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Chapter 1 : Culture of the Soviet Union - Wikipedia

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For decades the Soviet Union and Western broadcasters were engaged in an invisible battle – the West transmitted its propaganda eastward, and the USSR tried to jam the radio broadcasts. In the evening, however, a determined Soviet citizen might just get lucky and hear the forbidden fruit. A group of State Department announcers huddle around the microphone after the initial shortwave broadcast in Russian to Russia from New York City on Feb. This is New York calling. You are listening to the first radio broadcast of Voice of the United States of America. During the first transmission announcers stated the purpose of their radio station: Enemy voices The position of the Soviet authorities was unequivocal - Western radio stations brainwash Soviet people with propaganda, and Soviet people are not allowed to listen to them. Special jamming stations were built around the country to block the frequencies on which the "enemy voices" were broadcasting. By the early s, the number of Soviet jamming stations had reached 1, Journalist Oleg Rogov, who grew up in the Soviet Union, recalls that "jammers" worked poorly at night, and so those who wanted to listen to alternative information would sit by their radio receivers in the evening, trying to find the frequencies on which they could hear something. Another way to listen to a Western radio station was to get away from the big cities; there were fewer "jammers" in rural areas. Another way was to buy a shortwave radio, but they were much more expensive than conventional transistor radios, and anyway, they often aroused suspicion from law-enforcement. AP Ideological war "American radio broadcasting is not a gift to the world in any way, but rather it is a tool of international politics to spread democratic values," said media analyst Donald Jensen, assessing Voice of America, and admitting that VOA played the role of a propaganda weapon in the fight against communism. Many people in the Soviet Union regarded "enemy voices" as an alternative viewpoint, and so this viewpoint was interesting. The news website, Lenta. Solzhenitsyn and jazz VOA was interesting not only because of its different political viewpoint. Listeners remember how they turned the dials on their receivers to hear music or literary programs. Two men listen to radio in the Soviet Union on April 1, This was the case during the detente between the superpowers in the second half of the s, and up to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan when relations worsened and transmissions were again subjected to jamming. The fight against "enemy voices" completely ceased under Mikhail Gorbachev in with a special resolution of the Communist Party. VOA transmissions were now allowed in the USSR, but five years later in the Soviet Union collapsed and that was the beginning of the end for the once-forbidden radio station. By Russia had freedom of the press, alternative sources of information appeared, and overall interest in radio transmissions declined.

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Chapter 2 : When Sonia Met Boris: Jews In The Soviet Union | Sheldon Kirshner | The Blogs

Daily life and social customs. During the Soviet era most customs and traditions of Russia's imperial past were suppressed, and life was strictly controlled and regulated by the state through its vast intelligence network.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Many folk holidays, which are often accompanied by traditional foods, have gained popularity and have become vital elements of popular culture. Festivities generally include street carnivals that feature entertainers and children in traditional Russian dress. Boys usually wear a long-sleeved red or blue shirt with a round, embroidered collar, while girls wear a three-piece ensemble consisting of a red or green sarafan jumper, a long-sleeved peasant blouse, and an ornate kokoshnik headdress. Maslyanitsa, the oldest Russian folk holiday, marks the end of winter; a purely Russian holiday, it originated during pagan times. The meal is accompanied by tea in the ever-present samovar tea kettle and is often washed down with vodka. Baked goods are ubiquitous on Easter, including round-shaped sweet bread and Easter cake. Traditionally, pashka, a mixture of sweetened curds, butter, and raisins, is served with the cake. Hard-boiled eggs painted in bright colours also are staples of the Easter holiday. The Red Hill holiday is observed on the first Sunday after Easter and is considered the best day for wedding ceremonies. In summer the Russian celebration of Ivan Kupalo St. John the Baptist centres on water, and celebrants commonly picnic or watch fireworks from riverbanks. Another popular traditional holiday is the Troitsa Pentecost, during which homes are adorned with fresh green branches. Girls often make garlands of birch branches and flowers to put into water for fortune-telling. In the last month of summer, there is a cluster of three folk holidays—known collectively as the Spas—that celebrate honey and the sowing of the apple and nut crops, respectively. During the holiday women usually receive gifts such as flowers and chocolates. Although a wide array of imported packaged products are now found in Russian cities, traditional foods and ingredients remain popular, including cabbage, potatoes, carrots, sour cream, and apples—the principal ingredients of borsch, the famous Russian soup made with beets. Normally, Russians prefer to finish their daily meals with a cup of tea or coffee the latter more common in the larger cities. Also popular is kvass, a traditional beverage that can be made at home from stale black bread. On a hot summer day, chilled kvass is used to make okroshka, a traditional cold soup laced with cucumbers, boiled eggs, sausages, and salamis. Vodka, the national drink of Russia, accompanies many family meals, especially on special occasions. The basic vodkas have no additional flavouring, but they are sometimes infused with cranberries, lemon peel, pepper, or herbs. Vodka is traditionally consumed straight and is chased by a fatty salt herring, a sour cucumber, a pickled mushroom, or a piece of rye bread with butter. It is considered bad manners and a sign of weak character to become visibly intoxicated from vodka. Travel abroad has become popular, and consumption, particularly of imported luxury goods, has increased. Many wealthy individuals have purchased private land and built second homes, often of two or three stories. The new values include self-reliance and viewing work as source of joy and pride; the middle class also tends to avoid political extremes, to participate in charitable organizations, and to patronize theatres and restaurants. Estimates of the size of the middle class vary as do definitions of it, but it is generally assumed that it constitutes about one-fourth of Russian society, and much of that is concentrated in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other urban areas. The rebirth of religion is another dimension of the changed lifestyles of new Russia. Although a majority of Russians are nonbelievers, religious institutions have filled the vacuum created by the downfall of communist ideology, and even many nonbelievers participate in the now-ubiquitous religious festivities. The arts Literature The 19th century The first quarter of the 19th century was dominated by Romantic poetry. During the s a gradual decline in poetry and a rise of prose took place, a shift that coincided with a change in literary institutions. Also in the s the first publications appeared by Nikolay Gogol, a comic writer of Ukrainian origin, whose grotesquely hilarious oeuvre includes the story The Nose, the play The Government Inspector both, and the epic novel Dead Souls. Although Gogol was then known primarily as a satirist, he is now appreciated as a verbal magician whose

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works seem akin to the absurdists of the 20th century. One final burst of poetic energy appeared in the late 19th century in the verse of Mikhail Lermontov, who also wrote *A Hero of Our Time*, the first Russian psychological novel. In the 19th century the axis of Russian literature shifted decisively from the personal and Romantic to the civic and realistic, a shift presided over by the great Russian literary critic Vissarion Belinsky. Belinsky desired a literature primarily concerned with current social problems, although he never expected it to give up the aesthetic function entirely. From the 1840s until the turn of the 20th century, the realist novel dominated Russian literature, though it was by no means a monolithic movement. In these beautifully crafted stories, Turgenev describes the life of Russian serfs as seen through the eyes of a Turgenev-like narrator; indeed, his powerful artistic depiction was credited with convincing Tsar Alexander II of the need to emancipate the serfs. Turgenev followed *Sketches* with a series of novels, each of which was felt by contemporaries to have captured the essence of Russian society. The two other great realists of the 19th century were Dostoyevsky and Leo Tolstoy. Dostoyevsky, who was arrested in 1849 for his involvement in a socialist reading group, reentered the literary scene in the late 1850s. His major novels—*Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot* (1869), *The Possessed*, and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880)—are filled with riveting, often unstable characters and dramatic scenes. In both *War and Peace* (1869) and *Anna Karenina* (1877), Tolstoy draws beautifully nuanced portraits filled with deep psychological and sociological insight. By the early 20th century the hegemony of the realist novel was waning, though what would replace it was unclear. Russian poetry, notwithstanding the civic verse of Nikolay Nekrasov and the subtle lyrics of Afanasy Fet, had not played a central role in the literary process since the 18th century, and drama, despite the able work of Aleksandr Ostrovsky, was a marginal literary activity for most writers. In his greatest stories—including *The Man in a Case*, *The Lady with a Lapdog*, *The Darling*, and *In the Ravine*—Chekhov manages to attain all the power of his great predecessors in a remarkably compact form. Toward the end of his career, Chekhov also became known for his dramatic work, including such pillars of the world theatrical repertoire as *Uncle Vanya* and *The Cherry Orchard* first performed. The second, more mystically and apocalyptically oriented generation included Aleksandr Blok perhaps the most talented lyric poet Russia ever produced, the poet and theoretician Vyacheslav Ivanov, and the poet and prose writer Andrey Bely. The period just before and immediately following the Russian Revolution of 1917 was marked by the work of six spectacularly talented, difficult poets. The Futurists Velimir Khlebnikov and Vladimir Mayakovsky engaged in innovative experiments to free poetic discourse from the fetters of tradition. Marina Tsvetayeva, another great poetic experimenter, produced much of her major work outside the country but returned to the Soviet Union in 1925, only to commit suicide there two years later. Boris Pasternak, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958, produced lyrics of great depth and power in this period, and Osip Mandelstam created some of the most beautiful and haunting lyric poems in the Russian language. Many of the writers who began to publish immediately after the revolution turned to prose, particularly the short story and the novella. Others described life in the new Soviet Union with varying degrees of mordant sarcasm; the short stories of Mikhail Zoshchenko, the comic novels of Ilya Ilf and Yevgeny Petrov, and the short novel *Envy* by Yury Olesha fall into this category. Writing in Russian also flourished in communities of anticommunist exiles in Germany, France, Italy, and the United States, as represented by writers as various as the novelists Vladimir Nabokov and Yevgeny Zamyatin and the theologian-philosophers Vladimir Nikolayevich Lossky, Sergey Bulgakov, and Nikolay Berdyayev. In the first decade after the revolution, there were also advances in literary theory and criticism, which changed methods of literary study throughout the world. Petersburg combined to create Formalist literary criticism see Formalism, a movement that concentrated on analyzing the internal structure of literary texts. At the same time, Mikhail Bakhtin began to develop a sophisticated criticism concerned with ethical problems and ways of representing them, especially in the novel, his favourite genre. By the late 1920s the period of Soviet experimentation had ended. Censorship became much stricter, and many of the best writers were silenced. The real masterpieces of this period, however, did not fit the canons of Socialist Realism and were not published until many years later. Vibrant young poets such as Joseph Brodsky, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, and Andrey Voznesensky exerted a significant influence, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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emerged from the Soviet prison-camp system Gulag and shocked the country and the world with details of his brutal experiences as depicted in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. By the late 1950s, however, most of these writers had again been silenced. Solzhenitsyn—who was charged with treason shortly after the publication of the first volume of *The Gulag Archipelago* in 1958—and Brodsky, Aksyonov, and Voynovich had all been forced into exile by 1962, and the best writing was again unpublishable. The most notable members of this group were the novelist Valentin Rasputin and the short-story writer Vasily Shukshin. The morally complex fiction of Yury Trifonov, staged in an urban setting. Notable writers included Varlam Shalamov, whose exquisitely artistic stories chronicled the horrors of the prison camps; Andrey Sinyavsky, whose complex novel *Goodnight!* Some of the best work published in the 1960s was in poetry, including the work of conceptualists such as Dmitry Prigov and the meta-metaphoric poetry of Aleksey Parshchikov, Olga Sedakova, Ilya Kutik, and others. The turbulent 1960s were a difficult period for most Russian writers and poets. The publishing industry, adversely affected by the economic downturn, struggled to regain its footing in the conditions of a market economy. Nonetheless, private foundations began awarding annual literary prizes, such as the Russian Booker Prize and the Little Booker Prize. The so-called Anti-Booker Prize—its name, a protest against the British origins of the Booker Prize, was selected to emphasize that it was a Russian award for Russian writers—was first presented in 1968 by the *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. Tatyana Tolstaya began to occupy a prominent role following the publication of her novel *The Slynx*, a satire about a disastrous hypothetical future for Moscow. For further discussion, see *Russian literature*.

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Chapter 3 : Cuba - Cultural institutions | blog.quintoapp.com

Details what ordinary life was like during the extraordinary years of the reign of Soviet Union. Thirty-six illustrations, thematic chapters, a glossary, timeline, annotated multimedia bibliography, and detailed index make it a sound starting point for looking at this powerful nation's immediate past.

Visit Website Such ideas were not totally unfounded. As apprehension about Soviet influence grew as the Cold War heated up, U. On March 21, , President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order , also known as the Loyalty Order, which mandated that all federal employees be analyzed to determine whether they were sufficiently loyal to the government. Yet it was only one of many questionable activities that occurred during the period of anticommunist hysteria known as the Red Scare. Under pressure from the negative publicity aimed at their studios, movie executives created blacklists that barred suspected radicals from employment; similar lists were also established in other industries. Another congressional investigator, U. McCarthy of Wisconsin , became the person most closely associated with the anticommunist crusade and with its excesses. McCarthy used hearsay and intimidation to establish himself as a powerful and feared figure in American politics. He leveled charges of disloyalty at celebrities, intellectuals and anyone who disagreed with his political views, costing many of his victims their reputations and jobs. The FBI and its longtime director, J. Edgar Hoover , aided many of the legislative investigations of communist activities. An ardent anticommunist, Hoover had been a key player in an earlier, though less pervasive, Red Scare in the years following World War I . The information obtained by the FBI proved essential in high-profile legal cases, including the conviction of 12 prominent leaders of the American Communist Party on charges that they had advocated the overthrow of the government. Hysteria and Growing Conservatism Public concerns about communism were heightened by international events. In , the Soviet Union successfully tested a nuclear bomb and communist forces led by Mao Zedong took control of China. The following year saw the start of the Korean War , which engaged U. The advances of communism around the world convinced many U. Figures such as McCarthy and Hoover fanned the flames of fear by wildly exaggerating that possibility. As the Red Scare intensified, its political climate turned increasingly conservative. Elected officials from both major parties sought to portray themselves as staunch anticommunists, and few people dared to criticize the questionable tactics used to persecute suspected radicals. Membership in leftist groups dropped as it became clear that such associations could lead to serious consequences, and dissenting voices from the left side of the political spectrum fell silent on a range of important issues. In judicial affairs, for example, support for free speech and other civil liberties eroded significantly. This trend was symbolized by the U. Supreme Court ruling in *Dennis v. United States*, which said that the free-speech rights of accused Communists could be restricted because their actions presented a clear and present danger to the government. Americans also felt the effects of the Red Scare on a personal level, and thousands of alleged communist sympathizers saw their lives disrupted. They were hounded by law enforcement, alienated from friends and family and fired from their jobs. While a small number of the accused may have been aspiring revolutionaries, most others were the victims of false allegations or had done nothing more than exercise their democratic right to join a political party. Though the climate of fear and repression began to ease in the late s, the Red Scare has continued to influence political debate in the decades since and is often cited as an example of how unfounded fears can compromise civil liberties. Start your free trial today.

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Chapter 4 : The Russian V-Day Story (Or The History Of World War II Not Often Heard In The West) | Zero

The Cold War was a nearly year long period of tense relations between the United States and the Communist-ruled Soviet Union. The Cold War began almost immediately after World War II and ended with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. The National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists has a large membership that promotes literature and the arts. In the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore was created within the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, with the aim of collecting and classifying the Cuban cultural heritage. It formed the National Folklore Group, which performs Afro-Cuban dances throughout Cuba and abroad and gives international folklore laboratories each year. The activities of the folklore group are complemented by the Institute of Literature and Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences. The revolutionary government has made a special effort to promote study of the African roots of Cuban culture. The Guanabacoa and Regla museums are the main repositories of Afro-Cuban artifacts. Alfred Padula Sandra H. They are almost a national obsession , and sports figures are treated as national heroes. Baseball is the national sport and is widely played throughout the country, with leagues organized at national and provincial scales. Fidel Castro himself has been passionately attracted to the sport since his youth. In various other international competitions, Cubans have also competed strongly withâ€”and often outperformedâ€”teams from every American country. At the Summer Olympic Games , for example, Cuban athletes won 29 medals. Female athletes have also been outstanding in Cuba, with world-class teams in track and field as well as in volleyball. Sport fishing, especially for blue marlin, has a long tradition, Ernest Hemingway being one of the enthusiastic participants. More recently, successful international competitions in sailing, yachting, and powerboat racing have taken place in Cuba. The government provides opportunities for most Cubans to participate in sports and recreational programs. Cuba celebrates Carnival in late July, most flamboyantly in Santiago de Cuba. Media and publishing The mass media in Cuba are government organs. Freedom of speech is severely curtailed, and several independent journalists have been imprisoned for allegedly insulting the president. These are supplemented by provincial newspapers, such as the Tribuna de la Habana and Sierra Maestra in Santiago de Cuba, that focus on local issues. Among the most widely read magazines are the weekly Bohemia, which covers all aspects of the news and is the oldest periodical in Cuba; the monthly Opina, aimed at a younger audience, with information on available consumer goods; and Mujeres, published by the Federation of Cuban Women. A number of specialized cultural magazines and newspapers also have wide readerships. Two television stations broadcast nationally, and there are several national radio networks and one international; all of these are administered by the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television. Programming generally includes news, sports, educational programs, and serials. History The following discussion focuses on Cuba since European contact. For additional treatment in a regional context , see Latin America, history of. Cuba has been heavily influenced by imperial Spain from to , the Soviet Union from the s to , and the United States from the 19th century to the present. Early period In the late 15th century the indigenous Ciboney and Guanahatabey peoples occupied western Cuba, and the more numerous Taino inhabited the rest of the island. Estimates of the total population range as high as ,; however, the actual total was probably about 75, The Taino were a peaceful people and were highly proficient agriculturalists, related to the Arawakan peoples of South America who migrated to the Greater Antilles. They made pottery, polished stone implements , and idols of religious spirits called zemis. The Taino diet included potatoes, manioc, fruits, and fish. The name Cuba is pre-Hispanic in origin and its exact derivation unknown. Spanish rule Conquest and colonial life Christopher Columbus sighted the northern coast of Cuba on October 27, , and made landfall there the following day. Each municipality had its own cabildo, or town council, governing its legal, administrative, and commercial affairs. From , elected representatives of each cabildo formed a body that defended local interests before the royal council , especially on such matters as slave trading and the semifeudal encomienda system, which granted

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conquistadors control over the Indians in specified areas and the right to exact tribute from them. A bishopric, subordinate to Santo Domingo, was founded at Baracoa in but later moved to Santiago de Cuba. However, the colony became a staging ground for the exploration of the North American mainland. The remaining Spanish colonists continued to exploit Indians through the encomienda, but by the system was no longer feasible because the Indian population had been decimated by European diseases, ongoing social dislocation, maltreatment, and emigration. By most residents of the Spanish towns in Cuba comprised a mixture of Spanish, African, and Indian heritages, largely because of the paucity of Spanish females among the immigrants and the military nature of the conquest. Colonial society reflected the stratification of the metropolis, although no sharp divisions had yet developed between Spanish-born and American-born citizens, as would later become commonplace. Until the end of the 16th century, African slaves seemed to enjoy a higher social standing than the indigenous people, probably owing to their cultural affinity to the conquerors. Throughout the 17th century, colonial life was made more difficult by the ravages of hurricanes, epidemics, pirates, and attacks by rival European countries trying to establish bases in the Caribbean. By, however, peace had returned, and the population reached about 50, In addition, ranching, smuggling, and tobacco farming occupied the colonists.

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Chapter 5 : Cold War archive: How the USSR and U.S. battled each other with radio waves - Russia Beyond

One of the most chilling novels about the oppression of totalitarian regimes and the first to open Western eyes to the terrors of Stalin's prison camps; if Solzhenitsyn later became Russia's conscience in exile, this is the book with which he first challenged the brutal might of the Soviet Union.

History[edit] The Lenin years[edit] The main feature of communist attitudes towards the arts and artists in the years was relative freedom, with significant experimentation in several different styles in an effort to find a distinctive Soviet style of art. In many respects, the NEP period was a time of relative freedom and experimentation for the social and cultural life of the Soviet Union. The government tolerated a variety of trends in these fields, provided they were not overtly hostile to the regime. In art and literature, numerous schools, some traditional and others radically experimental, proliferated. Communist writers Maxim Gorky and Vladimir Mayakovsky were active during this time, but other authors, many of whose works were later repressed, published work lacking socialist political content. Education, under Commissar Anatoliy Lunacharskiy , entered a phase of experimentation based on progressive theories of learning. At the same time, the state expanded the primary and secondary school system, and introduced night schools for working adults. Under NEP, the state eased its active persecution of religion begun during war communism but continued to agitate on behalf of atheism. The party supported the Living Church reform movement within the Russian Orthodox Church in hopes that it would undermine faith in the church, but the movement died out in the late 1920s. In family life, attitudes generally became more permissive. The state legalised abortion , and it made divorce progressively easier to obtain, whilst public cafeterias proliferated at the expense of private family kitchens.

Stalin era[edit] Arts during the rule of Joseph Stalin were characterised by the rise and domination of the government-imposed style of Socialist realism , with all other trends being severely repressed, with rare exceptions. The work of Anna Akhmatova was also condemned by the regime, although she notably refused the opportunity to escape to the West. After a short period of the renaissance of Ukrainian literature, more than 100 Ukrainian writers died during the Great Purge , for example Valerian Pidmohylnyi “ , in the so called Executed Renaissance. Texts of imprisoned authors were confiscated by the NKVD and some of them were published later. Books were removed from libraries and destroyed. In addition to literature, musical expression was also repressed during the Stalin era, and at times the music of many Soviet composers was banned altogether. Dmitri Shostakovich experienced a particularly long and complex relationship with Stalin , during which his music was denounced and prohibited twice, in 1938 and 1948, and see Zhdanov decree. Sergei Prokofiev and Aram Khachaturian had similar cases. Although Igor Stravinsky did not live in the Soviet Union, his music was officially considered formalist and anti-Soviet.

Late Soviet Union[edit] See also: According to laws all communist monuments in Ukraine should be removed. In the late Soviet Union, Soviet popular culture was characterised by fascination with American popular culture as exemplified by the blue jeans craze. Greater experimentation in art forms became permissible in the 1960s, with the result that more sophisticated and subtly critical work began to be produced. The regime loosened the strictures of socialist realism ; thus, for instance, many protagonists of the novels of author Iurii Trifonov concerned themselves with problems of daily life rather than with building socialism. In music, although the state continued to frown on such Western phenomena as jazz and rock , it began to permit Western musical ensembles specialising in these genres to make limited appearances. But the native balladeer Vladimir Vysotsky , widely popular in the Soviet Union, was denied official recognition because of his iconoclastic lyrics.

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Chapter 6 : How did the Cold War affect American culture? | eNotes

United States 21 hours ago. despite being one of the Soviet Union's most beloved humorists, a satirist in the best traditions of Gogol. is a delight that brings the author's wit to life.

The opinions, facts and any media content in them are presented solely by the authors, and neither The Times of Israel nor its partners assume any responsibility for them. Please contact us in case of abuse. In case of abuse, Report this post. Her respondents were born in the Russian empire or the Soviet Union between and They were highly educated, with more than half possessing the equivalent of a college degree. It soon evolved into a much broader account of how certain seminal events affected Soviet Jews holding mid-rank white-collar jobs in large, medium and small urban centers. These were the Stalinist purges of the late s, World War II, the Holocaust, the state-sponsored antisemitic campaign and the Jewish struggle for emigration. In the first few pages, she introduces a reader to Boris and Sonia, an elderly couple whose experiences were remarkably similar to the majority of Soviet Jews during that tumultuous period. But first, she provides context. Three million self-declared Jews lived in the Soviet Union on the eve of the war, with 80 percent residing in big cities. The Soviet annexation of the Baltic states and parts of Poland and Romania brought the Jewish population to about five million. During the Nazi occupation, 2. Included in that statistic were , Red Army Jewish soldiers. From to , the unchallenged ruler of the country, Joseph Stalin, began restricting Jewish rights. Members of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee were arrested and executed. Jewish cultural institutions were shuttered. Jews were subjected to discrimination in education and employment and were eased out of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps. Prior to that era, Jews enjoyed a sense of upward mobility in a country where antisemitism was officially frowned upon. As a result, the intermarriage rate skyrocketed. In Leningrad and Kharkov, for example, 37 percent of Jewish men and 26 percent of Jewish women married non-Jews. And in Moscow, nearly 50 percent of all Jews wed Christians by Jewish religious weddings had virtually disappeared by that juncture. But as ethnic intolerance increased, most Jewish men and women married fellow Jews. With urbanization and modernization, families became smaller. The plunging birthrate was particularly evident among Jews. By the s, Jewish women had two or fewer children. Among the younger generation of Jews in the s, work was considered very important and was deemed a factor in social mobility. Engineering and medicine were seen as especially appealing professions. As open antisemitism surged in the wake of the war, Jewish students were stymied by unwritten restrictions in institutions of higher learning, prompting parents to encourage their children to strive for higher grades in high school so as to circumvent discrimination. Jews faced exclusion in such fields as law, medicine and the arts, but did not face barriers in engineering and economics and in trade schools. Engineering was one of the most popular professions among Jews. I, so to say, have suffered quite a bit because I was a Jew. For me it was harder than it was for my father. Yet Yiddish actors remained optimistic and did not regard their Jewish background as a liability. Shternshis covers these developments comprehensively. Sheldon Kirshner is a journalist in Toronto. He writes at his online journal, SheldonKirshner.

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Chapter 7 : Red Scare - HISTORY

Sign in Russian on the microphone means "The Voice of the United States of America." AP Exactly 70 years ago the Voice of America began broadcasting to the Soviet Union.

The Great Patriotic War had gone on for days of unimaginable violence, brutality and destruction. From Stalingrad and the northern Caucasus and from the northwestern outskirts of Moscow to the western frontiers of the Soviet Union to Sevastopol in the south and Leningrad and the borders with Finland, in the north, the country had been laid waste. An estimated 17 million civilians, men, women and children, had perished, although no one will ever know the exact figure. Villages and towns were destroyed; families were wiped out without anyone to remember them or mourn their deaths. Most Soviet citizens lost family members during the war. No one was left unaffected. Ten million or more Soviet soldiers died in the struggle to expel the monstrous Nazi invader and finally to occupy Berlin at the end of April. Red Army dead were left unburied in a thousand places along the routes to the west or in unmarked mass graves, there having been no time for proper identification and burial. The Great Patriotic War began at 3: Finnish, Italian, Romanian, Hungarian, Spanish, Slovakian forces, amongst others, eventually joined the attack. The German high command reckoned that Operation Barbarossa would take only 4 to 6 weeks to finish off the Soviet Union. In the west, US and British military intelligence agreed. Besides, what force had ever beaten the Wehrmacht? Nazi Germany was the invincible colossus. Poland had been crushed in a few days. The Anglo-French attempt to defend Norway was a fiasco. When the Wehrmacht attacked in the west, Belgium hurried to quit the fight. France collapsed in a few weeks. The British army was driven out of Dunkirk, naked, without guns or Lorries. In the spring of , Yugoslavia and Greece disappeared in a matter of weeks at little cost to German invaders. Wherever the Wehrmacht advanced in Europe, it was a walkover until that day German soldiers stepped across Soviet frontiers. The Red Army was caught flatfooted, in halfway measures of mobilisation, because Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin did not believe his own intelligence reports warning of danger, or want to provoke Hitlerite Germany. The result was a catastrophe. The Baltic provinces were lost. Smolensk fell and then Kiev, in the worst defeat of the war. But at places like the fortress of Brest and in hundreds of unnamed fields and woods, road junctions and villages and towns, Red Army units fought on often to the last soldier. They fought out of encirclements to rejoin their own lines or to disappear into the forests and swamps of Belorussia and the northwestern Ukraine to organise the first partisan units to attack the German rear. By the end of , three million Soviet soldiers were lost the largest number being POWs who died at German hands ; divisions were struck from the Soviet order of battle. Still, the Red Army fought on, even forcing back the Germans at Yelnya, east southeast of Smolensk, at the end of August. The Wehrmacht felt the bite of the battered but not beaten Red Army. German forces were taking 7, casualties a day, a new experience for them. At places like the fortress of Brest, Red Army units fought on often to the last soldier. Baltic and Ukrainian Nazi collaborators assisted in the mass murders. Soviet women and children were stripped naked and forced to queue, waiting for execution. When winter came freezing German soldiers shot villagers or forced them out of their homes, dressed in rags like beggars, robbing them of hearth, winter clothing and food. In the west those who predicted a speedy Soviet collapse, the usual western Sovietophobes, looked stupid and had to eat their forecasts. Public opinion understood that Hitlerite Germany had walked into a quagmire, not another campaign in France. While the British everyman cheered on Soviet resistance, the British government did relatively little to help. Some Cabinet ministers were even reluctant to call the Soviet Union an ally. Western public opinion understood that Hitlerite Germany had walked into a quagmire, not another campaign in France. The Red Army still retreated, but kept fighting desperately. This was no ordinary war, but a struggle of unparalleled violence against a murderous invader for home, family, country, for life itself. The image of Nazi invincibility was shattered. In the Red Army continued to suffer defeats and heavy losses, as it fought on nearly alone. Stalingrad was the Verdun of the Second World War. At the end of the winter fighting in , Axis

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losses were staggering: The president of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, reckoned that the tide of battle had turned: Hitlerite Germany was doomed. Women soldiers during the Battle of Stalingrad. It was February In that month there was not a single British, American, or Canadian division fighting in Europe against the Wehrmacht. It was sixteen months before the Normandy landings. The British and Americans were then fighting two or three German divisions in North Africa, a sideshow compared to the Soviet front. Western public opinion knew who was carrying the burden of the war against the Wehrmacht. At the beginning of there were German divisions on the Eastern Front. The Germans tried one last hurrah, one last offensive against the Kursk bulge in July The Red Army then launched a counteroffensive across the Ukraine which led to liberation of Kiev in November. Further north, Smolensk had been freed the month before. The spirit of the Soviet people and their Red Army was formidable. They are moving in silence. Suddenly a hoarse voice is heard. Go forward, for our Motherland, for Jesus Christ, motherfuckers! For Stalin, you whores! Those fellows were lucky; the commissar could have shot them all. A soldier volunteered to execute a deserter. At Stalingrad seven Uzbeks were found guilty of self-inflicted wounds. They were all shot. Grossman read a letter found in the pocket of a dead Soviet soldier. Please come and visitâ€¦ I am writing this, and tears are pouring. Daddy, please come home and visit. They also kept the home front going. They dominateâ€¦ send bread, aircraft, weapons and ammunition to the front. It was just a matter of time before the destruction of Nazi Germany In the meantime, the western allies attacked Italy. Stalin had long demanded a second front in France, which Churchill resisted. The idea was to advance quickly north up the Italian boot, then wheel eastward into the Balkans to keep out the Red Army. The way to Berlin however was north northeast. There were approximately 20 German divisions in Italy fighting against larger allied forces. In the East, there were still more than two hundred Axis divisions, or ten times those in Italy. A fortnight after the Normandy landings, the Red Army launched Operation Bagration, a huge offensive which stove in the centre of the German eastern front and led to an advance of kilometres to the west, while the western allies were still held up on the Normandy Cotentin peninsula. The Red Army had become an unstoppable juggernaut. It was just a matter of time before the destruction of Nazi Germany. Historians often debate about when the decisive turn of battle came in the European theatre. Some propose 22 June , the day that the Wehrmacht crossed Soviet frontiers. Others point to the battles of Moscow, Stalingrad, or Kursk. During the war western public opinion seemed more supportive of the Red Army than some western leaders, Winston Churchill, for example. Roosevelt was better, a more pragmatic political leader, who easily recognised the preponderant Soviet role in the war against Nazi Germany. The Red Army, he said to one doubtful general in , was killing more German soldiers and smashing more German tanks than all the other allies put together. Roosevelt knew that the Soviet Union was the linchpin of the great coalition against Nazi Germany. Nevertheless, in the shadows lurked the usual haters of the Soviet Union, who were only biding their time before emerging again. The greater the certainty of victory over Nazi Germany, the more vocal and strident became the naysayers of the grand alliance. Americans can be touchy about the memory of the Red Army playing the lead role in the destruction of the Wehrmacht. In Soviet industry was already out-producing Nazi Germany in major categories of armaments. Was the T an American, or a Soviet tank? A polite Stalin always remembered to thank the US government for the jeeps and Studebaker trucks. They increased Red Army mobility. You contributed the aluminum, Russians famously replied, we contributed the bloodâ€¦ the rivers of blood. The everyman in Europe and the United States knew very well who had carried the load against the Wehrmacht. What bastards, what ingrates. The godfather, President Roosevelt, had died in April, and within weeks American Sovietophobes were reversing his policy.

Chapter 8 : Soviet Union - Wikipedia

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn burst on the literary scene in with his short novel "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich". It depicted an ordinary day in the life of an ordinary inmate in one of the Siberian labor-camps of the Soviet Gulag.

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Chapter 9 : SparkNotes: The Cold War (â€™): Overview

As the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States intensified in the late s and early s, hysteria over the perceived threat posed by Communists in the U.S. became known as the.