

March 18, 1991

**“Growing Economic Crisis in the Soviet Union and
the Dead End of the Perestroika”**

Citation:

““Growing Economic Crisis in the Soviet Union and the Dead End of the Perestroika””,
March 18, 1991, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Falaq Magazine
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/301553>

Summary:

This article from the Afghan opposition periodical, Falaq, written anonymously, criticizes the Soviet policy of Perestroika at the end of the Cold War. Contributed and translated by Siarhei Bohdan.

Original Language:

Contents:

Translation - English

Falaq, 18 March 1991

A Growing Economic Crisis in the Soviet Union and Perestroika's Dead-end

According to the reports of the Soviet planning organization, the economic situation of this country will face a serious and catastrophic crisis next year.

This report, which has been secretly published in Moscow, says that Soviet GDP will fall by 11.6% during the next twelve months, while during the previous year the GDP of the country decreased by only 3%. Economic analysts underscore that whenever the situation in the USSR develops as forecast in the report, it is possible that this country will encounter the danger of a famine like in 1930.

According to these analysts, the government of Mikhail Gorbachev, which is facing a variety of political and economic crises as well as nationalistic and independence-oriented tendencies in 15 Soviet republics, managed to economically survive the previous year only through serious effort and by taking foreign loans amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars – all while this country in the course of one year faced only a 3% decrease of its GDP.

This decrease of production and [its] different aspects, first of all in the form of the chronic deficit of food products and other necessary products, are making themselves visible throughout the entire Soviet Union. Now, experts say, the Soviet economic system became dysfunctional and moribund. Severe economic deficits threaten all trouble-stricken republics of that country. It would be difficult for that country to cope with a GDP decline that would be four times bigger than the previous year. Because of this, the Soviet economy is forecast to go through a very grave and catastrophic crisis during the next twelve months. Some economists even warn of the danger that a chronic famine like the 1930 hunger can break out.

In addition to the economic crisis, Mikhail Gorbachev's Mikhail Gorbachev is also facing a variety of sociopolitical crises, erupting ethnic strife, and nationalistic and independence movements in all republics of that country. Together, these phenomena increase the likelihood of the fall and collapse of the Communist regime in the Soviet Union in the not so distant future. This is especially the cause because the content and essence of this godless economic regime, i.e., the degenerate ideology of Marxism-Leninism, has during the recent decade become a void, inoperative, anti-human, and dying ideology. Communist parties all over the world increasingly acknowledge the invalidity of this deviant and ignorant belief and are getting rid of it.

Now, faith in Communism has become limited only to the four walls of the Kremlin and the headquarters of the Soviet Politburo in Moscow, and it is anticipated that, because of economic and political pressures prevailing in Russian society, this last bastion of Communism will also be destroyed.

This is because the epoch in which we are living is the epoch of the absolute collapse of the Communist system and the age of godliness and proclivity for religion in the world.

In the view of what has been said, the Soviet Union will during the next 12 months encounter a chronic and catastrophic economic crisis due to the serious decline in its GDP. As a result of this, political and domestic crises will also increase. Hence, it is highly unlikely that the statesmen of that country will be able to provide generous help and financial assistance to their subservient satellites in other countries, including Afghanistan.

During the last two years, despite its own miserable economic situation, Moscow had been able to place economic assistance amounting to 300 million dollars monthly at the disposal of the KGB chiefs to keep the Communist regime in Kabul afloat. This assistance is considered the most important factor behind the

survival of this regime during the last two years. However, because of the growing gravity of the economic and political situation inside the Soviet Union, there is uncertainty as to whether this country will be able to keep its assistance flowing in a stable way to the Kabul regime in the future. There are even predictions that this assistance will be completely cut in the near future, and the Soviet statesmen will no longer be able to allocate a part of this country's budget, which is financed mostly through borrowing abroad, to the Kabul regime. Especially so when they cannot be hopeful about the success and survival of the regime in Afghanistan.

Therefore, next month the Kabul regime will lose its biggest ally and supporter in financial and economic terms, namely Moscow. Likewise, India, which is the second country providing help to this regime, is now itself engulfed in a growing internal political crisis, and there is no hope that Dehli will be able, without Soviet help, to cover the economic needs of the Kabul regime. Therefore, next year the mercenary regime of Kabul will face a crisis-stricken and fragile situation and will be more vulnerable and repressible than ever before.