

# REEU NEWSLETTER

RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN AREA CENTER  
The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

Vol. 10, No. 1  
November 1983



## SCHOOL RENAMED THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

In recognition of his long-time interest in the School of International Studies, the School has been renamed the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. JSIS will be a living memorial to the memory of Senator Jackson.



## **Russian and East European Studies**

### NEW CHAIRMAN OF REEU NAMED

Dr. Kenneth B. Pyle, Director of JSIS, recently named Professor Donald W. Treadgold chairman of REEU. Dr. Treadgold, who has been a member of the University of Washington faculty since 1949, has a long history of activity in Russian studies. He was editor of the Slavic Review, organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, for two terms totaling eleven years, and served as president of the AAASS in 1977-78. Dr. Treadgold has authored six books, edited or co-edited another six, and been the author of numerous articles. Among his works is Twentieth Century Russia, a standard textbook which is now in its fifth edition.



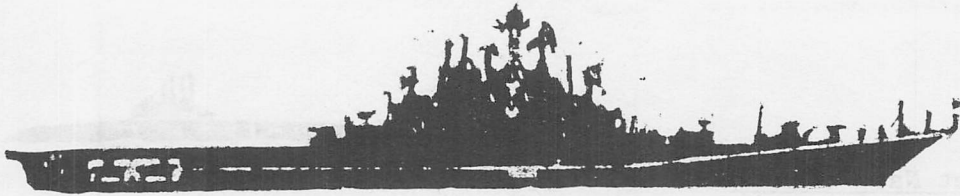
### PEDRO RAMET JOINS REEU FACULTY

The eldest son of a Spanish father and an Austrian mother, Pedro Ramet was born and raised in London, England, moving to Southern California at age 10 with his parents and brother. Educated in Catholic schools, he received his AB in philosophy from Stanford University in 1971, having specialized in the philosophy of religion, existentialism and ancient Greek philosophy. Between 1971 and 1975, he served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Germany; there he worked on the base newspaper, first as a staff writer and subsequently as editor, helping to earn a prize for best newspaper in the Air Force in its class. In 1972, he married Marilyn Jean Laurienti (who is currently working at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital here in Seattle). At the termination of his Air Force duty, he entered graduate school on a full-time basis, and received a PhD in political science from UCLA in 1981. At that point, he took a teaching job at the University of California, Santa Barbara - a post which he relinquished to come to the University of Washington this fall as an East Europeanist. His research deals chiefly with Yugoslav affairs, Soviet foreign policy, and religious affairs in the USSR and Eastern Europe. In addition to his residence in England and Germany, he also lived for nine months in Austria (1968-69) and for a year in Yugoslavia (1979-1980), and has traveled around much of Europe. His dissertation, which deals with recent Yugoslav politics, will be published next year by Indiana University Press. His hobbies include swimming, tennis, stamp-collecting, and dancing.

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### SLAVIC DEPARTMENT INTEREST GROUP TO BE FORMED

A committee has been formed to organize an Association of Alumni and Friends of the Slavic Department. The committee would like to hear from graduates of the Slavic Department and all others interested in Slavic studies, especially, but not limited to, culture and language, in order to develop a mailing list for a newsletter, which will include information on scholarly and cultural activities of the Department. The Association plans to act as a clearinghouse, to sponsor cultural events bringing together the academic and ethnic communities, and to provide modest funds for book awards, scholarships and other student-related activities. Interested parties should contact Dr. Gordon McDaniel, Slavic Department, DR-30, UW, Seattle, WA 98195, or call (206) 523-5468.



## THE NAVY IN RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET UNION

Thomas Earl Porter, an REEU graduate student and former active member of the U.S. Navy, has written an interesting article for the REEU Newsletter on the development of the Soviet Navy. The first half of his article appears below, the second half of the article will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### THE SOVIET NAVY

#### PART 1: THE RUSSIAN MARITIME HERITAGE

The Russian Navy had its origins during the autocratic reign of Peter the Great. The traditional Russian drive for territorial expansion burned brightly within this man, he desired access to the Mediterranean and the absorption of Central Europe into the Russian Empire. Tsar Peter was checked in his ambitions by the naval might of Sweden and the Ottoman Empire. Whereas previously all Russian water transport was confined to flat-bottomed barges plying the many rivers of the empire, Peter realized that there was a need for an ocean-going force. He turned to the Italians for aid and they supervised the building of a fleet of galleys which were used to capture the fortress of Azov from the Turks in 1696, marking the first naval victory in Russian history.

Peter traveled incognito to Holland and England to learn firsthand the skills of the shipwright. He recruited Englishmen to train his men and founded a school of maritime science in Moscow. Thus another traditional Russian practice, that of importing technology and knowledge, led to the formation of a true naval force. After Peter's death in 1725, his grandiose scheme to transform Russia into a naval power died quickly. Subsequent rulers ignored the navy, and the lack of a true maritime heritage left the fleet manned largely by mercenaries. The consequent unreliability of the fleet led to its being used sparingly and even then only as a support force for ground actions. This was to become the traditional responsibility of Russian seapower until Gorshkov's arrival in 1956. The ascension of Catherine to the Romanov throne in 1762 led to a renewed interest in the navy. She also perceived its importance to the traditional Russian desire for access to the Mediterranean. Catherine's machinations against the Turks dovetailed nicely with England's own plans; they undertook to retrain and lead the Russian Navy against the Ottoman Empire. A great victory was won in 1770 over the Turkish galleys. The traditional Russian practice of importing expertise continued, John Paul Jones served in the Russian Navy from 1778 to 1780.



## The Soviet Navy (cont.)

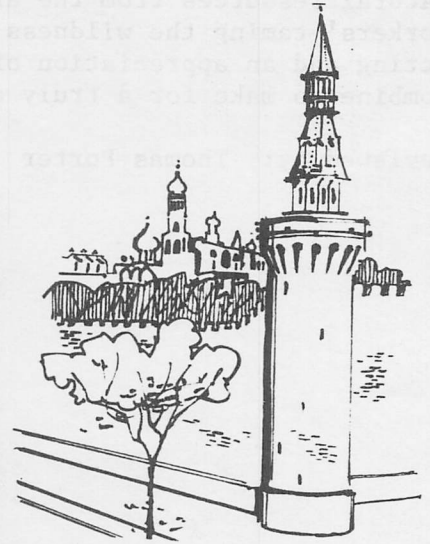
Catherine wisely refrained from challenging British supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Russian Navy worked closely with British forces in several other encounters aimed at the Turks. Her subservient status did not allow for the maturation of the fleet into a true naval force, and the Crimean War proved to be an embarrassment to the Russian Navy. The Russians were slow to adapt to the changing nature of seapower in the 19th Century. The lack of skilled craftsmen and the late arrival of the Industrial Revolution in tsarist Russia led to another decline in the fortunes of the Russian Navy. Some improvements were begun under Tsar Alexander III and his son, Nicholas II. But the complete defeat of the Russian Navy by the Japanese led to a renewed crisis of confidence in Russian seapower that would last until the mid-1970's.

Russian sailors in St. Petersburg played an important role in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, seizing their ships and putting the Provisional Government "under the gun", so to speak. But the Soviet Navy was to continue in its inherited role as a coastal defense and support force through World War II. After Stalin's death in 1953, a struggle for power ensued. Khrushchev finally shunted aside his competitors and assumed full control in 1956. One of his first appointments was Sergei Gorshkov, who was given control of the Soviet Navy, a position he still holds today. He instituted a well-conceived and executed plan to bring the Soviet Navy up to the high level of competence it enjoys today. The major concern during the initial phase was the procurement of a force sufficient to deter and defend against American aircraft carriers. Subsequently, large numbers of submarines were built and deployed. Today, the Soviet Union has the largest submarine force in the world.

Soviet military writings generally list forces or units in order of priority. In the Soviet Navy's officer handbook (SPRAVOCHNIK OFITSERA), submarines are designated as "the basic strengths of our Navy", and ". . . the primary strike force of our Navy". This does not, however, mean that the surface fleet has been ignored. After being satisfied that the threat from American sea-based airpower had been countered, Gorshkov initiated a massive building program to build a true blue-water fleet. The Soviet Union's impotence during the Middle East crisis of the 1950s and its outright embarrassment during the Cuban Missile Crisis spurred the Kremlin into allocating more monies for the navy. During the late 1950s the first truly noteworthy Soviet warship appeared, the Sverdlov class cruiser. Western navies reacted with shock and consternation, the British went so far as to design an entire new class of "Sverdlov-killing" cruisers.

The Soviet Navy (cont.)

The Cuban Missile crisis demonstrated irrefutably to the Kremlin leaders the need for a naval force which could project power. But even with this force the lack of forward replenishment bases would inevitably lead to its defeat. Gorshkov implemented yet another crash building program, this time to ensure the supply of oil and armaments to his fleet on the high seas. The subsequent development of auxilliary units would give the Soviet Union a true blue-water navy within ten years. From a purely defensive force the Soviet Navy developed into a force which could inflict severe punishment on any aggressor. Gorshkov turned to the procurement of ships which could defend his far-flung forces from enemy attack. Anti-submarine warfare received the highest priority, and in 1968 the ASW cruisers Lenin-grad and Moscow were deployed. In 1970 the first OKEAN (ocean) exercises were held, demonstrating that in the short space of three decades, the coastal defense navy of 1950 had been transformed into a force designed to deny use of the seas to any potential enemy.



REEU TO SHOW FILM

The film, KGB Connections, will be shown free of charge in Kane Hall 110 at seven o'clock on the evening of the thirtieth of November. This documentary, which was produced for Canadian television, describes the KGB's involvement in North America. The film has not been previously shown in the Pacific Northwest. For information, call Larry Lerner at 543-4852.

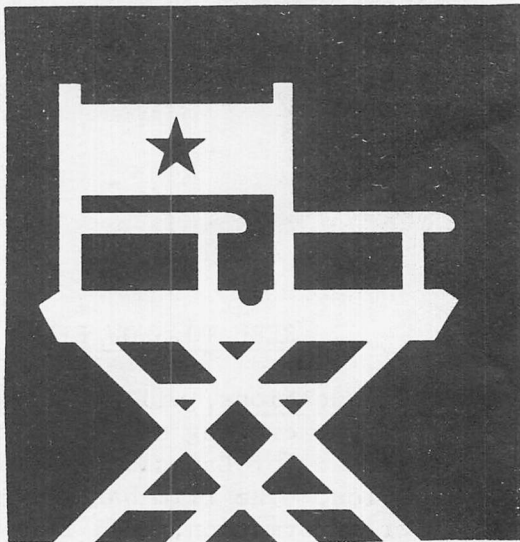
MOVIE REVIEW

Soviet film makers must conform to the guidelines promulgated by the government under the policy of 'socialist realism'. This policy calls for the 'truthful depiction of reality in its revolutionary context'. In other words, producers must conform to the line set forth by the Communist Party. With the recent drive to tap the mineral riches of Siberia a slew of movies about that region have been released. Several of them have received international acclaim.

Siberiade won recognition at the Cannes Film Festival as Best Film for 1980. Filmed in a small Siberian village, it portrays the life of two peasant families over three generations. One family is destitute, the other represents the richer class of peasants...the 'Kulaks'. The Kulak family controls the economy of the village, but their primacy is ended with the coming of the revolution. The village way of life continues as before, cut off from the mainstream of events until after the Second World War.

All this is changed irrevocably with the Soviet drive to extract natural resources from the area. The subsequent glorification of the 'brave workers' taming the wildness of Siberia is a trifle overdone, but excellent acting and an appreciation of the timelessness of Russian village life combine to make for a truly outstanding epic.

Reviewed by: Thomas Porter



RESOURCE MATERIAL UPDATE

The University has acquired a 3/4" videotape of One Word of Truth. The twenty-eight minute program features British actor Tom Courtney reading an adaptation of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Nobel Prize acceptance speech to a remarkably powerful video presentation. The result is one of the most moving programs seen by your editor. The videotape would be useful in either a literature or contemporary problems class, and is suitable for classes from the seventh grade through college. For information, call 543-9906.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 24-27, 1983

Kolo! a Northwest Balkan music and dance festival, will be held at the Polish Home (1714 18th Ave., Seattle). "Meet the Staff and Learn a Dance" party will be held on Thursday, dance and singing workshops on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a Bulgarian night hosted by Jaap Leegwater, and on Saturday evening an opportunity to participate in a Macedonian wedding. For more information about this exciting event, contact Cheryl Sasojevic at 745-1785, Dennis Boxell at 365-6365, or Michele and Jim Hoath at 525-6589.

Calendar of Events (cont.)November 29-December 10, 1983

Gogol's The Inspector General will be presented by the School of Drama, University of Washington, 543-4880.

November 30, 1983

The Russian and East European Studies program of the University of Washington will be showing the program "KGB Connections." This is a documentary that was made for Canadian television and depicts the involvement of the Soviet KGB in North America. The movie will be shown in Kane Hall 110 at 7:00 pm on the 30th of November. Admission is free.

February 17, 1984

The Soviet Emigre Orchestra will perform in Meany Hall at the University of Washington. The orchestra is made up primarily of emigre musicians from the Leningrad and Moscow Philharmonics and the Bolshoi and Kirov Theatres. The orchestra is led by Lazar Gosman, for 17 years the Leningrad Philharmonic's associate concertmaster. For information call 543-4880.

March 3, 1984

The Polish-born Mischa Dichter, silver medal winner at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Competition, will give a piano recital in Meany Hall. For information call 543-4880.

**REEU NEWSLETTER**  
**504 Thomson Hall, DR-05**  
**University of Washington**  
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