THE U.S.S.R. AT WAR

50 Questions - 50 Answers

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The War Poster reproduced on the cover was posted all over Moscow during the height of the Nazi offensive against the city in the late Fall of 1941. It is one of the famous *"TASS WINDOWS."*

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THE U.S.S.R. AT WAR

50 QUESTIONS ANSWERS

Prepared by the staff of

THE AMERICAN RUSSIAN INSTITUTE

for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, Inc.

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Part I
FIGHTING THE WAR

1. *Who Fights In The Red Army?*

According to Sir Stafford Cripps, who had then just returned from his post as Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., nine million men were under arms early in 1942. The figure is probably not much larger today, due to the need to retain men in industry. However, the Soviet Union is taking no chances and is training for military service all of the 27,000,000 men—15% of the population—who could be mobilized in an extreme emergency. This is being accomplished through a system of compulsory part-time training of every able-bodied male between 16 and 50 years of age, instituted in October, 1941. Under this scheme, training takes place two or three times a week, usually for a total of six hours until a 110-hour course has been completed. Only a minimum of drill and other instruction in discipline is included in the course, the rest of the time being devoted to training in elementary tactics, marksmanship, use of the bayonet and hand-grenade, entrenchment, and specialized training in one of the infantry weapons—the machine-gun, trench-mortar, etc. As a result, a minimum of field training is needed after completion of this course before one is ready for active service. Men who have already been trained in the standing army in peacetime under the general compulsory service law are thus brought up to date in the use of their arms, particularly as the instructors are members of the armed forces who have seen action in this war and are either no longer fit for active duty or are convalescing. Young men who have had no previous training, and others who were deferred in peacetime are prepared to go into action very shortly after completing the course.

In peacetime, high school graduates were drafted at 18, others at 19, for a minimum of two years' training. Deferment, which is under the control of a system of draft boards similar to our own,

was granted on grounds of physical unfitness, dependence of at least two persons incapable of working, or attendance at an educational institution. In the latter case, one might be deferred until the age of 20. Now deferments for the completion of education are rarely sought, and would seem to be granted only when the course of study is of special importance to the war effort. Likewise, the wartime system of dependency allowances has eliminated many deferments on that ground.

Men called up for service have the opportunity to indicate the branch which they would prefer to enter. However, the military authorities have the right to assign them where they are most needed.

Besides the regular army, the people have organized volunteer armies such as those which joined in the defense of the besieged cities—Leningrad, Odessa, Moscow, Sevastopol, Stalingrad.

2. *Are There Women In The Red Army?*

While women are not generally taken into the army, those with medical, veterinary or other special technical training could even in peacetime be admitted to service both in the army and navy and could attend military schools. In time of war, the draft is extended to include women in auxiliary and special services. There are today many in such jobs: engineers, instructors, plane ferriers, doctors and, naturally, nurses. Women also man anti-aircraft guns and stand guard duty in the large cities.

There are, of course, also some women fighting as regular soldiers or aviators and serving in the guerrilla units. Thirty-two year old Major Valentina S. Grizodubova, Hero of the Soviet Union and Chief of the Foreign Division of the Civil Air Force, is famous as a bomber pilot. Lt. Liudmila Pavlichenko, who recently visited the United States, is a sniper with 309 Nazis to her credit. These are the exception, not the rule, for it is felt, the front is no place for women. They are encouraged, rather, to take the men's places in industry, on the farms, in the offices, schools, hospitals.

Large numbers of women have seen front-line action only at Leningrad, where thousands of them fought in the trenches at the height of the siege.

3. *What Is The Structure Of The Armed Forces?*

The Red Army and the Red Navy are under separate Commissariats: the Commissariat of Defense, under Premier Stalin and the Commissariat of the Navy, under Admiral Kuznetsov. The general direction of the war, to which both are subject, is under the State Committee on Defense, organized early in the war, and headed by Stalin.

The air forces are organized along American lines, rather than British. That is to say, there is no separate air command independent of the Army and Navy. Each of these services has its own planes of all types to operate in conjunction with its respective arms.

Under the Defense Commissar there is the General Staff, the Political Administration, charged with the building and maintenance of morale, the Air Force Administration, the Administration of Military Training, and the Service of Inspection. There is also an organ of consultation on matters of great importance,—the Chief Military Council. Just as Britain maintains a separate Asiatic command under General Wavell, and General MacArthur is in charge of the United Nations' forces in the Southwest Pacific, so does the Soviet Union maintain two Special Red Banner Far Eastern Armies to guard its border along Japanese-held territories.

The Red Army has the following services: Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Moto-Mechanized and Air Force. Aside from these there are special Communications, Anti-Aircraft, Engineering (Sappers and Pontooners, separately organized), Chemical, Searchlight, and Railroad Troops.

The Commissariat of Internal Affairs has its own troops for use against parachutists and the like.

The organization of the Navy is similar to that of the Army. However, due to the fact that its forces operate in widely separated

bodies of water, it maintains four fleets—the Red Banner Baltic, the Black Sea, the Pacific and the Arctic. There are also three flotillas, one each on the Caspian Sea, the Amur River and the Volga. There were also flotillas on the Dnieper, the Danube, the Pruth and the Bug.

4. *How Are The Guerrillas Organized?*

A few days after the Nazi invasion Stalin made his famous scorched earth speech (July 3, 1941) in which he called on the Soviet population in occupied areas to destroy everything immovable and form themselves into guerrilla units to harass the enemy.

The guerrilla movement soon took on great momentum. Red Army men separated from their units, or whole units separated from the army, organized themselves into guerrilla units. Farmers and workers, men and women, and even boys and girls, anxious to fight the invader in occupied territory, go off into the forests or the mountains to form guerrilla bands.

Guerrillas keep in close touch with the Red Army through their scouts and often can work with the regular Army in carrying out raids or even synchronizing offensive attacks. The Army keeps the guerrillas supplied with arms and information. The surrounding villages keep them supplied with food and warn them of all Nazi activities. Whole areas under guerrilla control are supplied with newspapers, leaflets and pamphlets by plane. Even films are brought in. The guerrilla detachments are in fact considered an integral part of the Red Army, and work with them is organized on this basis.

5. *Are There Ranks In The Red Army?*

Reintroduction of ranks like those in other countries was completed in June, 1940. These are, in the Red Army: Army General, Colonel-General, Lieutenant-General, Major-General, Kombrig (Brigadier-General), Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant (1st and 2nd), Senior Sergeant, Sergeant, Junior Sergeant, Corporal, Red Armyman. The title of Marshal is a personal honor, granted to high officers for exceptional service. There are now five

Marshals. Below Colonel-General the ranks are divided up according to army services: Tank Troops, Artillery, Aviation, Communications, Engineers, Commissary, Technical, Coast Guard. These services are indicated after the rank title, e. g. Major-General of Aviation.

In the Red Navy the ranks are: Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral, Vice-Admiral, Rear-Admiral, Captain—1st grade, Captain—2nd grade, Captain—3rd grade, Lieutenant-Captain, Senior Lieutenant, Junior Lieutenant, Red Navyman.

Emblems are worn on lapel points and on sleeves to show the rank. These run from gold stars to rectangles to squares on lapels and stars or chevrons on sleeves.

Saluting and other military courtesies are well observed at the front, as well as in the rear.

6. *What Were Military Commissars and Why Were They Abolished?*

The Military Commissar, or Political Commissar, as he has been called in this country, was the morale officer and representative of the Communist Party in the units of the armed forces. His job was to develop patriotism and fighting spirit among the officers and men. With the military commander, the Commissar carried equal responsibility and both had to sign orders.

The system was first introduced by decree in 1918, although there had been Commissars as early as 1917. Since that time, Political Commissars have been in and out of office many times. After the Nazi invasion, on July 16, 1941, the post, which had been abolished the year before, was reinstituted in the Red Army and on July 20, 1941 in the Red Navy, to meet the radically new conditions of warfare which confronted them.

Now, again, the system of Military Commissars has been abolished: on October 10, 1942, in the Red Army and a few days later in the Red Navy. The decree instituting complete one-man command and abolishing the office of Military Commissars indicated

that events had proved that unified morale had been established; that Red Army commanders had acquired experience in modern warfare; and had developed their military and political knowledge. On the other hand, the Commissars and political workers had improved their military knowledge. It was indicated that some of the Commissars had already been transferred to Commanders' posts and were leading troops successfully, and that others would be appointed immediately or given special training.

The post of Commissar is replaced by that of Assistant Commander for Political Affairs, with the same military title as other Red Army officers. Regimental "Agitators" will take the place of Political Instructors in the ranks. Men Commissars are being promoted to front-line commands as fast as possible, but women Commissars are being assigned as assistants to field officers.

7. *How Are The Army Medical Services Organized?*

Medical service in the army is organized around the Red Army Medical Service with sections in each branch of the armed forces. Chief of the Army Medical Service Administration is Dr. I. Smirnov. Chief Surgeon is the famous Professor Nikolai N. Burdenko. The Medical Service is assisted by the Union of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R. Under the Medical Service are the surgeons, the physicians, the orderlies and nurses, the assistants of the various grades, including Red Cross nurses who volunteer for front-line assignments. Members of the Service carry special army ranks, such as Brigadier Surgeon.

Despite the difficulties and complexities of modern warfare, the Service has found it possible to bring qualified medical aid very close to the front lines. When necessary, operations are performed in dugouts, huts, tents right under enemy fire. Evacuation is quickly effected. In the winter there are heated ambulances, and along ambulance routes are frequent warming and feeding stations. The success of the Service is indicated by the fact that seventy per cent of the wounded men are returned to service. Germany returns 40%.

In addition to this unified central body which is in charge of all fields of army medical services and the distribution and supervision of both personnel and materials, there is a corps of specialists, who are entrusted with organizational work in surgery, therapy, epidemology and toxicology in the rear as well as at the front.

8. How Is Civilian Defense Organized?

Civilian defense in the U.S.S.R. is organized through *Osoaviakhim* (the Society for Assistance in Defense and in Aviation-Chemical Construction), a countrywide organization founded in 1920 to carry on activities in ski training, instruction in parachute jumping, shooting, horseback riding, air raid defense. The head of this organization is Major-General of Aviation P. P. Kobelev. In the past, this training was entirely voluntary.

But on July 2, 1941, for the purpose of organizing and training primary self-defense units, the government introduced universal compulsory training in air and chemical defense for men between the ages of 16 and 60, and for women from 18 to 50. Children of 8 to 16 are trained in self-protection during air raids. The training is given workers at their place of employment, students at their place of study, the remaining citizens at home. It is under the direction of *Osoaviakhim,* but the city and regional governments furnish the equipment.

9. What Do They Do For The Families Of Red Army Men?

Dependency allowances to soldiers' families are paid to children below the age of sixteen, or eighteen, if they are in school; brothers and sisters below the same age limits, if they are dependent upon a member of the armed forces for their support; fathers of men in the services if they are over 60, and mothers over 55; wives and relations, if they are physically unable to work. Applications for such allowances must be acted on within three days of their receipt. Labor unions have made it their responsibility, from the day the war began, to find jobs for the wives of men in the service. It is a fairly

general rule, but not a law, that a wife gets her husband's job if it is one for which she can be trained within a reasonable period of time. 400,000 wives have been sent to Trade Schools in the R.S.F.S.R.

Increased income taxes naturally do not apply to wage earners who have been called up for service and who no longer have a civilian income. Farm families, having one member in the armed forces, pay only half the increased wartime tax, and those families having two members in uniform pay only the ordinary peacetime rates.

In the R.S.F.S.R. alone 300,000 children of Red Armymen have been placed in nurseries and 108 Homes for aged dependent parents have been established.

10. What Are The High Honors Given By The U.S.S.R.?

Decorations in the U.S.S.R. are an important form of reward for special services to the country. There are two types of award—titles and orders. The highest distinctions are the titles of *Hero of the Soviet Union* granted for individual or collective service to the government of a heroic nature as on the battlefield or in exploration; and *Hero of Socialist Labor* for feats in the field of production. These two titles carry with them the *Order of Lenin.* (In every field of activity, similar titles are awarded—e.g. *People's Artist, Honored Artist of the Republic*).

The official Soviet decorations are: *The Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Banner of Labor, The Badge of Honor.* Since the war, there have been added the *Orders of Nevsky, Suvorov and Kutuzov* for officers and the *Order of The Patriotic War* which is awarded to airmen, soldiers, sailors and guerrillas for bravery or special achievement at the front. (Requirements for this Order are outlined in detail in the decree introducing the awards, the number of enemy airplanes one would have to destroy; the number of minethrowers, tanks, machine-guns, guns captured or destroyed; the capture of an enemy sentry or enemy secret dispatches).

A further collective award has been introduced in this war—that of the designation of "Guardsmen" regiments for army and navy units with outstanding records. By a decree issued this Spring, the special title of *Guardsman,* prefixed to the rank, was introduced for the members of all units that had earned the collective title. Each guardsman is awarded a "Guards" badge.

The war has introduced a whole set of new badges too: *The Sniper, The Excellent Machine-Gunner, The Excellent Tank-Driver, The Excellent Submarine Man, The Excellent Torpedo Man.* These badges are awarded for outstanding work of a specific nature in each of the fields, as outlined by decree.

Part II

PRODUCING FOR WAR

11. Where Are The Industrial Resources?

See map on next page.

12. How Did They Evacuate Factories?

The plants were moved to locations near sources of the raw materials or the semi-finished products they required. Very often they were merged with plants of a similar kind or erected at a spot already selected for the construction of a plant of the same type before the outbreak of war. In many cases this made it possible to rearrange the machinery and flow of production in a manner resulting in far higher output with the same equipment.

INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

(Reprinted from "An Atlas of the U.S.S.R." Oxford University Press.)

The feats performed in moving industry to the east were little short of the incredible. For example, there is the Kirov Works, a key armament plant whose main product is tanks. Formerly located in Leningrad, this plant may be compared to the Krupp or Skoda Works in importance. Before evacuation, its buildings and yards covered four hundred acres of land and were served by thirty miles of railroad track. It had six open hearth furnaces, nine electric steel furnaces, nine huge rolling mills, 310 forges, 420 heating furnaces and 3,500 pieces of metal working machinery. Yet this plant was moved all the way to the Urals (something like moving the Chrysler Tank Arsenal from Detroit to Denver) and is today throwing tanks at Hitler three times faster than before its evacuation.

Likewise, the Leningrad Carburetor Plant was evacuated to a large city on the Volga, where it was merged with a local enterprise and was in production only a few days after its arrival. Similarly, the great Petrovsky Steel Mills of Dnepropetrovsk on the west bank of the Dnieper was moved to Cheliabinsk in the Urals. Literally hundreds of such examples can be cited.

The great speed and efficiency with which these plants were brought back into production is to be explained by the manner in which they were moved. They simply loaded all the equipment and all the workers of a plant on to as many trains as were needed. Each man traveled with his own machine, and was responsible for seeing to it that it was set up and in operation as soon as possible after arrival.

13. *What Are They Doing To Make Up For The Things Lost In The Occupied Areas?*

The great material losses are the Donbass coal, Krivoi Rog iron, the industries, wheat and sugar of the Ukraine.

Some things cannot be made up. For instance, we know that Moscow is short of coal and hence, electric power. But the principal ways they have increased production for war are the 100% conversion of existing industry to war needs; development of high-speed con-

struction techniques; full utilization of previously idle, model, or obsolete machinery; and the development of new technological processes such as the smelting of special steels in ordinary open hearth furnaces.

For a long period, the kok-sagyz plant, from which the Soviet Union gets much of its rubber, was grown in Belorussia and the Ukraine, although it had originally been found in Kazakhstan; now, it is again being grown in large quantities in the area of its origin—Central Asia. Likewise, sugar beets are being planted in many new eastern sections.

14. What Do They Do About Rubber and Other Deficit Materials?

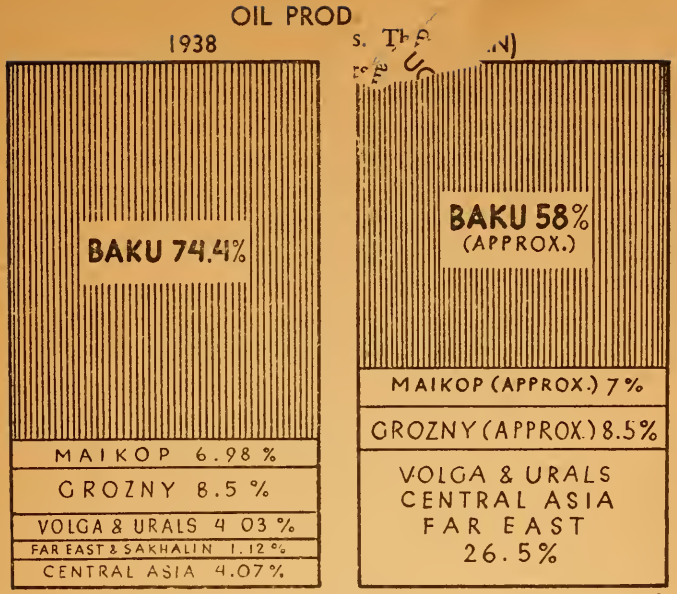
In 1932, the Soviet Union was still importing 99.6% of the rubber it used, but by 1937 it was producing 75% of its pre-war needs. In the interval, Soviet scientists had developed means of extracting natural rubber from certain dandelion-like plants that can grow in many places—kok-sagyz, tau-sagyz, krym-sagyz; and guayule. At the same time, the scientist, A. Favorsky, was working out a synthetic process using acetylene as the raw material. By 1941, both these methods were in large-scale production.

The other important deficit materials are certain minerals. By diligent geological search, deposits of most of these have been found and exploited, but the U.S.S.R. still has to import molybdenum from us, tungsten from China, and tin, copper and aluminum to supplement inadequate domestic supplies.

Several years ago, the Soviets perfected a new drug to take the place of quinine which is not available in the Soviet Union.

15. Where Does Their Oil and Aviation Gasoline Come From?

Oil output in 1940 was 34,200,000 tons; in 1941, it was over 39,000,000. Today, Maikop is gone and Grozny is threatened. The fields in the east are relatively new, but production has probably been stepped up greatly in the last year or two. For instance, the



Buguruslan field, largest in the Ural-Volga group, produced four times as much in 1941 as in all preceding years combined.

Refining capacity was greatest in the Caucasus. But the Soviet Union was only just beginning to produce high octane gasoline. Equipment for refineries is one of the most urgent needs now.

The grave danger of the German drive to the East is not that they will seize Baku, but that they will cut the transport lines. The pipeline north from Grozny and Maikop is already gone. The main routes are now via the Caspian Sea and up the Volga River, or into the Urals by pipeline north from Gurev at the head of the Caspian.

16. Is There Complete Mobilization Of Manpower?

Yes, and of womanpower, too. In February, 1942 all men between the ages of 16 and 65 and all women between the ages of 16 and 45 (or about 65 per cent of the total population) were made subject to mobilization for work in the arms and other essential war industries. In December, 1941, the Supreme Soviet of

the U.S.S.R. had already utilized for the duration of the war all workers in the arms industry and in those industries supporting it. Under this decree quitting of jobs in such industries is considered desertion and is punishable by military court. In April, 1942, all able-bodied men between the ages of 14 and 55 and all able-bodied women between the ages of 14 and 50 not already employed in industry or transport were made subject to mobilization for work in the country's collective farms to meet the special labor needs at time of harvest.

17. *How Have They Trained Enough Workers For War Industry?*

The acute wartime labor shortage has been met, first, by bringing women more and more into industry; second, by training white collar workers for production jobs; and third, by training the youth for skilled trades. Since the war 1,000,000 new workers have entered industry.

In October, 1940, new schools were established to create a "State Labor Reserve", designed to bring from 800,000 to 1,000,000 city and farm boys a year into industry, for the U.S.S.R. had had a labor shortage for some years. Three types of schools were established: Trade Schools, Railway Schools and Industrial Schools. The first two had a two-year course and boys of 14 and 15 entered. They were also given two hours general educational instruction for every five hours of industrial training. The Industrial Schools had a six-month course and were for boys of 16 and 17 to fit them for the less skilled jobs in mining, construction and metallurgical industries. In all, the students received tuition and maintenance free.

After the Nazi invasion the number of such schools was increased and the type of work changed somewhat. The pupils now learn not only how to use complicated tools and machinery, but they produce military equipment and supplies while in school. In May, 1942, 700,000 young workers were graduated; 115,000 metal workers; 25,000 steel workers; 136,000 construction workers; 52,000

miners; and 43,000 railway workers. There are 700,000 still in the schools, where they work eight hours a day and receive half the pay of adults plus food. They also take 110 hours of military instruction each year.

Originally, the decree made it possible to draft only boys for these schools, although girls who had had factory training were not excluded. Now, however, pupils for the Labor Reserve Schools are drawn from among both boys and girls: boys, 14, 15 and 16; girls, 15, 16 and 17.

18. Where Do Women Work?

Women are mobilized for work—14 to 50 for farm work during harvest season; 16 to 45 for industry (unless they are ill, pregnant or have children under 8).

There is no branch of production in which women are not working; 45% of all workers and employees are women (only 27% were in 1929). Wives have taken their husbands' places at the lathe. In the last year or so, 70,000 have been trained as railway workers; 10,000 work in the oil fields; 95% of the garment workers are women; even before the war, half the doctors were women. Although protective legislation is still in force, regarding maternity leaves, working hours (pregnant and nursing mothers cannot be asked to work overtime), many of the heavier branches of work formerly considered harmful are, as a wartime necessity, being opened to women—e.g. in mines, and steel mills.

Housewives are enabled to join the factory ranks through the extensive provisions for nursery facilities right at the factories—so that even nursing mothers can work. In 1939, six million children were in these creches.

On the farms, the 19,000,000 women collective farm members are now doing the bulk of the work; 123,000 out of the 170,000 newly trained tractor drivers are women.

19. What Is The Wage System?

In Soviet industry, piece work is almost the universal system

of wage payment. Production above the planned "norm" is paid for at progressively higher rates and bonuses are paid for sustained production above the norm. It is for this reason that Stakhanovites and "200 per centers" are so highly paid. On the eve of the war, the standard seven-hour day was lengthened to eight, and workers now may be obliged to work up to three hours overtime at time and a half pay. Vacations are out for the duration, with extra pay given instead.

White collar workers and those in administrative and managerial positions are paid monthly salaries. They also receive bonuses if production in the departments or plants for which they are responsible is above the plan.

Artists either get an annual wage for which they are expected to produce a certain amount of work (work produced beyond this amount is sold through their cooperatives, the payment reverting to the artist) or they may work on a commission basis, fulfilling a commission for art work for factories, schools, collective farm buildings.

Actors are paid monthly salaries and in addition can go out on special performances to workers' clubs, schools, factories, for which they are paid separately. Writers and composers, in addition to receiving set sums for a given work, also receive royalties.

20. *What Do The Trade Unions Do In Wartime?*

In the U.S.S.R., as elsewhere, the primary wartime job of the unions is to increase production. This is not new to Soviet trade unions, inasmuch as the labor shortage in the country has meant that the only way they could raise their income was to raise output. All unions had Production Committees for the purpose of increasing productivity — through publications, classes, lectures by skilled workers, and "socialist competition" between various plants. Labor-Management conferences to discuss the better organization of production were also not uncommon.

During the war the unions have been largely responsible for

the training and retraining of new workers, whether they be the wives and daughters of their members, the white collar workers released to production or new workers from the farms.

Trade unions in the U.S.S.R. are organized along industrial lines for the most part. The basic organization is the local, made up of at least twenty-five workers. It is the local which elects the Wage Committee to negotiate with management on the establishment of rates and which handles the problems of individual workers or shops. It also elects a Labor Protection Committee which attends to the enforcement of laws governing hours, conditions of work, health and safety.

The one function of the unions which is unlike that in any other country is the administration of the social insurance funds. Each trade union has its Social Insurance Committee which pays out disability insurance, the pensions for old age and administers the union's sanatoria and summer camps.

There are about 25,000,000 trade union members, or 85% of those eligible to belong to the 168 unions which are united in the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. It is this central body which is allied with British labor through the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee.

21. *Do They Have Enough Food?*

Until the Germans launched their summer offensive of 1942, the Soviets felt that they would be able to meet their own needs for most foodstuffs; millions of acres of virgin soil had been plowed in the spring and more intensive methods of cultivation were applied. Before the war, the trend had already been northward and eastward for agriculture. However, the new losses in 1942 deprived the country of an additional 40 million acres under crop so that nearly half of the nation's normal sown acreage is now in German hands. Today, therefore, wheat in huge quantities must be added to the list of foodstuffs that the Soviets must have. Sugar, of which they were deprived when the Ukraine was lost, is perhaps even more

sorely needed. Canned meats, vegetable oils, animal fats, butter and concentrated foods must be imported in quantity.

Every effort is being exerted in the Soviet Union to meet this bottleneck of war production. In urban centers and around factories victory gardens (they call them "auxiliary gardens") are cultivated by the workers to supply the factory dining rooms, the creches and the workers families with vegetables. But still it will be necessary for the Allies to supply large quantities of food to the Soviets.

22. *What Is A Collective Farm?*

A collective farm is essentially a cooperative farm. There are 250,000 such farms, averaging 1,200 acres under crop and 75 families to each farm. (In addition, there are 4,000 state farms, which correspond to our state experimental farms.)

The members own their own houses, a small family garden, a cow, sheep, goats, hogs, and fowl, but the bulk of the land is owned and tilled cooperatively. The produce is divided, after taxes have been paid, (see Question 49) according to the number of "workdays" each person has put into the joint work. A day's work at different jobs has different values in terms of "workdays." Each member is required to work at least 150 days. The rest of the time can be spent in his own garden, or as he chooses. To earn 500 or 600 "workdays" per year is not uncommon.

In addition to their own farm machinery, the collective farms are served by Machine-Tractor Stations, government-owned farm equipment stations which have at their disposal 400,000 tractors, 127,200 harvester combines and 80,000 trucks.

23. *What Do They Do About Agricultural Labor?*

When war broke out, the harvest was just beginning and it was vital to complete it rapidly in the areas close to the Nazi advance. To assist in this and to offset the growing agricultural labor shortage caused by mobilization, school children (especially the 12-16 year olds, but even the 9-year olds, too) spent their summer vacations helping with the harvests. Some of the older ones learned how to

drive tractors, combines and other agricultural machinery. Even when they went back to school they continued to help on the farms, after school hours. Since late spring, children in rural schools have been receiving eight hours a week of training in practical agricultural work, being paid on the same basis as adults.

At the same time more and more women have been trained to take the place of men in the fields as well as in the factories.

In April, 1942, a decree made every able-bodied civilian boy and man between the ages of 14 and 55 and every able-bodied civilian girl and woman between the ages of 14 and 50 subject to mobilization for farm work during the period of most intensive farm work. Those already employed in industry and transport are exempt. According to this decree farm-boys and -girls were assigned to 6 to 8 hours work a day for the summer, depending on their age and the character of the work. The hours of the adults were not limited in this way. Farm children aged 12 came under this law.

Food and housing were supplied to the mobilized men and women. Their pay was that of ordinary farm workers, in addition to which they received a percentage of the food produced plus half the salary they received before mobilization.

Another decree issued at the same time raised the required number of work days for collective farmers to at least 150 a year in some districts, 120 in others, and 100 in a few.

24. *How Well Has The Transport System Worked?*

Railroads, the most important transport system, have met the test of war remarkably well, considering that the Soviet Union, three times as large as the United States, has a third as many miles of railway. In the last 25 years, the mileage has nearly doubled and the equipment has been vastly improved, so that all important areas of the country are now linked by modern railroads. However, the strain on the system can be understood from the fact that even before the war, the density of traffic on existing lines was nearly thrice that in the United States. In evacuating factories and families

eastward, while rushing troops and munitions west, the Soviet railroads have proved their efficiency and can no longer be dubbed the Achilles heel of Soviet defense.

Next to the railroads, the river systems are tremendously important—especially the Volga, carrying oil and grain north, lumber and industrial goods south.

Soviet airlines exceed those of any other country in length and in freight carried. Their pioneering work in serving the Arctic areas is now standing us in good stead in the international air-routes across Siberia to Alaska.

In roads, the Soviet Union is poor—distances are great, automobiles and trucks comparatively few. They only began to produce their own cars in 1932 and this form of transport is still used almost entirely for short-haul work.

(*See map inside back cover*)

Part III

LIVING THE WAR

25. *How Much Territory and How Many People Have They Lost?*

Of the total area of the U.S.S.R.—8,350,000 sq. mi.—approximately 580,000 were occupied, by October 1, 1942 including all of seven of the sixteen republics. In these areas there were formerly 77 million people, but today they estimate that only 38 million remain.

Many of those who left were men in the army, others went with their evacuated factories, and still others have come across the

lines since the Germans occupied their home regions. But from the first there was planned evacuation of large sections of the population.

First, the children were sent out of the cities to escape bombings and later they were sent on to the East. In those districts where there was a large Jewish population, effort was made to evacuate the Jewish civilians as quickly as possible. In each case the evacuation was carefully organized in unit groups—the children went as school units with their teachers, the factory workers with their factories, the scientists with their institutes, and so forth.

26. *What Happens To Orphans and Lost People?*

Remembering the terrible problem of wandering children in the last war, the Soviets are making special efforts to meet the problem of children separated from their families now. There are the *Internats* or boarding schools for evacuated children of all ages; the *Patronat* system through which a family takes care of a child and is given some financial help from the government to do so; and adoption, which is permitted only in the case of orphans. Adoption is being widely encouraged by the government, with the slogan: "There are no orphans in the Soviet Union." Organizations such as trade unions and cooperatives have made it their business to see to it that the necessary funds are raised to help support the *Internats* and *Patronats*.

To assist in locating people lost in the chaos of war, a Central Information Bureau has been organized in Buguruslan — in the Chkalov Region in the Urals—to which all inquiries are addressed regarding persons evacuated.

27. *Do They Have Rationing?*

Rationing of food in the large cities began four weeks after the German invasion. One may purchase food above the quantity specified by the rations at government-owned stores charging high, but fixed prices, or at the collective farm markets under government supervision. Thus the appearance of a black market has been com-

batted. Wherever a food crisis has arisen, as in cities under direct attack, or at points served by railroads whose entire capacity has been needed for military purposes, rations have been cut as deeply as was necessary, and the special high-price stores were eliminated, for under these circumstances the only criterion in the distribution of food was that of need. Thus, during the seige of Leningrad, bread rations were cut down as low as 10 and even 4 ounces a day.

The rations for the city of Moscow, as announced in July, 1941, were as follows: Industrial workers: 1 lb. 12 oz. of bread daily, plus a monthly ration of 3⅓ lbs. of sugar and candy, 4½ lbs. of meat, 4 lbs. 6 oz. of flour or macaroni, 1 lb. 12 oz. of butter, and 2 lbs. 3 oz. of fish per person. Persons doing non-physical labor were rationed at 1 lb. 5 oz. of bread per day, plus 2½ lbs. of meat, 2½ lbs. of sugar and candy, 14 oz. of butter, 1¾ lbs. of fish, and 3⅓ lbs. of flour or macaroni per month.

Special supplementary rations are given to persons engaged in particularly heavy work. Since March, locomotive crews have been getting extra daily rations of a pound of bread, a quarter of a pound of bologna, and an ounce each of sugar and tobacco while on the job.

28. *What Is The State Of The People's Health?*

Nation-wide medical statistics for the first sixteen months of war show a noticeable decline in dysentery, malaria and children's diseases. Typhoid fever has shown no substantial increase. During the winter of 1941-42, outbreaks of typhus, the scourge of Russia in past periods of war and hardship, were limited to a few areas and were rapidly curbed. There have been no serious epidemics of any kind.

This exceptional record can be credited to the general good health of the population before the war, resulting from a rising standard of living, and to the good organization of the public health services both prior to and during the war.

It was in the areas recaptured from the Germans during the winter offensive that the medical authorities had to reckon with typhus and with venereal diseases, which had been almost completely wiped out

before the war. The reoccupied areas were quarantined, specialists with adequate staffs and supplies of medicaments were sent into them. The health level is being rapidly restored to that of the country as a whole.

Although the spread of disease would seem to have been unavoidable during the mass evacuations that have taken place, epidemics have been prevented by the proper assignment of medical personnel, by public cooperation in observing rules of sanitation, as well as by the strict enforcement of laws penalizing violations.

Where rations had to be cut so deeply as to result in widespread malnutrition, as at Leningrad, special restaurants were established for those whose health had been most seriously affected.

29. *How Are Children Helping The War Effort?*

The spectacular feats of Soviet children, acting as scouts and guerrilla fighters, are in part a result of the fact that all the children have been organized to help in the defense of their country. In addition to the Pioneer Organization for children from 10 to 16, which is comparable to our Boy Scouts, there are "Timur gangs" inspired by the example of the hero of a favorite children's book and movie, "Timur and His Gang." The "Timurites" in wartime are advised and helped by grown-ups, usually their teachers. Besides helping the families of mobilized men by minding babies, running errands, cleaning house, the Timurites and Pioneers collect scrap, learn fire-fighting, help build shelters, help the farmers, grow their own victory gardens, make gifts for the Red Army and visit the wounded in hospitals.

Children over 14 can now also be mobilized to help with the harvest; accompanied by their teachers, they are paid adult wage rates and the school terms are arranged to facilitate such help.

30. *What Happens To The Schools In Wartime?*

When the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union authorities immediately organized the evacuation of children and schools east from the

border republics and other regions close to the Nazi line of advance. Additional schools were set up where the existing number could not accommodate the sudden increase in number of students. Where there has been an especially big influx, schools function in three shifts. Throughout the country all the school children were able to continue their regular schooling almost without interruption.

Studies have been intensified at all levels of the school system. Practical agriculture was made part of the regular school curriculum, as was practical military training. This fall the study of English and French was introduced in a much larger number of schools than ever before, and was begun in the first year, instead of in the fourth, as was previously the case. Ten thousand newly-graduated high school teachers and a proportionately larger number of elementary school teachers are employed in the school system this term.

Children over 14 started back to school a month late this term, for they had been helping with the harvest. When they returned, they found new duties awaiting them. Janitors, charwomen and other attendants are now employed in industry, so that the maintenance, heating and cleaning of the school buildings is now done by the children themselves, with their teachers' assistance and supervision. In addition to this work at school, many children do voluntary unpaid sewing for the families of war widows and soldiers at the front or in hospitals. Squads take turns on duty at military hospitals, washing floors, writing letters and running errands for the wounded. But there is at least one reminder of pre-war days: a free lunch at school, which still includes milk, bread, and a salad or its equivalent.

College work has been speeded up and geared to war needs. The 170,000 graduates in 1942 were double the usual number and included specialists in such fields as field surgery, transport of war material, fortification and camouflage.

31. *How Are Artists, Writers and Scientists Helping?*

Twenty-four hours after the Nazi invasion the first war poster rolled off the press. With like speed, the unions and other organiza-

tions of workers in all the fields of art and science mobilized their members for war service. Some of their work is familiar to us: Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony; Ilya Ehrenbourg's front-line dispatches; the brilliant posters and cartoons; Poliakov's book, "Russians Don't Surrender"; the thrilling film "Moscow Strikes Back"; Simonov's play "The Russian People," soon to be produced on Broadway; the work of Soviet scientists in the production of rubber substitutes; Burdenko's miracles in surgery. But these are only samples, for the work of Soviet artists, writers and scientists has been converted 100% to the war. Petrov, Poliakov and Afinogenov, well-known Soviet writers, have lost their lives in performance of their duties on front-line and home assignments. Theatres, operas and ballets have not only continued to perform in the cities under siege; they have gone to the front to entertain and inspire the troops.

Behind the lines, the film studios have been evacuated to Central Asia where they are producing historical and current films calculated to spur the war effort: "The Defense of Tsaritsyn"; "Lad from Our Town"; "Timur's Oath" on the children's role in the war; "One Day of the War" a remarkable documentary, filmed on June 13 by 160 cameramen in different parts of the country. Scientific institutions too have been moved from the line of battle and are working exclusively on war problems such as the search for rare minerals; the development of substitute materials; the invention of new weapons; the development of methods to increase agricultural output.

Cultural workers in all fields are working in close cooperation to bring the war message to the people—to build up morale, to spread information, to instruct in defense methods. Artists and writers and poets work together on war posters, war cartoons, collections of war stories and poetry. Cooperating to produce animated war cartoons and special war radio programs can be found such combinations of cultural workers as the famous Soviet cartoon trio, The Kukryniksy; Boris Efimov; Dmitri Shostakovich; the leading children's poet, S. Marshak.

In all the artistic and scientific professions the rule for work has been the same as in other fields: "Everything for the Front; everything for Victory."

32. How Are The Churches Participating?

On June 29, 1941 Acting Patriarch Sergii, Primate of the All-Russian Orthodox Church and Metropolitan of Moscow, issued a statement to the world that the Church had decided to enlist its entire resources on behalf of the nation's war effort. At the same time Metropolitan Alexander of the Renewed Orthodox or Living Church issued a call to war, as did Alexander Karev, Head of the All-Union Council of Evangelists and Baptists, and Preacher Gregorev, head of the All-Union Council of Adventists. Following on these appeals came calls to their co-religionists in the U.S.S.R. and abroad from Mufti Abdurakhman Rassulev, head of the Moslems in the U.S.S.R., Archbishop Gevork Charekchan, head of the Armenian-Gregorian Church, and the Vilna Rabbinical Council.

The Churches did not stop with these appeals, but went on to organize their congregations for the fight against the fascist invaders. They collect money for defense funds, they send gifts to the front, they bless religious Red Armymen going off to the front. In occupied territory of the Soviet Union, the priests and other church leaders have kept close to the people, in many cases going off to fight in guerrilla units. In the rare cases where priests went over to the Nazis, they have been summarily excommunicated by the Mother-Church, as was the case with the Vladimiro-Volynsky priest, Sikorsky.

A few months ago, the Russian Orthodox Church within the U.S.S.R. issued a book, *The Truth About Religion in Russia.* In this book, the priests, church attendants, members of the Church Councils write about the relations between the State and Church, the activities of the Church and its members in working for the defense of their country.

33. How Do People Live In A Besieged City?

6,000 cannon, 4,500 trench mortars, 1,000 planes and 19,000 machine guns, backed up by 800,000 troops, were thrown against Leningrad by the Germans in August, 1941. They expected to smash into the city in a short time. The Red Army dug in against the

assault. Workmen dropped their tools in factories and took up rifles. Women and children replaced the workers at the bench. The Germans' huge railway guns reached every corner of the city, but there was no thought of surrender.

Twelve railroads, a modern canal system, a huge deep-water port, and three excellent highways had been built to supply its three million people and its industries. The Germans cut all of these by September 8th, except for the water route across Lake Ladoga, and supplies of food, fuel and raw materials rapidly disappeared. When the lake froze, it seemed that all was lost.. Then, however, a truck highway was built across the ice of Lake Ladoga. This single road kept the city alive during the winter. However, munitions and industrial raw materials got priority even here, and rations were cut again and again, until, for a short period, they reached a low of four ounces of bread (five thin slices) and nothing else, per day. Hunger became so intense that it was not uncommon to see persons dropping dead on the streets. Nevertheless, a German attempt to organize an uprising within the city never got beyond the handful of former Tsarists among whom it originated.

During the severe winter, not only was food at a starvation level, but all fuel went to industry and hospitals. There was no electricity for home use. Not only homes, but schools, were absolutely without heat, although the temperature was below freezing for five months. Yet, the 90,000 children who remained in the city attended school regularly — many classes meeting in bomb-shelters and private homes. In order to hold out, the populace, freezing and weak from hunger, worked eleven hours per day, took military training in its spare (!) time, and walked to and from work through the snow-drifts and rubble of this sprawling city. Had there been food other than bread and fish, there would have been no way to cook it, for there was no fuel for this either. Neither could the water supply be maintained in the face of continual German bombardment and lack of power for the pumps, so that water had to be brought from wells, the river and the numerous canals.

Despite these incredible hardships, there were no epidemics, thanks to public health services and the remarkable steps taken to distribute available supplies according to need. For example, special stations were organized where those who were weakest could rest, recuperate and undergo medical treatment. Emergencies, such as a threatened interruption of the bread supply by the bombing of the water main supplying a huge bakery, were met by the organized efforts of the city's youth. In this case, the youth organization got 2,000 of its members to carry the 4,000 pails of water needed — none was strong enough to carry more than two pails — from the river side to the bakery many blocks away and up six flights of stairs to the department where it was required.

Not only industry, but science, education and arts continued to function, despite the siege. Munitions were produced, not only for Leningrad, but for other sections of the front, and were taken out of the city on the ice road, although it was often under bombardment from German-held Schlusselburg, northeast of the city on Lake Ladoga. On their return trip, these trucks brought the city 100,000 tons of supplies during the winter, although they could only run at night. Leningrad's colleges have graduated 2,500 students during the siege. Its entertainers have put on 20,000 shows for the men at the front lines outside the city. Its publishing houses have issued, among other things, a 100,000 copy edition of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, which people somehow found time to read.

The food situation improved with the coming of spring. As a result of the resumption of shipping on Lake Ladoga, the health stations were replaced by special dining rooms serving special high-calory diets to those whose health had suffered most. 300,000 people were served by these restaurants. Even the guerrillas helped feed the city, smuggling in a 200-cart train of farm products from districts they controlled to the west of Leningrad. The people of Uzbekistan, far off in Central Asia, donated sixty carloads of rice and 54 carloads of canned meat, dried fruits, and juices, to feed the defenders of this city they had never seen. 300,000 people turned out each day to clean

the streets when the snow began to melt, thereby preventing buried rubbish from causing disease and injury. Truck gardens were planted on every foot of ground in the city. Altogether 22,500 acres were planted by 270,000 persons — after working hours. Improved supplies also enabled the resumption of street-car traffic and other city services.

Two amusement parks were reopened, twenty-three movie houses, and the city's orchestras, bands and musical comedy troupes helped the people relax.

Leningrad enters its second winter of siege literally stripped for action. A large part of its population has been evacuated. The apartments of the evacuees are now tenanted by persons who formerly lived in the wooden houses in the outlying districts. These wooden structures have been torn down, both for fuel, and to reduce the fire hazard in this city which is continually under air and artillery bombardment. The fuel supply has been gathered—four cu. meters of wood per person, two for himself and two for the municipality to heat hospitals, dining rooms and schools.

Posters teach the inhabitants how to build temporary fireplaces in their homes. In the center of the city, huge outdoor murals now cover the sides of buildings, in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the U.S.S.R.

This is the story told by Shostakovich, who was born in Leningrad and has lived there all his life, in the austere music of his Seventh Symphony, written in the besieged city.

34. *What Happens In The Occupied Areas?*

German policy in the occupied areas is directed at exterminating a sufficiently large portion of the Slavic peoples to prevent them from being numerically strong enough ever again to resist Germany on the field of battle. The remainder are to be colonial slaves exploited by Germans both as overlords and as settlers on the land. That this is established *policy* has been proved from orders found on German

prisoners and in reoccupied areas. It is fully corroborated by reports from other occupied countries in Eastern Europe.

Occupied areas are plundered of everything movable. Schools, churches, museums and cultural institutions are destroyed or converted to military use. Items of importance to Germany's economy which have escaped the application of the "scorched earth" policy are shipped out of the U.S.S.R. Clothing is taken from the inhabitants absolutely without regard for their welfare. In order to procure the last stitch of clothing for the German troops, people have been stripped and executed en masse. This has occurred, as far as is known, in every city captured by the Nazis, with the number involved running into the tens of thousands in large cities. Jews and known Communists are the worst sufferers, but actually the Germans have made little distinction.

Food is requisitioned in the same manner, the Germans leaving nothing for the populace to subsist on other than what they could conceal at the risk of torture and death. To provide winter accommodations for their troops, the women, children and old men who could not be evacuated by the Red Army are either driven into the open to freeze, shot, or, in many cases, herded into a single building which is then set afire. It is part of the procedure of occupying a town that, as soon as the garrison has been established, brothels are opened, to which local women are forcibly driven.

Whatever pretense the Germans have made of respecting international conventions regarding the treatment of French and British war prisoners, they have not been applied to Soviet prisoners. They, and the civilians in the occupied areas, are looked upon as surplus population in areas that must be vacated in favor of German settlers. Prisoners, military and civilian—the Germans make very little distinction—are subjected to sadistic tortures and mutilations. They are kept in huge open enclosures without shelter of any kind. Food is often lacking for days at a time, and when it is provided, it is of a quantity obviously calculated eventually to cause death from starvation. Those who survive this treatment are shipped to Germany in cattle cars which are sealed from the time they start moving until their

arrival at the final destination. There, those who are still alive, are used as factory or farm hands, or as house servants. It is planned to exile 2,000,000 persons in this manner. Persons remaining in the U.S.S.R. are used for road building, the removal of mines, or as slaves on farms given to Nazi favorites, with the object of building a colonial empire. (See also *Guerrillas,* p. 6.)

Part IV

U.S.S.R.—MEMBER of the UNITED NATIONS

35. *How Are We Allied With The USSR?*

We are allied with the U.S.S.R. through two wartime agreements: the United Nations Agreement of Jan. 1, 1942, pledging each nation "to employ its full resources, military or economic" against those members of the Axis with whom they are at war, and "to cooperate with the governments signatory hereto and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemies;" and the Lend-Lease Agreement signed by Ambassador Litvinov and Secretary Hull on June 11, 1942, just after Foreign Minister Molotov's visit to Washington. This provides that the United States will give economic help in the form of Lend-Lease and that, after the war, the two governments will cooperate "to promote mutually advantageous economic relations between them and the betterment of world-wide economic relations."

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. in November, 1933, the two countries also entered into annual trade agreements, extending to the U.S.S.R. most-favored-nation treatment under the American tariff laws, in return for guaranteed minimum purchases by the U.S.S.R. in this country. The last of these was signed August 2, 1941, and it has since been superseded by Lend-Lease arrangements.

36. *How Are We Cooperating With The U.S.S.R.?*

When Foreign Commissar Molotov visited Washington at the end of May, 1942, a joint statement was issued by the two governments:

"In the course of the conversations full understanding was reached with regard to the urgent tasks of creating a second front in Europe in 1942. In addition, the measures for increasing and speeding up the supplies of planes, tanks and other kinds of war materials from the United States to the Soviet Union were discussed. Further were discussed the fundamental problems of cooperation of the Soviet Union and the United States in safeguarding peace and security to the freedom-loving peoples after the war. Both sides state with satisfaction the unity of their views on all these questions."

In the Soviet's view the most necessary form of cooperation is military cooperation through the opening of a second front. For more than a year they have advocated this form of allied action.

On November 13, Stalin commented on the African offensive in his letter to the Associated Press: " . . . What matters first of all is that, since the campaign in Africa means that the initiative has passed into the hands of our allies, the campaign changes radically the political and war situation in Europe in favor of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition. . . . . Finally, the campaign creates the prerequisites for the establishment of a second front in Europe nearer to Germany's vital centers, which will be of decisive importance for organizing victory over the Hitlerite tyranny."

Material aid is handled under Lend-Lease, in accordance with the Anglo-American-Soviet Protocol, signed Oct. 6, 1942, listing the

military and industrial supplies to be sent. This is the latest step in the series of arrangements which began with the granting of unlimited export licenses to the U.S.S.R. in August, 1941, when the annual American-Soviet trade agreement was signed. This was followed by the Beaverbrook-Harriman mission to Moscow, growing out of the message sent to Stalin by Roosevelt and Churchill from their Atlantic Conference. The mission brought back the first protocol list of needed supplies and in November the United States extended the first billion dollar loan under Lend-Lease. Current shipments come under the $3,000,000,000 advance made at the time the American-Soviet Lend-Lease Agreement was signed, June 11, 1942.

The September report on Lend-Lease shows that the U.S.S.R. had begun to receive 35% of the exports, the same proportion as goes to the United Kingdom. The Administration is making efforts to speed up these shipments which are still regarded as inadequate.

The American people are also helping the Soviet people through their gifts to the Red Cross and to Russian War Relief which received six million dollars in its first year, for the purchase of medical supplies and other vitally needed goods to supplement the government shipments.

37. *What Are The Supply Routes To The U.S.S.R.?*

See map on next page.

38. *What Are The U.S.S.R.'s Relations With The Other United Nations?*

With Great Britain, the U.S.S.R. had first the war alliance of July 12, 1941, and now the Twenty-Year Mutual Assistance Pact of May 26, 1942. *With China,* it has a Non-Aggression Pact and it continues to supply such material help as it can spare under trade and barter agreements. The U.S.S.R. has, in the last year, established diplomatic relations with Australia, Canada, Cuba, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Poland; it has agreements with Czechoslovakia and Poland regarding the formation of Czech and Polish army units in the U.S.S.R.; Greece, Yugoslavia and Norway all maintain diplomatic representation

SUPPLY ROUTES TO THE U.S.S.R.

in Moscow. Representatives of the French National Committee (the Fighting French) issued a joint statement with the Soviets concerning the conduct of the war. Negotiations are now reported with some of the South American members of the United Nations, which remain, along with India, South Africa and Ethiopia, without diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

39. What Is The U.S.S.R.'s Position In The Far East?

The U.S.S.R. is technically a neutral in the Pacific War.

It has a Non-Aggression Pact and trade agreements with China; a Neutrality Pact with Japan; and a Mutual Assistance Pact with the Mongol People's Republic (Outer Mongolia). Having had many serious armed clashes with Japanese troops stationed along its border in Manchuria, the U.S.S.R. retains a large armed force in the Far East —the First and Second Special Red Banner Far Eastern Armies, centered at Vladivostok and Khabarovsk.

Its help to China has continued as far as possible. Materials are sent over the long road from the Turk-Sib Railway, across Sinkiang to Chungking, and it has military and aviation instructors assisting in the training of the Chinese Army.

Soviet neutrality in the Far East has the effect of enabling their vessels to bring American supplies to Vladivostok and other Pacific ports.

40. What Do They Say About The Post-War World?

They endorse the Atlantic Charter.

They did so specifically on Sept. 24, 1941, in London and again in signing The United Nations Agreement, January 1, 1942.

No territorial conquests—self-determination of nations.

"We have not nor can we have such war aims as the seizure of foreign territories or the conquest of other peoples, irrespective of whether European peoples and territories or Asiatic peoples and territories, including Iran, are concerned. Our first aim is to liberate our territories and our peoples from the German Nazi yoke.

"We have not nor can we have such war aims as the imposition of our will and our regime on the Slavic and other enslaved peoples of Europe who are waiting for our help. Our aim is to help these peoples in their struggle for liberation from Hitler's tyranny, and then to accord them the possibility of arranging their lives on their own land as they think fit, with absolute freedom. No interference of any kind with the domestic affairs of other nations." (Stalin's speech, November 6, 1941).

"The High Contracting Parties . . . will act in accordance with the two principles of not seeking territorial aggrandizement for themselves and of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States." (Pt. 2, Art. V. Anglo-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact, May 26, 1942).

Collective Security must be organized.

". . . it will be the task of the Allied States to ensure a durable and just peace. This can be achieved only through a new organization of international relations on the basis of unification of the democratic countries in a durable alliance. Respect for international law, backed by the collective armed force of all the Allied States, must form the decisive factor in the creation of such an organization." (Art. 3, Polish-Soviet Declaration of Friendship and Mutual Assistance, December 4, 1941).

"The High Contracting Parties declare their desire to unite with other like-minded States in adopting proposals for common action to preserve peace and resist aggression in the post-war period." (Pt. 2, Art. III. Anglo-Soviet Pact.)

Economic cooperation is needed.

"The High Contracting Parties agree to render one another all

possible economic assistance after the war." (Pt. 2, Art. VI. Anglo-Soviet Pact).

"In the final determination of the benefits to be provided to the United States" . . . by the U.S.S.R. in returns for Lend-Lease aid, "the terms and conditions thereof shall be such as not to burden commerce between the two countries, but to promote mutually advantageous economic relations between them and the betterment of world-wide economic relations. To that end, they shall include provision for agreed action by the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. open to participation by all other countries of like mind, directed . . . to the attainment of all the economic objectives" of the Atlantic Charter. (Art. VII, United States-Soviet Agreement, June 11, 1942).

The Hitlerites Must Be Punished—The German Nation Will Continue.

In its notes on German Atrocities, November 25, 1941, January 6, April 27, 1942, the Soviet Government called for the punishment of the Nazis and in its note of October 14, 1942, stated "the Soviet Government hereby once more declares, for the whole world to hear, and with utter determination and firmness, that the criminal Hitlerite Government and all its accomplices must and shall pay a deserved and severe penalty for the crimes committed by it against the peoples of the Soviet Union and against all freedom-loving peoples in the territories temporarily occupied by the German army and its associates."

"The Red Army's aim is to drive out the German occupants from our country and liberate Soviet soil from the German fascist invaders. It is very likely that the war for liberation of the Soviet land will result in ousting or destroying Hitler's clique. We should welcome such an outcome. But it would be ridiculous to identify Hitler's clique with the German people and the German state. History shows that Hitlers come and go, but the German people and the German State remain." (Stalin's speech, February 23, 1942).

Part V

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR

41. What Is The U.S.S.R.?

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a federation of sixteen republics, founded in December, 1922 by a treaty of Union between the four original republics: The Russian Federation, the Transcaucasian Republic, The Ukraine and Belorussia. Today, it is governed by its new constitution adopted in 1936.

Its congress, called the Supreme Soviet (or Council), has two houses: the Council of the Union, which like our House of Representatives is elected in proportion to population—one deputy to 300,000 people; and the Council of Nationalities in which each republic has equal representation. The elections are direct and secret; everyone eighteen or over can vote.

There is no president, but there is a Presidium of the Supreme Council of which Kalinin is chairman and it is for this reason that he is often referred to as President of the U.S.S.R. This Presidium acts for the Supreme Council between its sessions.

Finally, there is a cabinet, known as the Council of People's Commissars—with all the usual posts—Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Commissar of Finance, Commissar of Defense, etc. But in addition there are many industrial commissariats, for the U.S.S.R. is a socialist country in which practically all industry and business belongs to the public and is run by the government. There are in all 43 commissariats, of which 24 deal with industrial production.

The federal government of the U.S.S.R. has many powers as defined in the constitution, dealing as it does with foreign affairs, defense, transportation, and industries of national importance. The unlisted powers reside with the constituent republics and they have control over local industry, justice, education and public health, the last two of which are also provided entirely by the state under the socialist system.

THE UNION REPUBLICS

Republic	*Area* (*Sq. Mi.*)	*Population* (*est.* 1941)
Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR)	6,375,000	109,278,600
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	202,540	38,960,000
Belorussian SSR	89,300	10,400,000
Azerbaidzhan SSR	33,200	3,209,727
Georgian SSR	26,875	3,542,289
Armenian SSR	11,580	1,281,599
Turkmen SSR	171,250	1,253,985
Uzbek SSR	146,000	6,282,446
Tadzhik SSR	55,545	1,485,091
Kazakh SSR	1,059,700	6,145,937
Kirgiz SSR	75,950	1,459,301
Karelo-Finnish SSR	64,220	869,000
Lithuanian SSR	22,800	3,000,000
Latvian SSR	24,700	1,950,000
Estonian SSR	18,050	1,120,000
Moldavian SSR	13,680	2,200,000

42. *What Are The Nations That Make Up The U.S.S.R.?*

The population of the U.S.S.R. is made up of 175 distinct nations and peoples. Of the population of 193,000,000 about 72 per cent are Slavic: Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians; 58 per cent are Russians. The rest are of as varied ethnic origin as the Finno-Ugrian Karelians, Finns, Estonians, Mariis, Mordvinians; the Tiurkic Azerbaidzhanians, Uzbeks, Turkmenians, Yakuts; the Iranian Osetians and Tadzhiks; the Tatar-Mongolian Kazakhs and Kirgiz; the Baltic Latvians and Lithuanians; the Armenians; the Japhetic Georgians; the Semitic Jews.

Each of the sixteen major nationalities is represented by one of the Union Republics. Nineteen smaller national groups are organized as Autonomous Republics in the larger republics (15 in the R.S.F.S.R., one in the Uzbek S.S.R., two in the Georgian S.S.R. and one in the Azerbaidzhan S.S.R.); nineteen more, including the Jews have Autonomous Regions (of which there are nine) or Autonomous Districts (of

which there are ten) in which their languages are used in courts and schools. These national units have representation in the Council of Nationalities, in addition to the representatives of the 16 Union Republics.

All nationalities are protected in their rights, and racial or national discrimination is a federal offense.

43. How Do All The Nations Participate In The War?

All the nations play an equal part in the war, no matter how far they may be from the front. All are represented in the armed forces, among the privates and the officers. All have their heroes: Russian Capt. Astashkin; Azerbaidzhan Red Armyman Mamedov; Jewish General Kreizer; Ukrainian Senior Lt. Cherevetenko; Georgian Sg. Dalakashvili; Karelian Lt. Kukkonen; Armenian Major Kurginian; Turkmen Sg. Dundi; Dagestanian Red Fleetman Gadzhiev.

Before the war Red Army units were of mixed nationality, but now, where possible, Red Armymen are put into units among their own people, so that traditions, customs, and language ties will not be broken and the feeling of national self-defense will be developed. The Panfilov Guard Unit was made up wholly of Kazakhs and Kirgiz; there are also national Divisions in the army: the Latvian, the Bashkirian, the Lithuanian. But the various nationalities are also all included in the regular divisions of the Red Army, the Red Navy and the Air Force. Peoples who in pre-Soviet times were bitter enemies now fight side by side—the Armenians and Azerbaidzhanians; the Jews and Cossacks. In fact, a Cossack cavalry division was under the command of a Jew, General Lev Dovator, until he was killed in action.

Behind the lines they all have an equal share in producing for the war. Most of the oil comes from the Caucasus and is produced by the peoples of Transcaucasia. Cotton is grown and spun by the people of the Central Asiatic Republics. The great fields of Kazakhstan are now producing a large part of the country's bread. The Khakassian farmers of Siberia started the "acres of friendship" movement to plant extra seed crops to give to the farmers returning to the reoccupied areas west of Moscow.

A. Abdurakhmanov, Premier of the Uzbek Republic, spoke for the non-Russian peoples of the U.S.S.R. when he said:

"Everything in our republic has been subordinated to the interests of the country's war effort. The industrial plants erected during the Five-Year Plans have been switched from peace-time lines to the manufacture of armaments, munitions and equipment. Even the small artisan workshops are now helping to produce the sinews of war. . . .

"In the grim days of war, a war foisted on us by bloodthirsty fascism, the friendship binding the peoples of the U.S.S.R. which is based on mutual confidence and respect and on fraternal solidarity has become stronger than ever. It could not have been otherwise, for it has been this friendship that has elevated formerly oppressed peoples and has promoted their rapid advance along the path of progress."

44. *What Wartime Changes Were Made In The Government Set-Up?*

Nine days after the Nazi invasion, there was established a War Cabinet called the State Defense Committee, in whose hands was concentrated full powers of government in all fields. The Committee originally consisted of Joseph V. Stalin, Chairman; V. M. Molotov, Vice-Chairmen; K. E. Voroshilov; G. M. Malenkov; L. P. Beria. Later three more Soviet leaders were added to the Committee: L. M. Kaganovich, N. A. Voznesensky and A. I. Mikoian.

While the State Defense Committee has been the directing power in wartime, the other regular government organs have continued to function. Decrees are issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Council, and the Supreme Council itself was convoked to ratify the Anglo-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact. However, the regular meetings of the Supreme Council were suspended and elections scheduled for December, 1941, were postponed.

45. *What Is Stalin's Position?*

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin (born Dzhugashvili) fills four important government and military positions in the U.S.S.R. He is

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, or Premier as he is called in this country; he is Chairman of the State Defense Committee of the U.S.S.R. On July 20, 1941, he was also appointed Defense Commissar by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, replacing Timoshenko who became a Vice-Commissar. In addition he is a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet and member of its Presidium.

His position in the Communist Party is that of Secretary of the Central Committee. He is also a member of the Political Bureau, the executive organ of the Central Committee.

At present his most important position may be considered that on the State Defense Committee since the country's most vital decisions must be made through it. His important statements and speeches have been issued as Defense Commissar.

46. *What Is The Communist Party Of The Soviet Union?*

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) is a voluntary political organization embracing over 4,610,000 members and candidates for membership. Of this number, some 750,000 have joined the Party since the Nazi invasion. This represents the Party's most rapid growth in its 40 years of existence. However, since Party membership carries with it the responsibility of maximum loyalty and discipline in military and in civilian life, military casualties among Communists have been inordinately high.

The Bolshevik or Communist Party, in existence since 1903, has had since that time the one aim of the establishment of the social system known as Communism. Communism is defined as a system under which all the means of production—land, factories, and the like—are held in common, and production and the individual's sense of social responsibility are so highly advanced that each person will work to the best of his ability, while there will be enough of all goods and services for them to be distributed according to need.

The present system in the Soviet Union, however, is known as Socialism, a transitional stage to Communism. Socialism was regarded as having been attained in 1936 and crystallized in the new Con-

stitution then adopted. Under Socialism, as under Communism, the means of production are held in common. Each person is expected to work but payment is still made according to type and amount of work done, since prosperity has not reached the point where goods can be freely distributed according to need.

The struggle of the early years to rouse the people to the overthrow of the Tsar was followed by a successful effort to win the workers and peasants away from parties seeking to build other types of modern government. In March, 1917, the Tsar was overthrown and on November 7, 1917, the popular organs of government that had arisen in the interim—the Soviets (or Councils) of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies—decided to support the Bolsheviks' program and instituted the present government. All the other parties ranged themselves against the Soviet Government in the Civil War that followed, and they were forced out of existence when they were defeated. There is no party except the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. Communists believe that political parties represent class interests, and since they hold that there are no conflicting classes in the Soviet Union, there is no need for other parties.

The relation of the Communist Party to the Government is similar to that of the party in power in other countries. The Cabinet is made up of Communists; most of the government posts are held by them. However, within the Supreme Soviet — comparable to our Congress—there is a minority of deputies who are not members of the Communist Party.

47. *What Are The Avenues For Criticism In The Soviet Union?*

There are several million workers and collective farm correspondents who fill the columns of the newspapers with critical discussions on all the activities of the country. If they think a factory manager or the chairman of a Soviet is not doing his job well or to the best interest of the community, they will unhesitatingly send in

scathing letters of criticism, pointing out all the evils and showing how they can be corrected.

All schools, factories, offices, stores, cooperatives hold monthly "production meetings." Part of these meetings is given over to discussion of the work of individual workers and managers in the given enterprise. All enterprises have wall-newspapers which are full of complaints and suggestions. First-nights at theaters are usually thrown open to the audiences for discussion and criticism. Authors and artists meet with their public to discuss their works.

Deputies to the Soviets must make periodic reports to their constituents on how they have been carrying out their mandates. Dissatisfaction with their work is aired at public meetings and all deputies are subject to recall.

Many of the plays and moving pictures produced and the books written are critical surveys of current events, as are the caricatures and posters. For instance, *The Front,* a play just recently written, "prods" those Soviet generals who refuse to learn and keep reminding their comrades-in-arms of their glorious past deeds when their lack of knowledge of new weapons and tactics comes to light.

48. What Changes Have There Been In The Economic Organization Of The Country?

Structurally, very few changes have been made. The industries are still run by Plan, though the objectives of the third Five-Year Plan which was to have been completed in 1942 have had to be scrapped. The former chairman of the State Planning Commission and pre-war Vice-Premier for Economic Affairs, Nikolai Voznesensky, is on the State Defense Committee and figures are released from time to time indicating plan fulfillment. One or two changes in the industrial commissariats have been made, as conversion to war production took place; e.g. the General Machine Building Commissariat was changed to the Commissariat of the Tank Industry.

The most important wartime changes have been the rapid and total conversion from non-war industries; the evacuation of industry to

the East and consequent acceleration of eastern industrialization; and the stimulation of local industries to meet local consumers' needs. In line with this has been the expansion of producers' cooperatives in many rural areas to supply manufactured goods from local raw materials. These are in many cases linked to collective farms. Before the war, such cooperatives manufactured fully a fifth of the country's industrial goods.

49. How Are They Financing The War?

TAXES: *On industry.* The largest tax is the "turn-over tax," a kind of sales tax levied at the source, ranging from 0.5% to 2% of the sale price. This has long been the largest revenue item in the Soviet budget. There is also a tax on profits of industrial enterprises, but this is less important. *On agriculture.* Fixed "deliveries in kind" to the government at prices below the market price constitute the main form of agricultural taxation. In addition there is an income tax of 8% on the produce of collective farms in excess of these "deliveries" and certain other obligations.

The average worker pays three taxes, of which the war tax is a special levy imposed in January, 1942.

Annual wage	*Income Tax*	*Cultural Tax*	*War Tax*
1,800 r.	14.40 r.	12.60 r.	120.00 r.
4,300 r. average wage	172.00 r.	150.50 r.	360.00 r.
graduated	graduated	graduated	graduated
to	to	to	to
12,000 r.	7%	6%	1,140.00 r.
24,000 r.			2,700.00 r.

The art worker (artists, actors, musicians, writers . . .) pays the same war tax rate as the wage worker, but his income and cultural taxes begin at 0.8% and 0.7% respectively on an annual income of 1800 rubles. The income tax is graduated up to 50% on income over 300,000 rubles.

Collective farmers pay income tax only on the produce from their own small gardens and they are now paying the war tax of 150-600 rubles per working member of the family. *Individual farmers and artisans* pay taxes at much higher rates.

All citizens from the age of 18 must pay the war tax and there are no exemptions for dependents. There is an additional tax of about five percent imposed on unmarried and childless citizens, who can better afford higher rates.

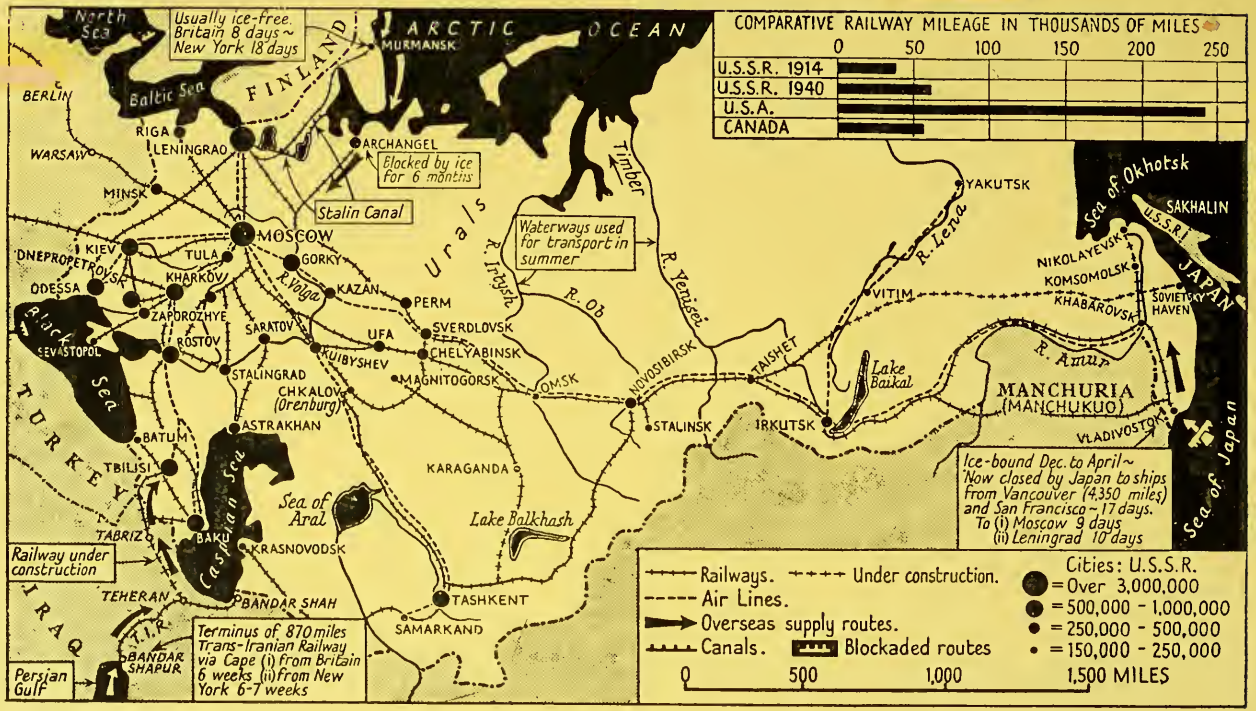
General exemptions from taxes are granted men in the services; pensioners, both invalids and old age. There are also tax reductions for those with two or more dependents.

LOANS: Government bonds (interest bearing and prize winning) have been issued annually by the U.S.S.R. for many years. On April 13, 1942 a ten billion ruble loan was floated and ten days later it was oversubscribed. Income from these bonds is tax exempt.

GIFTS: Before this loan was floated a Defense Fund had been started on the initiative of the press. By the first of April, 2,300,000,000 rubles in cash and 2,000,000,000 in bonds, gold, and other valuables had been donated to the government. Collective farms contributed grain, hay, milk and poultry. The money was used by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to buy tobacco and candy for the troops and to help turn out more planes, tanks and guns.

50. *What Has Happened To The Governments Of The Occupied Republics?*

The governments of the occupied republics—the Karelo-Finnish, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Belorussian, Moldavian and the Ukrainian S.S.R.'s, and the Crimean A.S.S.R. were evacuated and are now in Moscow. They are closely in touch with guerrilla activities in their occupied republics and the activities of their national Divisions in the army. They broadcast to their people, giving them news about the war and their armies and building up their morale with information on what they can do to help bring an end to occupation. When their nationals are decorated it is the representatives of the republic governments that issue the awards and make the award speeches. On September 15 of this year, one of these representatives, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic, Dr. A. Kirchensteins, was awarded the Order of Lenin by the Presidium of the All-Union Supreme Soviet on the occasion of his 70th birthday.



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