopped. There is no turning back, but perhaps we might have to move forward more slowly than we would wish."



**The Third Annual Regional Conference
on
Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS)
April 26, 1997
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington**



8:15-9:00am Coffee and registration, welcoming remarks

9:00-10:30am **Session 1: Politics and Conflict in Russia and Central Asia**

Chair: William Richardson, University of Washington, Tacoma

Papers: Present Political Situation in Russia
Vladimir Raskin, Moscow Research Center for Human Rights

Russian-Chechen Wars in the Long Perspective: Identity and Asymmetric Strategies
in Ethnopolitical Conflicts
Mikhail Alekseev, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Jackson School of International Studies,
University of Washington

Recent Developments in Afghanistan: Implications for the Entire Region
Zaher Wahab, Lewis and Clark College

10:45-12:15pm **Session 2: Environmental Issues in the Former Soviet Union**

Chair: Charles Dodd, Bellevue Community College

Papers: Boundary Problems and Wildlife Habitat in Central Asia and Russia
Kathleen Braden, Seattle Pacific University
Eugene Kashkarov, Institute of Biology, Irkutsk University

Extending Sustainable Development in Russia and Central Asia
Zane Smith, Ecologically Sustainable Development, Inc.

A Return to Lebenswelt: Glasnost and Estonian Environmentalism
Robert Smurr, Department of History, University of Washington

12:15-1:15pm Lunch (non-hosted)

1:15-3:15pm **Session 3a: Demographic and Economic Transformations in Russia and Ukraine**

Chair: Craig ZumBrunnen, Department of Geography, University of Washington

Papers: Rural Population Growth in Russia: A Temporary Trend?
Dmitry Sharkov, Department of Geography, University of Washington

Prospects for Peasant Farming in Russia
Brad Rorem, Rural Development Institute

Women's Health Policy in Post-Communist Russia,
Joan McCarter, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

Problems of Economic Transformation in Ukraine
Alina Yuhymets, University of British Columbia

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1:15-3:15pm Session 3b: Interest Group Formation and Political Expression

Chair and

Discussant: Stefan Kapsch, Reed College

Papers:

The Development of Interest Groups and Lobbying in Slovenia

Danica Fink-Hafner, Reed College

Democratic Attitudes and Elite Identities in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan

Dawn Nowacki, Linfield College

Institutional Change in Post-Communist East Central Europe:

Why are the News Media Still Bound by the State?,

Andrew Milton, University of Oregon

CEE Law and Business Documents, Kevin Gray, Gonzaga University

3:30-5:30pm Session 4: Ethnicity, Nationality, and Land Reform in Central/Eastern Europe

Chair and

Discussant: Patrick H. O'Neil, University of Puget Sound

Papers:

The Ethno-Nationality State in Eastern Europe and the Problem of Ethnic Cleansing

Ronald Wixman, University of Oregon

Serbian Intellectuals Between Class and Culture, 1958-1974

Nick Miller, Boise State University

The Great Land Reform of 1945 in Hungary: An Illusion of Giving Turned into Robbery

Victor Schmidt, Jackson School of International Studies,

University of Washington

Difference Unveiled: Bulgarian National Imperatives and the Re-dressing of Muslim

Women in the Communist Period

Mary Neuburger, Department of History, University of Washington

There is no charge for admission to the conference. No pre-registration is necessary.**For more information, contact :**

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Directions to the Wheelock Student Center, University of Puget Sound:

From either north or south on I-5, take exit 132; you will be heading west, and see signs indicating that this is the exit to get onto Highway 16 heading toward Gig Harbor. Once on Highway 16, you will quickly see a sign for UPS/Union Avenue; take this exit. Turn right from the off-ramp onto Union Avenue, and head north approximately 1.5 miles. Go until you reach North 18th Street--don't be confused when you initially turn onto Union that the numbers are going down and not up, as you are still in south Tacoma. Once you reach North 18th you will see the university on your right. Turn right onto North 18th, and follow it until it comes to an end; turn right into campus. You will see a tudor-style building and rotunda straight ahead; that is the conference site. Park in the visitor lot on your left or on the street (parking is free.)

“NATO ENLARGEMENT AND THE BALTIC STATES”

A conference at the University of Washington, Seattle
 Petersen Room, UW Suzzallo Library
 Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7, 1997



The two-day conference will examine the question of NATO Enlargement and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The program will focus in part on the question of ethnic diaspora in the Baltic Sea zone and include diplomats and academics from the three Baltic states, Russia, Poland and the Nordic states, plus the United States and Canada, including present and former officials of the US Department of State and Department of Defense.

The program will also examine the question of NATO from the perspective of the new and established democracies in this region. Dr. Vitaly Zhurkin, currently Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences and one of the authors of “the common European home” concept of the Gorbachev era, will be among the speakers.

The final session of the conference, which will take place Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 in Kane Hall, will be co-sponsored by the Seattle World Affairs Council. The other co-sponsors of the program include the International Studies Program, the European Studies Program, the Baltic Studies Program, the Scandinavian Studies Department, and the Canadian Studies Program. The conference is funded by PNWCIS (the Pacific Northwest Colloquium on International Security) and REECAS. By spreading these panels over two days, we hope to allow for extended debates over the issues raised in formal presentations by panelists, remarks by designated commentators, and spontaneous reactions from conference participants. We hope that all participants will attend the program in its entirety. Time will be set aside for questions from the audience.

The chair of the conference will be Drew Mann, of the US State Department. Presenters will include Vladimir Raskin of the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights, Igor Zevelev of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO,) supported by the Kennan Institute, and Teresa Rakowska Harmstone. Commentators will include REECAS postdoctoral fellow Mikhail Alekseev and professors Sabrina Ramet, Herbert Ellison, and Daniel Chirot.

Briefly, the themes to be explored are:

- 1) The *interaction* between security issues and the rights of citizens, ethnic groups, religious communities and nation-states. The interaction of all these issues with European area security structures.
- 2) Evolving *Russian views* on these questions.
- 3) Evolving *Baltic views* on these questions.
- 4) *Nordic experience* with these issues based on 200 years of complex interaction among diaspora, nation-states, Russian/Soviet imperialism and European security organizations.
- 5) Conflicting security imperatives for *Polish policy* in regard to Russia, the CIS, Kaliningrad and the Baltic states, the Nordic states, the Visegrad states, and the NATO/EU states. The assumption is that Polish-NATO policy will serve as a catalytic agent in regard to all of these security horizons.
- 6) *American security interests* in regard to NATO and the former Warsaw Pact zone; the Soviet legacy of “de-nationalizing” East European security forces so that they have not been available to “nationalist” politicians of the Milosevic-Tudjman variety. The question of whether Brussels can perpetuate the Soviet legacy of the de-nationalization of East European security systems; the question of whether the Western democracies can further integrate their common defense structures so as to perpetuate the “de-nationalization” of security policy in Germany, Japan and other advanced economies. The long-term trends on alliance building and democracy.

For more information on the conference, contact Professor Chris Jones at (206) 543-9831 or via email at cdjones@u.washington.edu.

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Wednesday, February 12, West Europe

The Many Voices of the Global Village: Cultural and Political Assertions among Europe's Long-standing Cultural Minorities

Thomas A. DuBois, Associate Professor, Scandinavian Studies and Comparative Literature and Acting Chair, European Studies Program

Wednesday, February 26, East Asia

China on the Anniversary of the Shanghai Communiqué

David Bachman, Chair, China Studies Program

Wednesday, March 12, International Business

The Causes and Consequences of Globalization

Charles W.L. Hill, Hughes M. Blake Professor of International Business

Wednesday, April 2, Canada

Fishery Futures: Canada-U.S. Relations in the Pacific Northwest

David L. Fluharty, Research Associate Professor, Marine Affairs

Wednesday, April 16, South Asia

The British Library/University of Washington Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project: Deciphering the Texts of Ancient Gandhara

Richard Salomon, Professor, Asian Languages and Literature

Wednesday, April 30, Russia

The Future of the Russian Economy

Judith A. Thornton, Professor of Economics

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Please mail this registration form and seminar fees (\$20.00 per person, per session) to:

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For more information call the South Asia Center at 206-543-4800, FAX 206-685-0668, or email [snodgras@u.washington.edu].

Register Early, Space is Limited.

To request disability accommodations, contact the office of the ADA coordinator at least ten days in advance of the event, 206-543-6450 (voice); 206-543-6452 (TDD); 206-685-3885 (FAX); access@u.washington.edu (email).

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- Wednesday, January 29, Southeast Asia []
- Wednesday, February 12, West Europe []
- Wednesday, February 26, East Asia []
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- Wednesday, April 2, Canada []
- Wednesday, April 16, South Asia []
- Wednesday, April 30, Russia []

Dinner-lecture fee \$20.00 per session, per person — check or money order only — payable to the University of Washington. DEADLINE for registration is one week prior to the first session you plan to attend.

SYMPOSIUM
**“AFTER COMMUNISM: THE POLITICS & ECONOMICS
 OF EAST CENTRAL EUROPE”**

Reed College, Portland, Oregon
 Five consecutive Thursdays: February 6-March 6,
 and a final weekend: March 7-8, 1997

Political and economic transformations of historic proportions have been underway in East Central Europe after communism. This five-week series of presentations and discussions sponsored by the Economics Department at Reed College, Portland, Oregon, will focus on the principal causes and consequences of these changes and the interaction between economic and political change. Most evenings will include a panel of regional academic experts and time for audience discussion and questions. The symposium is jointly sponsored by the Reed College departments of economics and political science and the Corbett and Goldhammer Lecture Funds, in cooperation with the World Affairs Council of Oregon. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (503) 777-7755.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

The Fall of Communism, Rebuilding, and the Goals of Transition

Political and economic causes of transformation from distinct theoretical standpoints

James Kurth, political science, Swarthmore College, and Anders Aslund, senior associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

Privatization

The experience of several countries with different methods of transferring enterprise ownership from government to private hands

John Earle, research associate, Center for International Security and Arms Control, Stanford University

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

The Redistribution of Power: Formal and Actual

The formal changes in rights and powers found in post-1989 constitutions, with actual changes in the distribution of economic, political, and cultural power

Dimitrina Petrova, executive director, European Roma Rights Center, Budapest

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

Reforming the Legal System to Encourage Private Sector Development

Legal systems reforms needed to support the development of a market economy

Cheryl Gray, economist, Finance and Private Sector Development Division, Policy Research Department, World Bank

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

Labor, Class and Democracy in Post-Communist Societies

The character and position of post-1989 labor movements, the factors shaping class conflict, and the implications of these for the quality and stability of democracy in East Central Europe, particularly Poland and the Czech Republic

David Ost, political science, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 P.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

The Future of East Central Europe

The prospects for democracy and for economic reforms such as those currently advocated by the World Bank and other institutions

Joan Nelson, senior associate, Overseas Development Council, Washington, D.C.,
 joined by an economist from the World Bank (to be announced)

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 9 A.M., VOLLUM LOUNGE

Topics in the Transformation of East Central Europe

The final day of the symposium will bring together presenters from Thursday and Friday evenings and the area scholars who have served as panelists throughout the series for an open plenary session and roundtables.

WORKSHOP
**“THE CHALLENGE OF TEACHING HUMAN RIGHTS:
THE CASE OF RUSSIA AFTER COMMUNISM”**

Saturday, May 3, 1997
Thomson 317
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Traditional curriculum about other nations and cultures has usually emphasized issues of diplomatic relations, security studies, or economic competition. However, in recent years questions about the future of the nation-state, the impact of technology, the “end” of the Cold War have called into question these traditional models of study. The case of human rights in Russia raises particularly intriguing questions for our understanding of what we need to understand and how we should teach about other cultures and societies in a globalized world.

- 8:45-9:00** Gather, coffee, informal introductions
- 9:00-9:15** Stating the problem,
Bruce Kochis, Liberal Studies Program, University of Washington at Bothell
- 9:15-10:15** Seminar on “Human Rights in Russia: Discourse of Emancipation or only a Mirage?” , Bill Bowring
- 10:15-10:45** Follow up discussion to the seminars,
Jim Harnish, Social Science Division, North Seattle Community College
- 10:45-11:00** Break
- 11:00-12:00** “Human Rights in Russia: From Central to Local Control,”
Vladimir Raskin, Moscow Research Center for Human Rights
- 12:00-1:15** Lunch in working groups
- 1:15-2:00** Follow-up to lunch groups,
Jim Harnish
- 2:00-3:00** Curriculum and Critical Sources in Human Rights,
Bruce Kochis and Kurt Engelmann, Associate Director, REECAS Center,
University of Washington
- 3:00-3:15** Announcements, next steps, and good-byes

The conference is open to all educators. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required. To register, call Marion Cook at the REECAS Center (206) 543-4852 or email: marionc@u.washington.edu.



Central Asian Update

Letter from Tashkent

(continued from front page)

In early 1996, however, the world price of cotton (particularly for lower quality grades produced here) started to fall. At the same time the taste for imported goods assiduously cultivated by Turkish supermarkets led to a boom in imports. Even though they had plenty of foreign exchange reserves, the government was alarmed at these unforeseen developments and started rationing requests for foreign exchange—but without discussion or information. At the beginning of the year the official exchange rate was 42 *sum* to the dollar with the bazaar rate running perhaps 50. The artificially created shortage meant that by September the bazaar rate was 60. Then September rains wrecked havoc on the cotton harvest and a lower than forecast wheat production required increased imports. So the government increased the rationing of foreign exchange—again without any explanation or information. Everyone panicked and thought that soon there would be no more dollars and the speculative demand drove up the bazaar rate to 80. The government responded with a foreign exchange decree making all dollar denominated transactions illegal. Result — a bazaar exchange rate as high as 130! Rumors and speculation generated daily gyrations down to a low of 90 and then back up to 120. For the last month or so the buy rate has stabilized at 105.

Foreign officials around here are frustrated. They feel that this is a needless, absolutely artificial crisis driven by the desire of former USSR bureaucrats for control. While they had hoped that this fiasco would teach them a lesson about the futility of controls and need for open information, this does not seem to be

information, this does not seem to be the case. When the government began discussing the foreign exchange program openly, the president first made a speech about the ridiculousness of wasting precious foreign exchange on chewing gum. (Response: all chewing gum disappeared from shore shelves the next day.) He more recently talked about the waste of allowing profits from food imports to be converted into dollars. (Response — some foreign enterprises, e.g. British Tesco are rumored to be closing down operations).

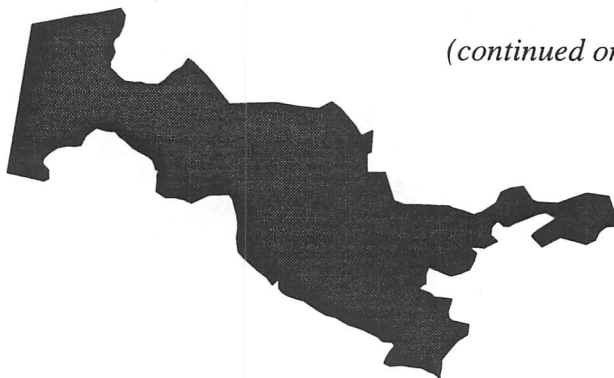
The Uzbek government appears to have slid into the complicated and eminently unworkable system of foreign exchange controls of the type that Turkey tried in the 60's and 70's. Companies are now given a monthly foreign exchange allocation, but it bounces around irrationally from month to month and is often delivered on the 15th of each month giving companies two weeks to complete foreign exchange transactions. This is to be moved to a three-month allocation, but less than 400 of the foreign enterprises have been promised convertibility of profits, and among westerners the criteria for the favored few is unknown.

Why is Uzbekistan going down this path? The government privately tells diplomats that a full system of tariffs, which are an obvious alternative to the swamp of foreign exchange controls, can't be implemented for at least a year. The government does not believe it can administer and enforce a system of tariffs—it's a wholly new function (since Uzbekistan pre-independence did not

control external borders) and there is just too much room for corruption in a poorly paid bureaucracy. The events in Kyrgyzstan this past year, where a number of customs officials were dismissed and jailed for corruption, suggest some merit to this explanation. An underlying motivation is that the government still believes that it knows better than the people, and better than the capricious decisions of market mechanisms. There is also some unspoken resentment about the role of Turkey as the largest foreign investor and reluctance to use foreign exchange reserves to allow the repatriation of "excessive" profits to Istanbul or Ankara. Budget problems are an additional strong incentive to retain an artificially low exchange rate, which holds down the "sum" cost of official imports. The social need to maintain low-cost official imports of wheat as a hidden subsidy for bread may play a role. Who knows? We certainly won't find out listening to Uzbek TV, but everywhere one pokes around the old ways turn up alive and well. As a friend of ours commented, Uzbekistan "sounds like a museum of the Soviet Union."

The fiascoes with foreign exchange policy are a true cause for concern—they introduce disruptive incentives and opportunities for corruption, since anyone with access to dollars at the Central Bank rate can make a fortune on arbitrage between the official and bazaar exchange rates. This creates an entrenched group opposing any reform that would kill off their golden goose. The abrupt shifts in policy have also caused visible damage to the country's efforts to attract foreign investment.

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Letter from Tashkent

(continued from page 14)

The President has personally devoted endless effort to woo foreign capital, lavish ads in Western print media have been purchased, and well-attended seminars held in the U.S. and Europe. Corporations, however, are now holding back--Xerox closed up shop and is laying low, a major soap/cosmetics combine has halted planning for domestic production. An international telecommunications executive stood up in a public meeting with the Minister of Finance and stated square-on the damage he was causing. The next week the treasury police descended on the offending company, searched through all their files, and fined them \$400 for having abbreviated "street" in their application for registration.

In short, the sense of optimism surrounding the boundless possibilities for this richly endowed land has diminished since our arrival. To foreign observers, the government appears to be wavering between continued market-oriented reform or solidifying a system of bureaucratic control. To Uzbeks, who are privy to no real policy debate, the spiraling bazaar exchange rate and arbitrary denial of foreign exchange are worrisome. They have already been burned twice in five years with currency crashes (first the ruble and then the sum coupon). Any personal savings are turned into non-cash tangible asset as quickly as possible. Uncertainty abounds on all sides.

For those of us in Tashkent who like to think of ourselves as change agents, the slow, cautious, sometimes misguided pace of reform can be discouraging, but it is never dull. The political economy of Central Asia is endlessly fascinating. Stay tuned.

George Wright, a senior analyst at Ekonomika, Inc, is currently studying health issues in Uzbekistan under a Fulbright grant.

Discovering Vyatka

(continued from page 3)

The Vyatka Museum, named for the Vasnetsovs, now has a fine new building, housing an excellent collection that ranges from icons down to modern works by local artists. Most of the famous Russian painters of the 19th and early 20th century are represented in the collection.

The art museum was fortunate to receive its new building before the Soviet economy collapsed. The visitor privileged to use the fine collections of the regional library and the history museum can only pray that those institutions will not have to wait long for the equivalent support they desperately need.

The library no longer has an adequate acquisitions budget, it badly needs funding for the computer equipment to develop a modern system of record keeping and establish Internet connections, and its patrons have to wait in line to find space in the reading rooms. In the face of such problems, the response of the newly-elected regional administration has been to cut the budget, a move that will require laying off 20 librarians. The history museum is

now the possessor of more than a dozen historic buildings that could provide wonderful opportunities for preservation and display of the collections. Yet there is no money for restoration, and the rare books, costumes and other artifacts are currently stored where there is no guarantee they will not suffer from leaky roofs or be consumed by fire.

The rich cultural legacy of Vyatka deserves a better fate, and it certainly deserves to be better known by all those who are interested in the multicultural past and present of Russia.

A specialist on Russian History at the University of Washington, Daniel Waugh is now developing a new course on Central Asian history and culture. His interest in the mountains has taken him to the Caucasus and Central Asia (see box below for information on his upcoming presentation.) His trip to Vyatka was supported in part by the Keller Fund in the UW History Department.

Take an online tour of Vyatka through the drawings of Tatyana Dedova. Visit Vyatka at URL <http://www.glasnet.ru/~asebrant/edut/dedova.htm>

**"In the Mountains of Central Asia," a slide presentation
by Daniel Waugh
Wednesday, March 5,
7:30-9:30 PM.
Smith Hall 205,
University of Washington, Seattle**

The show will focus on trekking, mountain biking and climbing in Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang (China) in 1995 and 1996, but will include some slides from the Hunza Valley and Karakoram Range in Pakistan. Those interested in the culture of the Kirghiz will see them in their rarely visited summer pastures--a solo trek east of the great peak Kongur. Lovers of the high mountains will enjoy views of the Aksu Valley region in the Turkestan Range, an ascent of Mustagh Ata and scenes of unclimbed peaks in the eastern Pamirs, as well as some spectacular shots of the Ultar Peaks in Hunza and the giants of the Karakoram.

Reviews

Bradley L. Schaffner, *Bibliography of the Soviet Union, its predecessors and successors*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1995 (Scarecrow area bibliographies; no. 5) xi, 569 pp. UW Libraries Location: Suzzallo Reference Stacks: Z 2506 .S3 1995

Reviewed by Michael Biggins

Weighing in at nearly 3,200 citations, this is a solid bibliography and one of several published in recent years to take in the long view of Soviet and Russian studies in the West during the transitional period of the late 1980s and '90s. Though unannotated, it will have value both for students, who can use it to familiarize themselves with the broad outlines of any area of perestroika-to-Commonwealth Soviet studies, and for scholars, who may find it handy as a checklist of familiar professional literature.

The bibliography's scope, by and large, is clearly defined: it is limited to books only, published from 1984 through 1993, primarily in Western languages (mostly English, but with citations to many German; some French, Italian, and Scandinavian; and a handful of Japanese titles). Coverage is primarily of U.S. and West European area studies publications; however, place of publication in itself is not a limiting category, and the many English-language books produced in Moscow, Vilnius, Tallinn and elsewhere in the 1980s (by Novosti, Raduga, and other outreach publishers) are included here. Reference works are one stated exception to the 1984-1993 chronological scope, and many fundamental Western-language bibliographies from the 1970s, '60s and earlier find their way into this list. It is largely a collection-based bibliography: the source of the overwhelming majority of citations is the

catalog of the University of Kansas Library, where Schaffner has worked for the past seven years as Russian area studies specialist, responsible for collection development.

The catalog origins of this bibliography are apparent from its layout, which is based on Library of Congress subject headings arranged in alphabetical order; and from the fact that the bibliography's stand-out strengths are in areas of particular importance to the Russian area studies program at the University of Kansas: military policy, economic development, and Ukrainian studies, to name a few. The wide-ranging nature of the bibliography's contents—with very general works often standing beside highly specialized situation analyses—raises natural questions about who its intended audience is. There is a further question of the rationale for unannotated, printed bibliographies focused on currently published books in an age when most, if not all of this data, is available via electronic data bases. For instance, well-formulated searches in OCLC WorldCat (accessible via UWIN or Win/Willow) will provide UW Library users with all of the citations contained in this bibliography. The added value of the printed bibliography lies in the fact that it saves the user the gargantuan task of formulating and running searches on hundreds of subject headings, and presents the results in a well-organized, easily browsable format.

Another recent area studies bibliography of similar scope is *Russia and the Former Soviet Union: a bibliographic guide to English-language publications, 1986-1991* (compiled by Helen Sullivan and Robert Burger of the University of Illinois Slavic Library; Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1994).^{*} Focusing on a more selective

array of books in English (1,400 in all) published during the Gorbachev era, and with extensive descriptive annotations for each entry, Sullivan's and Burger's reference guide is a natural successor to Stephan Horak's *Soviet Union and Eastern Europe* (1985),^{**} which for years provided the canon for undergraduate and beginning graduate Soviet studies.

As detailed as Sullivan's and Burger's annotations are, they still avoid qualitative appraisals of the books they cite. That kind of evaluative guide to Western-language scholarship for the late 1980s and early '90s—the kind of bibliography at which Horak excelled—would be an invaluable aid to students; but that is a major undertaking which for now still awaits its author and publisher.

Michael Biggins is the Slavic & East European Librarian for the UW Libraries.

^{*} *Suzzallo Reference Stacks Z 2491 .S89 1994*

^{**} *Suzzallo Reference Stacks Z 2491 .H59 1985*



Silber, Laura Silber and Allan Little, *The Death of Yugoslavia*, BBC Books, 1995.

Reviewed by Jane Desnoyers

The Death of Yugoslavia (published to accompany the television series of the same name) is an even-handed journalistic account of the recent events in the former Yugoslavia.

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Reviews

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Drawing on the authors' extensive experience as reporters in the Balkans, the book traces the development of the various tensions that led to the disintegration of the country. The authors begin with the initial "stirring" of Serbian nationalism in 1987 and Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power in the Serbian Communist Party. Challenging the popular belief that "ancient hatreds" are responsible for the current turmoil, the book focuses on the political manipulation of nationalist divisions in communist Yugoslavia.

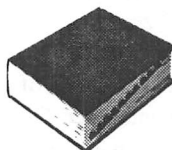
Little and Silber recount all of the significant incidents in the process of the Yugoslav breakup. Their use of direct quotes obtained in interviews with participants on all sides is extremely effective, as is their ability to draw upon eyewitness accounts and research. With the aid of the maps and cast of characters at the front of the book, the result is comprehensible even to those relatively unfamiliar with modern Balkan history.

The book is divided into many shorter chapters that focus on the individual actors or regions and specific events, such as battles, protests, or negotiations. The organization is primarily chronological, although where necessary the authors introduce a new area or topic of conflict by first providing relevant background information. For example, when they reach 1992 and the start of the conflict in Bosnia, they retrace their steps to discuss the free elections in Bosnia in November 1990.

The book for the most part avoids condemning any one nation or individual for the disintegration of Yugoslavia. The authors eventually conclude, however, that the primary blame for the descent into war belongs to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his manipulation of Serbian nationalism. A secondary thesis is the failure of the West to

take action to stop the violence. Pointing to the inadequacy or incompetence of individual mediators or their peace plans, the authors trace the development of international involvement starting with the European Community (later the EU), then the United Nations, and finally a repeat of the Cold War era superpower split between the United States and Russia.

The book ends abruptly in mid-1995. As events have obviously continued to unfold, the authors could only summarize where each republic stood at that point in time. An updated edition entitled *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation* was published this year by TV Books in the United States (and will be available January 1997 in paperback). The newer version includes chapters on Croatia's Operation Storm (during which Croatian troops reoccupied the Serbian-held Krajina region of Croatia) in August 1995 and the Dayton Peace Accord. Despite these more recent events, the authors' conclusion at the end of *The Death of Yugoslavia* still seems applicable: "victory, in former Yugoslavia, will fall not to the just, but to the strong."



Brandt, Ed, *A Survey of World Cultures: Russia and the Former Soviet Republics* (text and teacher's guide). American Guidance Service, 1993.

Reviewed by Paulette Thompson

Do you remember when most North Americans could never remember to say "the Soviet Union" or "the U.S.S.R."? Just when those people remembered not to say "Russia", the rules changed! In order to remedy this situation, run on down to the REECAS office and pick up Ed Brandt's *A Survey of World Cultures: Russia and the Former Soviet Republics*. While this softext is recommended for middle school students, it will also

be effective with students in grades nine and ten. It is appealing. Nearly every few page or so contains a map, illustration, cartoon, or black and white photo. At first glance the print seems too large and the reading level too simple, yet this text is well-written as well as accessible and deals with basic information about Russia and the former republics—and their relationships with Eastern Europe—that few textbooks have in the first place.

The text has six chapters examining crucial issues such as the following: geography and climate, history, the former Soviet Republics, the arts and sciences, government, and life today for people living in the region. Each chapter has five to six related sections and a map skills activity along with a spotlight story on a particular topic. The maps will truly help students and teachers; after all, who's got recent maps of Russia and the former republics at school? Each section in a chapter has a review box with questions to enhance reading comprehension. Check out the spotlight story pages tackling a particular current or historically controversial issue, such as the environment or comparing the challenges facing both Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. At the end of each chapter is a chapter review containing a summary, critical thinking questions, discussion topics, plus neat project ideas and assignments. The text is meant to be a survey; it does not go into depth with every topic, but it tackles history and ordinary people holistically—culturally, politically, economically, and spiritually. Fine examples of this are "What Do Russians Eat?" and "Golden Arches Over Pushkin Square." What a juxtaposition! Culture and economics are linked in a way that clearly hits right home (in the stomach). The coolest aspect of this text is that it presents various perspectives in each chapter.

Brandt does an especially great job discussing the changes in national and ethnic identity over time; today's issues

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Reviews

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are not ignored. Go straight to Chapter 3; it focuses on the former republics and their relationship to Russia. Unlike many other textbooks, here ethnicity and nationalism are not presented in a vacuum. The pluses and minuses of living in a multicultural state or empire are examined from within the context of power, history, and identity. Other parts of the world have their experiences compared and contrasted in Chapter 3.

The vocabulary is highlighted in the text; with a glossary in the back of the text. While most of the vocabulary should be known to most ninth and tenth graders, it is still best not to assume that their understanding is complete! Students may laugh at the fact that words such as "liberal" are highlighted several times in the text, even in the same chapter. Despite this flaw, the highlighting is useful; terms specific and crucial to the study of the region are listed and used.

Knowledge is what it is all about. The teacher's guide provides an overview of each chapter. Yes, the answers to all of the sectional reviews and map assignments are included. There are suggested ideas for units and lesson plans. What most teachers will be able to appreciate are the suggested projects plus criteria for assessment. There is a list of resources for each chapter, too.

This text and teacher's guide is a much-needed educational aid to promote the knowledge and study of Russia and the former republics of the Soviet Union. It gives a better treatment of the region than most textbooks and will certainly assist any discussion of current issues as well. Brandt's book is not perfect, but it gives a taste of the history and politics of Russia and the former republics of the Soviet Union along with a glimpse of its people. Students and teachers will come back for more!

Paulette Thompson is a history teacher at Garfield High School, Seattle.

Teaching Methods for East European Languages

by Dasha Koenig

Dasha Koenig, an instructor in Czech and graduate student in REECAS, presented a paper at the annual AATSEEL (American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages) conference in December 1996. The Jackson School funded her trip to Washington, DC through the Imre Boba Fellowship, an award honoring the late Professor Boba.

The conference panel in which I participated was called *Textbooks and Methods for Teaching Central East European Languages*. The discussion focused on issues raised by the two panelists, myself and Mark Lauersdorf of the University of Kansas. In my paper I focused on three major problems: methods of teaching the case system, methods of teaching literary and colloquial Czech, and a proposal to create a network for sharing instructional materials among teachers of Czech.

There are two methods of teaching the notoriously entangled Czech case system. One can either teach all seven cases of one part of speech, e.g. a noun, all at once. The other way is to take one case at a time, e.g. the genitive case, and teach all relevant parts of speech of that case. In Czech, the decision to choose from the two methods is complicated by the existence of textbooks which offer both ways. My conclusion was that using the second method was more effective.

One of the challenges for a foreign learner of Czech is mastering the huge difference between written, also called literary, and spoken, also called colloquial, styles. I argued that both styles need to be taught in a Czech



language classroom, and presented some of my methods of teaching them. Finally I suggested that there should be a network for sharing instructional materials among teachers of Czech in American colleges and universities. I was not the first person to have this idea, and was pleased to meet several other instructors of Czech who were already trying to accomplish it. *The North American Association of Teachers of Czech (NAATC)* seems to be actively involved in this endeavor.

Mark talked about his methods in second-year Polish instruction. He focused on problems that stem from the great diversity of backgrounds and expectations with which students enter second-year classes of small languages like Czech and Polish. Also, Mark presented results of his electronically-conducted survey of teachers and students of current second-year Polish at American colleges. This stimulated a general discussion about enrollments in both first and second-year Czech and Polish classes.



Calendar of REECAS-Related Events

Winter 1997

February

Thursday, February 6: Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group
Medical Relief Work in Kazakhstan
Nancy Nersveen, R.N., Swedish Hospital
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 PM

Thursday nights, Winter 1997: Slavic Club
Free Russian movies
Russian House, 2104 NE 45th, 7:00 PM

Friday, February 7: Uzbek Circle
Helping Orphanages in Uzbekistan
Paula Quigley, President, Orphans of Central Asia Association, Seattle, WA
Denny Hall 215, 12:30-1:30 PM

Friday, February 7: First Friday Slavic Salon/Potluck
The colonized colonizer in Hungarian film
Aniko Imre, graduate student in the English Department
Russian House, 2104 NE 45th, 7:00 PM

Friday, February 14: Joint meeting with Uzbek Circle, Turk Studies Group and Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group
Current Resources for Research on Central Asia (I)
Ilse D. Cirtautas and Graduate and Undergraduate Students
Denny Hall 215, 12:30-1:30 PM

Thursday, February 20: Uzbek Circle
Program to be announced

Friday, February 21: Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group
Program to be announced

Thursday, Feb. 27: Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group
As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan
Speaker to be named
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 PM

Friday, February 28: Uzbek Circle
Memoir and Historical Novel of Uzbekistan
Ilse D. Cirtautas and Graduate and Undergraduate Students
Denny Hall 215, 12:30-1:30 PM

March

Monday, March 3
Ethnic Cleansing in Europe
Norman Naimark, Chair, History Dept., Stanford University
Communications Building 226, 3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 5
In the Mountains of Central Asia
Daniel Waugh, University of Washington (*see page 15*)

Thursday, March 6: Joint meeting with Uzbek Circle, Turk Studies Group and Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group
Current Resources for Research on Central Asia (II)
Ilse D. Cirtautas and Graduate and Undergraduate Students
Denny Hall 215, 12:30-1:30 PM

Friday, March 7, 1997: First Friday Slavic Salon
A Case Study: Doing Business in the Russian Far East
Rusty Devereaux, Director of Russian Projects, the Jore Group
Russian House, 2104 NE 45th, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 9, 1997: Slavic Club
Maslenitsa (end of winter celebration)
Russian House, 2104 NE 45th, 2:00 PM

Wednesday, March 17, 1997: UW Computer Fair
Russia on the World Wide Web
(co-sponsored by the REECAS Center, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Language Learning Center, University of Washington)
This seminar provides an introduction to the rapidly-expanding array of Russian Web resources. Users can read Russian texts, listen to news broadcasts in Russian, and view Russian literary and artistic treasures online.
HUB (Husky Union Building) 310, UW campus, Seattle, 12:15-1:00 PM

For more information on the Computer Fair workshop, contact Kurt Engelmann, Associate Director, REECAS (see page 4 for contact information.)

For information on Slavic events only, call the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at 543-6848

Kazakh & Kirghiz Studies Group

President: Talgat Imangaliev, 543-0697, email: talgat@u.washington.edu

Uzbek Circle

President: Erdag Gknar, tel.: 543-0697, e-mail: goknar@u.washington.edu

(Faculty Advisor: Ilse Cirtautas, 543-6033 or 685-3800, e-mail: icirt@u.washington.edu)

Summer Language Programs

University of Washington Intensive Russian and Czech Language Program June 23 - August 22, 1997

Earn a year's worth of language credit in 9 weeks and pay in-state tuition rates. The estimated 1996 tuition for each intensive language course is expected to be approximately \$1,085 for undergraduates and \$1,180 for graduate students, plus an additional \$35 application fee (fees subject to change). See **Housing and Special Programs** for information on housing and meals.

CZECH - Elementary

Emphasizes conversation and basics of Czech grammar and vocabulary. Students develop a certain fluency in expressing themselves in everyday situations.

1st Year RUSSIAN

Introduction to Russian. Emphasis on oral communication with limited vocabulary. Short readings and writing exercises. Basic grammar. Conducted mostly in Russian.

2nd Year RUSSIAN

Comprehensive review of Russian grammar with continuing oral practice and elementary composition. Conducted mostly in Russian.

3rd Year RUSSIAN

Extensive practice in spoken and written Russian based on a variety of prose readings. Intensive review and supplementation of strategic grammatical concepts. Conducted mostly in Russian.

4th Year RUSSIAN

Class discussion, oral presentations, and composition, based on reading a variety of texts, both literary and non-literary. Advanced grammar. Conducted entirely in Russian.

Housing and Special Programs

Students who wish to live in a Russian-speaking environment may apply to live in the Russian House,

located just across the street from the campus. The Russian House has its own modern kitchen facility, and residents may opt to prepare their own meals or to buy a meal plan. The Russian House is a focal point for extracurricular events, which may include Russian singalongs, folkdancing, plays, poetry readings, lectures, films, weekend bike rides, and hiking trips. The Russian House may also host Russian visitors in the fields of art, science, business, etc. Priority to live in the House is given to those with the strongest Russian language background. All students in the summer program are welcome to participate in activities held at the Russian House or just to visit.

Housing is also available on the Russian floor of the main dormitory, where Slavic Department students will be grouped together. Estimated costs for the Russian House or the Russian floor in summer 1996: \$715 for a double; \$905 for a single; \$515 for the meal plan. Applications for the Russian House are available through the Slavic Department: (206) 543-6848. Applications for housing in the dorm will be available in April through Housing and Food Services: (206) 543-4059. Be sure to indicate RUSSIAN on your housing application.

Scholarship and Fellowships

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers one full-tuition

scholarship for an undergraduate returning to the UW for the Summer Russian Program. Contact Slavic Department, (206) 543-6848. Deadline: April 5, 1997. For graduate students, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships are available from Jackson School Student Services, University of Washington, Box 353650, Seattle, WA 98195-3650, (206) 543-6001. Deadline: February 1, 1996.

Applying and Registering

Call (800) 543-2320 to request a Summer Quarter Bulletin. Telephone registration begins early May. Applications by mail accepted through June 1. Later applications accepted in person only. No transcripts or letters of recommendation necessary. Application materials should be sent to Admissions Office, University of Washington, Box 355840, Seattle, WA 98195-5840. Course fees billed in early July.

For further information contact:

Shosh Westen
Slavic Department
University of Washington
Box 353580
Seattle, WA 98195-3580
Tel: (206) 543-6848
Fax: (206) 543-6009
E-mail: shoshw@u.washington.edu.

Summer Language Programs

University of Washington Intensive Central Asian Languages & Culture Program June 23- August 22, 1997

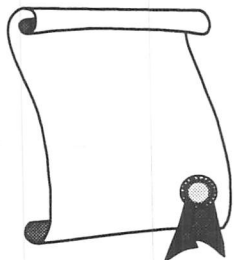
Intensive language instruction will be offered in **elementary and intermediate Uzbek; elementary and intermediate Kazakh; elementary Kirghiz and Tajik.** All languages will be taught with the assistance of native speakers from Central Asia. An extensive cultural program of lectures, music, dance, art and films will also be offered. *Pending funding, fellowships will be available.*

For fellowship information contact:

Ilse D. Cirtautas, Director
Central Asian Languages and Culture
Summer Program
Dept. of Near Eastern Languages
229 Denny Hall, Box 353120
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3120
(206) 543-6033 or (206) 685-3800

For admission information contact:

Summer Quarter
5001 25th Avenue NE, GH-24
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-2300 or 1-800-543-2300



Fourth Baltic Studies Summer Institute 1997 University of Illinois at Chicago Summer Semester (June 16-August 8), 1997

First-year intensive courses will be taught in **all three Baltic languages (Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian).** Baltic Culture and Baltic History courses, each of 4 weeks duration, will also take place. *There will be a limited number of scholarships for language students ONLY.*

The Baltic Studies Summer Institute Consortium was founded by the University of Washington in 1994. In 1995, the Consortium grew to five members, and now includes Indiana University, the University of Illinois, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin. Member institutions take turns in hosting BALSSI. Ties between the Baltic States and Central Europe will be approached by several courses in the 1996 BALSSI program. The following courses are planned:

LITH 101-2: First Year Lithuanian
The course is the equivalent of a full academic year (two semesters) of instruction in Lithuanian.

EST 101-2: First Year Estonian
The course is a full academic year (two semesters) of instruction in Estonian.

LAT 101-2: First Year Latvian
The course will cover the equivalent of a full academic year (two semesters) of instruction in Latvian.

LITH 299: Baltic History

LITH 115: Baltic Culture
The course will give an introduction to the cultures of the Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians. No knowledge of Baltic languages is needed.

Additional programs:

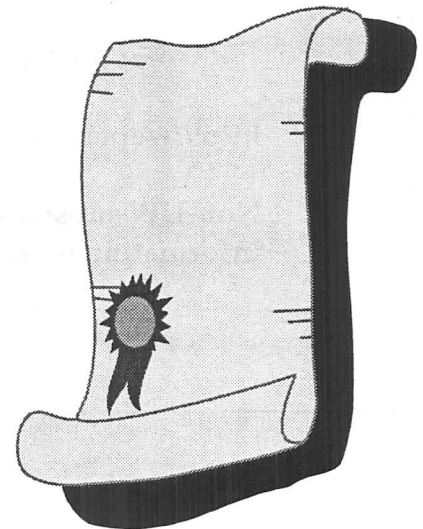
A program of guest lecturers and films is also planned. Concurrently there will be an exhibit of Baltic art and/or historical maps at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. An evening series of guest lectures will further enrich the course offerings.

Fellowships:

As in previous years, pending funding, there will be a limited number of fellowships available for students taking intensive language courses.

For further information, contact:

Prof. Violeta Kelertas, Endowed Chair of Lithuanian Studies
Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures
University of Illinois at Chicago
(m/c 306) 1628 University Hall
601 S. Morgan St., Chicago IL 60607-7116 Tel. (312) 996-4412 or (312) 996-7856
Email: Kelertas@uicvm.uic.edu



REECAS NEWSLETTER

203 Thomson Hall, Box 353650
Jackson School of International Studies
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3650

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REECAS on The World Wide Web

To visit the REECAS site from a UW account using Lynx:

- at the UNIX or shell prompt, type: lynx
- at the Lynx home page, type: g
- at the URL prompt type the URL below:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~reecaf/reecashm.html>

Non-UW subscribers: Consult your local computer systems provider for information on accessing the home page.