THE TAURIS SOURCE STATES

THE ELITE OF THE USSR TODAY

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Part II

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Preface

The last three years have seen more radical developments in the Soviet Union and its relations with the world than at any time since the early twenties. Gorbachev seems more determined than his predecessors to shake up and decentralize the rigid and inefficient Soviet system and make it more flexible and open, more competitive in the modern world. That is the essence of the economic and political reform strategy labelled *perestroika*. To help modernize the Soviet Union and make it a more normal society, Gorbachev seems intent on opening up the USSR to the world in general and the industrialized West in particular. He wants to promote more trade and greater contact. Predictably headway will be slow, yet the changes in Soviet policy mean that prospects for Western interaction with the USSR are more favourable than at any time since the Revolution. The new legislation on joint ventures and the radical decentralization of the whole system of external economic relations opens up unprecedented opportunities for Western businessmen to have direct contact with their Soviet counterparts.

To make full use of the opportunities current changes offer, it is essential to have accurate information about the Soviet Union and those who shape its shifting policies. It is, of course, always important to know the background of those one deals with in any country. In the Soviet Union particular value is placed on good personal relationships and these can help to cut through the bureaucratic morass that continues to clog the system and frustrate transactions. Such relations will be increasingly important as *perestroika* makes it possible to deal directly with lower level officials, be they factory managers or media people, who now have unprecedented scope to use their own initiative. In this context it is more vital than ever to have accurate and up-to-date information on Who's Who.

Information on prominent individuals in the USSR remains peculiarly inaccessible. While glasnost' has made significant inroads into the general secretiveness and taken the lid off many taboo issues, data on decision makers and those with influence are still difficult to obtain. References are sparse and scattered; even basic sources such as telephone directories are not generally available. And where information on prominent individuals is more readily accessible, in compilations published in the West, it is becoming increasingly outdated by the very rapid pace of change. Gorbachev has orchestrated a personnel turnover that is extraordinary in speed and scope. The last three years have seen a remarkable turnover in the senior ranks of the Communist Party, academia, the diplomatic community, the government bureaucracy and, not least, the business world where large numbers of positions have changed hands and many of the posts have themselves undergone large-scale reorganization. Such has been the extent of organizational and personnel restructuring in the foreign trade sector over the last three years that many Western businesses have had to establish new contacts and learn to operate what is virtually a new system.

This volume seeks to fill the gaps in available reference publications by providing easily accessible and up-to-date information on a broad selection of prominent individuals. Entries draw on a wide variety of published sources as well as some unpublished material and as far as possible include the most recently available data.

As personnel changes are likely to continue at a significant if somewhat less hectic rate, further editions are planned to update the present volume.

The volume includes biographical entries for a total of 2000 individuals who occupy positions of power and influence or figure prominently in other respects in key areas of Soviet life. While every attempt has been made to cover prominent individuals in a wide range of fields, including science, religion, culture and the arts, the focus is on senior office holders in the major economic, administrative and political hierarchies which run the Soviet Union. Together with other prominent individuals they represent the Soviet establishment which inevitably forms the core of any Who's Who. For it is the members of this establishment that are of greatest interest to those wishing to embark upon or widen contacts with the Soviet Union.

The biographical entries include data on family background (not ethnicity as reliable information is often not available), education, career, organizational affiliations and offices as well as honours. To make it easier to contact individuals covered, the entries also provide addresses and telex and telephone numbers where these are available.

A particularly useful feature of the Directory is that it is really two volumes in one. In addition to the Who's Who biographical entries, the Directory provides an extensive list of offices and office holders in major Soviet institutions and organizations, ranging from the Communist Party through the ministries to professional unions and churches. The list is particularly full on the economy, especially those areas relevant to external business contacts and transactions. In these external economic related areas, as elsewhere in this first part of the Directory, the lists are arranged by sector since in practice one is often interested in an area of activity as well as in a particular institution. So in addition to listing senior position and office holders in the Communist Party, the Directory groups appropriate party bodies together with other relevant institutions under sector headings. If, for instance, you wish to identify key offices and individuals in a specific area of the economy, you simply turn to that heading. Under it you will find listed the main organizations and office holders involved. Clear indication is given as to which office holders also have biographical entries. Thus the organizational listings (Part 1) provides an indispensable office-holding index which supplements and complements the traditional alphabetical biographical entries which comprise the second part of the volume.

Publishers' Note

The Tauris Soviet Directory has been compiled at a time of unprecedented change in the Soviet Union. Against this background, the publishers have made every effort to be as accurate as possible. If readers do spot any inaccuracies, however, we would be grateful to be notified.

THE TAURIS SOVIET DIRECTORY

This unique work is the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information on the elite of the Soviet Union publicly available in the English language. Containing a detailed guide to the structure and hierarchy of Soviet organizations, and biographies of the most prominent members of the elite, it functions as both a directory and a handbook.

The Tauris Soviet Directory has been compiled under the supervision of Alex Pravda and with the advice of a panel of experts including such distinguished specialists as John Erickson, Peter Frank, Philip Hanson and Geoffrey Hosking. It is drawn from both Soviet and Western sources.

The Tauris Soviet Directory provides data on the structure of Soviet organizations in an impressive range of fields:

- The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Party Hierarchy
- * The Government and Ministerial Bureaucracy
- * Regional Party and Government Structures
- * The Armed Forces
- * The Security Services
- * Diplomacy and International Affairs
- * The Academy of Sciences
- * The Soviet Space Agency
- * Industrial Management
- Commercial Managements and Trade Organizations
- * Economic and Financial Management
- * Research Institutes and Think Tanks
- * The Arts and Intellectuals
- * The Media
- * Trades Unions
- * Religious Groups

This information is contained in an extensive directory of the hierarchies of individual Soviet organizations.

In addition, *The Tauris Soviet Directory* provides detailed information on almost 2,000 of the most important members of the Soviet elite. Carried in an alphabetical biography section, each entry supplies information on career history, publications, honours and awards, as well as personal details. An unusual feature of the work is that most entries carry addresses, and many also include telephone and telex numbers.

This work will therefore prove an indispensable tool for all who have a professional interest in the Soviet Union.