

December 23, 1990

“Economic and Political Crisis Is One of the Consequences of Perestroika in the Soviet Union”

Citation:

““Economic and Political Crisis Is One of the Consequences of Perestroika in the Soviet Union””, December 23, 1990, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Falaq Magazine
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/301552>

Summary:

This article by an anonymous author comes from the Afghan opposition periodical, Falaq. The author comments on the Soviet policy of Perestroika at the end of the Cold War from the Islamist perspective. Contributed and translated by Siarhei Bohdan.

Original Language:

Contents:

Translation - English

An economic and political crisis is one of the consequences of Perestroika in the Soviet Union
Falaq, 23 December 1990

The Soviet socialist system finds itself on the verge of the most severe and critical periods of its political and economic history. The crisis that has engulfed all economic dimensions of this country is unprecedented, but for a couple of years at the time of the outbreak of WWII.

This is the first time that the Eastern Bloc's superpower extends a begging hand towards foreign countries to fill the stomachs of the Soviet people and even welcomes material and food aid from Third World countries. This, from a superpower that had been the biggest allies of the countries of Eastern Europe.

Yes! The ruinous phenomenon of poverty that casts a shadow on the life of the Soviet people has again made evident to everyone the unnatural essence of Communism. It leaves no excuses for Communists to rant anymore.

The Soviet economic crisis has achieved unprecedented and dangerous dimensions. For one, it has added substantial tension to the sociopolitical situation inside the country. Second, it has made the country severely dependent on international organizations and European countries.

Although one can say that the crisis has been caused by the emancipation from the shackles of the old Communist regime and the transit to creation of the new and not yet established regime of the Western model, another important factor are the fundamental differences and inconsistencies among Soviet leaders that accelerated this process]. The sharp differences between orthodox and reformist Communists have thrown Perestroika in such wild unrest that it even thrown any confidence in a normal future into question.

One of the problems that made Gorbachev's regime of Perestroika so painful has been the existence of monopolies at the ministerial level, government officials and the inappropriate system of distribution in the USSR. In a recent interview, the Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov pointed out these two fundamental difficulties, and said: "the production of food in the USSR, despite the unprecedented bumper grain harvest in this country, has deteriorated because of monopoly, mistakes in distribution and Soviet republics' lack of access [to grain]. Due to the current crisis, the Soviet Union needs food imports more than ever." He explained: "the Soviet Union will have no choice but to borrow money from abroad to cover its economic needs."

Political experts believe that the Soviet economic crisis worries Western states because the West is as fearful of weakening of Perestroika's designers and veterans as are the Kremlin rulers themselves.

For the Western world, any circumstances that would lead to the removal of Gorbachev from the leadership of Soviet society would be damaging and dangerous. Gorbachev, after all, is the first Soviet leader who has established a close and warm relationship with the West after seventy years of Communist rule. What is more, he has made this principle into the lever ensuring his own survival.

Under such circumstances, the Westerners will not try to pressure Gorbachev. It is for this reason that one year into the economic crisis in the Soviet Union, Western support of independence movements in the Baltics has been replaced by peaceful coexistence between the West and Gorbachev. It is for the same reason that the question of Lithuania and Latvia is not crucial for the Kremlin rulers anymore in comparison to the past.

All the same, political analysts believe that financial and economic assistance will not be effective in dealing with the roots of the Soviet economic crisis. This is because the principal reason for the disturbances in this country is the disintegration of the Communist party structure and its sabotage by the remaining members of this party which, for 70 years, lashed the Soviet people with a whip of oppression and tyranny. The character [of this entire system] has been revealed as delusional after the opening [of the USSR's] gates towards the outside world.

Yes! There were times when the Communists with the ignorant pride of absolutism made great efforts to impose Marxism on people as the only science of struggle and doctrine that could deliver liberation and progress. However, after seventy years of dreams and fantasies about socialist economy, culture, politics, ideology, civilization and morals, all their beliefs evidently clashed with reality. It is remarkable: the factors which Marxism had discovered as responsible for the decay of capitalist societies turned out to be more objectively true with regard to [Marxism] itself and paved the road for its ruin. As things stand, the theoreticians of Communism see as their ideal not some classless and socialist society, but rather capitalist societies (!)

For seventy years, the Communists seriously relied on the policy of a centralized planned economy as one of the tenets of Marxist economic doctrine. They spoke about the deficiencies and disadvantages of other economic doctrines and solutions. But they constructed in the Soviet Union a bureaucratic regime based on „particracy.“ They dictated this system to all the regimes under their tutelage in Eastern Europe, as well as in other countries. Today, however, all these dogmas are being questioned and gone with the wind. History is laughing at all of the Marxists' analyses and laws, and it is demonstrating the invalidity of Marx's and Lenin's doctrines, especially in the Soviet Union. How wrong did Lenin's assertion turn out to be, that “personalities have no determining role in the course of history; rather, it is the necessary course of socioeconomic developments that makes history, and personalities are also the products of this necessary course of history“? Lenin's illusions and fantasies transformed into a dreadful nightmare for people, one that put serious pressure on Marxism-Leninism for seventy years. Now, however, people have identified salvation [from Marxism-Leninism] through the destruction of Communism and nothing else.

For the Soviet people, these theories of Marxism-Leninism, which resemble nothing more than a fairytale or a poem, have proven painful and nauseating. Now, the Soviet people suffer from the exhausting difficulties of a deficit of food, which is one of the consequences of this erroneous Communist regime. In the final analysis, the Soviet economic system finds itself in the first step towards the unity of thought and action by the Kremlin leaders, one that requires the people's trust in them and control of the country's production and distribution channels. But for this very reason, implementing this action seems impossible. If this process does not stop, it will only result in a strengthening of the wave of independence movements and bring about the end of the age of the Kremlin's rule! We will know for sure that the first step in this path will be Shevardnadze's resignation and Ryzhkov warning that “perestroika has failed.