

THE MIZAN NEWSLETTER

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Central Asian Research Centre in association
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Early in 1959 it is hoped to begin the issue of a periodical newsletter designed to follow the trends of Soviet writing and thinking on Middle East affairs. At first the newsletter will appear at 2-monthly intervals. Later, it may be possible to issue it monthly.

The newsletter will be called "The Mizan Newsletter" and it will present a balanced review of Soviet writing on the principal Arab countries and on Persia. It will deal mainly with current books, periodicals and newspapers published both in Moscow and in the Muslim republics of the USSR; but it will also refer to earlier Soviet writing when this has a bearing on contemporary Soviet policy.

The present note is intended to serve as a background for the reading of the Newsletter and also to provide some basic information about the various Soviet institutes, publications and personalities involved in the study of Middle Eastern affairs.

Russia and the Muslim World

Russia's relations with the Arab countries are of very recent origin; but her association with the Muslim world is far older and more intimate than that of any other European state. In the first place, the Mongols who dominated Russian lands from the middle of the 13th to the end of the 15th century were converted to Islam in the 13th century. After the end of Mongol domination in 1480, Russia proceeded to annex the Muslim

* "Mizan" is the Arabic word for "balance" in the figurative as well as the literal sense.

Khanates of Kazan and Astrakhan, and these have been an integral part of Russia since the 16th century. This first Russian resurgence against the Muslim Mongols and the Tatars of the Volga region had "something of the colour of a crusade in popular estimation and also in the eyes of the Church, although less so in those of the government". This same sense of mission remained during the subsequent conquests of the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Before the end of the 17th century Russia's frontiers marched with those of the two most important Muslim states - Turkey and Persia. By the end of the 19th century, the southern fringe of the Russian empire from the Crimea to Outer Mongolia was, with the exception of Georgia and Armenia, almost exclusively peopled by Muslims, whose number, including those of the Volga region, amounted to nearly 20 million. Some of these, and especially the Tatars, had become so integrated with the Russians as to be barely distinguishable from them, and many families with names like Rakhmaninov (Rahmaninoff) and Hakimov were generally regarded as Russian. The significant fact that the Muslims of Russia, unlike those of other empires, were not separated from the metropolitan country by the sea is often overlooked.

Tsarist and Soviet ambitions

Russia's present frontiers with Turkey and Persia (which with some minor modifications still mark the limit of her 19th century expansion) can be regarded as reasonable for a great and growing nation. But for over a century Russia has cherished ambitions which stretch far beyond these frontiers, namely, the establishment of effective control over the eastern Mediterranean and the head of the Persian Gulf. Up to the Revolution she was prevented from realizing these ambitions, partly by her own political and economic back-

wardness and partly by the concerted opposition of the western powers. Twice she has seemed to be very near gaining at least one of these objectives: Istanbul and the Straits were promised to her by the Sykes-Picot Agreement of May 1916; and in the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement of 1940 "the area to the south of Batum and Baku, in the general direction of the Persian Gulf, was recognised as the centre of the territorial aspirations of the Soviet Union". There is no reason to suppose that the failure which has hitherto attended Russian hopes and plans has deflected the Soviet Government from aims so closely bound up with Russia's history and geographical position.

Until its entry into the Second World War the Soviet Union's attempts to establish its influence in the Middle East had been no more successful than those of Tsarist Russia. This was due partly to Middle East nationalism, partly to Western opposition, but most of all to Soviet ineptitude and miscalculation. In 1941 Russian influence on and in Turkey and Persia was less than it had been in 1914 and the Arab world hardly regarded the USSR as a great power. By 1945, however, Soviet legations had been opened in Cairo, Beirut, Damascus and Baghdad, and the Soviet Army was once more in occupation of North Persia. With the defeat of Germany Russia was now in a better position vis-à-vis the Middle East than she had ever been before. But her attempt to bring about the disintegration of Persia during 1945 and 1946 showed that the Soviet leaders had not yet decided to abandon their earlier methods of direct action and subversion.

New Soviet methods

After 1947 the Soviet Government appeared to adopt a much more cautious and conciliatory attitude towards the countries

of the Middle East. Nationalist and neutralist trends in the Middle East and Anglo-American friction soon began to pave the way for the development of new Soviet methods and a more positive Soviet policy. This probably began to take shape after Stalin's death in 1953, or perhaps even earlier. But it did not become manifest until 1955 and was formally inaugurated with the XXth Party Congress of February 1956.

Very briefly, the present Soviet policy towards the Middle East amounts to the abandonment of earlier methods of subversion, violent revolution and reliance on local Communist parties, while retaining the ultimate aims of Russian policy. The new methods include the support of all elements, including the bourgeoisie, propertied classes and clergy, in what is called movements for national liberation directed against the West. This support is demonstrated by technical and financial aid and by the sympathetic study and presentation of Middle East problems.

It is now over three years since the Soviet Union began to intervene actively and openly in the affairs of the Arab Middle East. The relatively favourable reception accorded to this intervention has surprised many people in the West; it has caused them to speculate on the reasons for it and even to wonder whether the West has anything to learn from the Russians in the art of wooing the affections of Middle Eastern peoples. Many of the instruments of Soviet policy are by this time well understood, but there is one to which the Soviet government attaches very great importance and which has so far escaped careful examination in the West. This is what is generally known as oriental studies, that is to say, the study of every aspect of eastern history, culture, economy and politics.

was also a great output of propaganda material directed against western religions and customs, particularly those of

Oriental studies as an instrument of policy

Some idea of the relative importance attached to oriental studies in the Soviet Union and the West may be gained from the fact that the Soviet Encyclopaedia contains an article of 8,000 words on the subject while in the two largest British encyclopaedias there is not only no article but no mention at all of oriental studies even as a special branch of learning. There is no doubt that the Soviet government does attach far greater importance to these studies, and spends far more effort and money on them, than any other state in the world.

The Soviet conception of oriental studies differs widely from that held in the West. In the article in the Soviet Encyclopaedia just referred to, the East is defined as "the countries of Asia and Africa which have long been the object of expansion of the European powers and the USA and have been or still are their colonies or semi-colonies".

Since the Revolution Soviet orientalism has passed through a number of phases; it began by severely criticizing the Tsarist and Western conception of oriental scholarship for neglecting the modern in favour of the ancient East. At the same time the services of Tsarist orientalists such as Barthold, Romaskevich, and Krachkovskiy were applied to the production of work designed to further Soviet eastern policy. This resulted in many important linguistic works on the modern forms of Arabic, Persian, and other languages. Up to the second World War the main emphasis was on the modern East, but the ancient East was not neglected. There was however a tendency to discount the work of pre-Soviet Russian orientalists, and even Barthold was for a time under a cloud from which his reputation has only recently begun to emerge. Much if not most of the work produced was linguistic but there was also a great output of propaganda material directed against eastern religions and customs, particularly those of

Islam, and against so-called Western "colonialism".

During and for some years after the war, publication of orientalia was much restricted but probably no less so than in other belligerent countries. In the late forties and early fifties some brief but highly significant historical works on eastern countries outside the USSR began to appear.

After Stalin's death.

In 1954 there were important new developments: In February Smirnov's HISTORY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES IN THE USSR appeared; a large and well-qualified Soviet delegation attended the International Congress of Orientalists at Cambridge; there was a marked reduction of violent anti-Islamic propaganda following the decree on religion of November 1954; finally, the appearance in 1955 of a new periodical entirely devoted to oriental studies was announced. In 1955 there began the new Soviet drive in the Middle East and South Asia, and since then the scope and productivity of Soviet oriental studies has been greatly extended.

Soviet oriental studies contain much of academic and scientific as well as of political interest. On the philological side they afford a unique insight into the far reaching Soviet experiments in moulding and russianizing the many eastern languages spoken inside the USSR - experiments of which the Middle East knows nothing. They have also produced a great deal of original and scholarly work on the modern forms of such Middle Eastern languages as Arabic and Persian.

Politics and propaganda

The political significance of Soviet oriental studies is many-sided. In the first place, being officially organized and mobilized to promote official policy, they provide an important and often revealing reflection of that policy and of the vicissitudes through which it passes. Publications issued by academies of sciences, ostensibly from the hand of individual scholars, are in fact in the nature of White Papers designed to interpret Soviet policy to the Soviet peoples, and to explain away its failures. Secondly, they aim at indoctrinating the Asian peoples of the Union on the sterility of traditional ways of life such as the Islamic, on the superiority of Russian over other cultures particularly in language and literature, and on the designs of western imperialism. Thirdly, Soviet oriental institutes are closely concerned in the production of "cultural" propaganda directed towards independent and dependent eastern countries outside the Union. This propaganda has many ramifications; it includes historical studies designed to present Soviet, and even Tsarist, eastern policy in the most favourable and that of the West in the most unfavourable light; detailed and highly flattering descriptions of modern eastern art and literature; and more recently, new editions, commentaries and translations of classical oriental literature.

The main centre of Soviet research into eastern problems of every description is the Institute of Oriental Studies in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR located in Moscow. This institute is not only a centre of research but controls and coordinates oriental research and studies all over the USSR. This work is by no means confined as in the West to faculties of oriental studies: it is actively pursued in institutes of history, politics, geography, ethnography, economics, and fuel and power, and published work on every kind of eastern

problem appears in periodicals specializing in these subjects as well as in those exclusively devoted to orientalism.

The latest developments

Some idea of the development of Soviet study of eastern affairs may be gained from the following:-

- a) Since 1956 twelve new departments have been set up in the Oriental Institute of the Moscow Academy of Sciences including departments specializing in the Arab countries of the Middle East and Africa.
- b) In 1957 two entirely new oriental institutes were established in Tashkent and Baku, the latter being primarily concerned with Arabic and Persian studies.
- d) In 1956 a Tajik (i.e. a Persian from the republic of Tajikistan), named Gafurov was appointed Director of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. He is a politician rather than a scholar and in addition to his academic duties edits a political propaganda magazine SOVREMENNYY VOSTOK (The Modern East).
- d) In June 1957 an All-Union Conference of orientologists was held in Tashkent at which the following points emerged:
 - i) More and more experts on eastern affairs are required for publishing houses, the press of the eastern republics, cultural relations with foreign countries, tourist agencies, trade unions, youth organizations and a large number of other institutions.
 - ii) Such languages as Hindi, Arabic and Persian are being taught in Middle Schools in Central Asia.
 - iii) Soviet orientologists are to concentrate their attention mainly on the disintegration of the imperialist colonial system and on the fight of the peoples of the East for state sovereignty and economic independence.

- iv) Special attention is to be paid to the exchange for study purposes of Soviet orientalists with scholars of eastern countries.
- e) In October this year a Congress of Asian and African writers was held in Tashkent. (Reports of this are not yet complete.)
- f) The next International Congress of Orientalists is to be held in Leningrad in 1960. At previous Congresses in Cambridge (1954) and Munich (1957), Soviet delegations have made a considerable impact. The Soviet Government intends to exploit the Leningrad Congress to the full and is already getting ready for it. In 1959 they intend to hold a preparatory Conference in the USSR, to which representatives of non-Soviet eastern countries are to be invited.

The foregoing may give some idea of the intensity of Soviet preoccupation with Middle East affairs. The output of Soviet literature on every form of Middle Eastern activity - political, economic and cultural - is now greater than ever before. While it would be too much to expect this literature to provide a preview of future Soviet policy in the Middle East, there can be no doubt that its careful study is essential for a proper appreciation both of the dangers and of the weaknesses of the present Soviet approach to Middle East problems. The Mizan Newsletter hopes to convey to its readers something of the fruits of such a study. The treatment of Soviet publications will of necessity be very brief, but fuller versions of any item can always be made available.

APPENDIX A attached gives details of the principal Soviet periodicals and other literature dealing with the Middle East.

APPENDIX B contains a list of leading Soviet experts and writers on the Middle East.

SOVIET PUBLICATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS

Soviet writing on Middle East affairs is to be found in four categories of publication - periodicals, daily newspapers, reference books and general surveys, and books specially written on Middle East subjects. The following list deals with the first three categories only.

Periodicals

Articles on Middle East affairs are to be found not only in periodicals and academic bulletins specializing in eastern affairs, but in technical and general periodicals. The following list contains all the specialized periodicals and those technical and general periodicals in which Middle East material most often features. Many of the academic bulletins and other periodicals published in the Muslim republics of the USSR have been included, since these frequently refer to Middle East affairs.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. 12 issues per year. Published by the Soviet Society for the Popularisation of Political and Scientific Knowledge. Circulation not available. A serious publication for the informed layman.

ISTORIYA SSSR (The History of the USSR). 6 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 8,000-12,000 copies. A serious periodical which tends to concentrate on Soviet history.

IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK KAZAKHSKOY SSR (The Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR). 4 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR with a circulation of 3,000 copies. Covers the whole field of studies dealt with by the Kazakh Academy of Sciences. May be illustrated. Some articles may be in Kazakh.

IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK TURKMENSKOY SSR (The Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the Turkmen SSR). Number of issues per year unknown. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Turkmen SSR with a circulation of approximately 2,000 copies. The same type of periodical as the preceding one.

IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK UZBEKSKOY SSR (The Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR). Number of issues per year unknown. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. In character like the two preceding bulletins.

IZVESTIYA OTDELENIYA OBSHCHESTVENNYKH NAUK (AKADEMII NAUK TADZHIK SSR) (The Bulletin of the Department of Social Sciences (Academy of Sciences of the Tadzhik SSR)). Appears irregularly but frequently (14 issues in 1957). Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Tadzhik SSR with a circulation of 400 copies. May be illustrated. Deals with questions of art and culture from an historical viewpoint.

- KOMMUNIST (Communist). 18 issues per year. Published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with a circulation of 600,000 copies. Deals with questions of party theory and politics and covers the whole of the Soviet Union.
- KOMMUNIST KAZAKHSTANA (The Communist of Kazakhstan). 12 issues per year. The organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Kazakh SSR. Circulation - 8,600 copies. The periodical does not confine itself to republican affairs and deals with party matters as reflected in every sphere of life.
- KOMMUNIST TURKMENISTANA (The Communist of Turkmenistan). The same type of periodical as Kommunist Kazakhstan. Circulation 2,500 copies.
- KRATKIYE SOOBSHCHENIYA INSTITUTA ETNOGRAFIY (Brief Contributions of the Institute of Ethnography). Appears irregularly. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 1,500 copies. May be illustrated and provided with maps and diagrams. Tends to concentrate on Soviet ethnography.
- KRATKIYE SOOBSHCHENIYA INSTITUTA VOSTOKOVEDENIYA (Brief Contributions of the Institute of Oriental Studies). Appears irregularly. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 1,800-2,000 copies. Covers social and historical questions. Occasionally a whole issue will be devoted to one subject. For the specialist, although less specialized than Sovetskoye Vostokovedeniye and Uchenyye Zapiski Instituta Vostokovedeniya.
- MIROVAYA EKONOMIKA I MEZHDUNARODNIYE OTNOSHENIYA (World Economics and International Relations). 12 issues per year. Published by the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 22,000 copies. For the intelligent layman or the specialist.
- NEW TIMES. 52 issues per year. Published in Russian, English, German, French, Spanish and Swedish. Circulation figures not available. Deals with contemporary affairs, occasionally bringing in recent history. A popular magazine. Illustrated.
- OGONEK (The Gleam). 52 issues per year. Published by "Pravda" with a circulation of 1,400,000 copies. A popular, lavishly illustrated magazine containing articles on subjects of general interest, short stories, serialized novels etc.
- PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN' KAZAKHSTANA (The Party Life of Kazakhstan). 12 issues per year. The organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan; circulation - 9,000 copies. In character like Kommunist Kazakhstan and Kommunist Turkmenistana.
- PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO (Planned Economy). 12 issues per year. Published by Gosplan with a circulation of 26,500 copies. A periodical on the economy of the USSR.

- PRIRODA (Nature). 12 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Circulation figures unknown. An illustrated "popular scientific" magazine.
- SOVETSKAYA ARKHEOLOGIYA (Soviet Archaeology). 12 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Circulation figures not available. A technical periodical on archaeology. May be illustrated.
- SOVETSKAYA ETNOGRAFIYA (Soviet Ethnography). 6 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 2,000 copies. Does not confine itself only to the ethnography of the Soviet Union. Illustrated with photographs, maps and sketches where necessary.
- SOVETSKIY KAZAKHSTAN (Soviet Kazakhstan). 12 issues per year. The organ of the Writers' Union of Kazakhstan. Circulation - 6,000 copies. A literary periodical publishing essays, criticism and articles on questions of ideology as they affect writers. Tends to concentrate on republican questions.
- SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE (Soviet Oriental Studies). 6 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 3,000-5,000 copies. Deals with all aspects of Soviet Oriental Studies. Occasionally a whole issue will be devoted to one subject. May be illustrated.
- SOVREMENNY VOSTOK (The Modern East). 12 issues per year. Published by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. A scientific, social and political magazine mainly on contemporary subjects. For the general reader.
- TRUDY AKADEMII NAUK KAZAKHSKOY SSR (Papers of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR). Appears irregularly. Circulation figures not known. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR. Contains reports on the works of research carried out at the Academy.
- TRUDY AKADEMII NAUK KIRGIZSKOY SSR (Papers of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz SSR). As for the preceding item.
- TRUDY INSTITUTA EKONOMIKI (Papers of the Institute of Economics). A periodical on economics published by the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Circulation figures not known.
- TRUDY INSTITUTA ISTORII (Papers of the Institute of History). A periodical covering the work done by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Circulation figures not known.
- TRUDY SAGU (Papers of the Central Asian State University). Appears irregularly. Published by the Central Asian State University (SAGU) Tashkent with a circulation of 500-600 copies. Gives an account of the work done at the University and tends to concentrate on Central Asian matters.

TRUDY UZBEKSKOGO UNIVERSITETA (Papers of the Uzbek University).
As for Trudy SAGU.

UCHENYYE ZAPISKI AKADEMII NAUK KIRGIZSKOY SSR (Academic Notes of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirgiz SSR). Appears irregularly. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Kirgiz SSR. In material published and general character resembles Trudy Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy SSR and Kirgizskoy SSR.

UCHENYYE ZAPISKI INSTITUTA VOSTOKOVEDENIYA (Academic Notes of the Institute of Oriental Studies). Appears irregularly. Published by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of from 3,000 to 5,000. Occasionally whole issues are devoted to one subject. May be illustrated.

UCHENYYE ZAPISKI KAZAKHSKOGO UNIVERSITETA (Academic Notes of the Kazakh University). As for Trudy Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy SSR.

VESTNIK AKADEMII NAUK KAZAKHSKOGO SSR (Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR). 12 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR with a circulation of 1,200 copies. In character resembles Trudy Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy SSR.

VESTNIK LENINGRADSKOGO UNIVERSITETA (Bulletin of Leningrad University). Appears irregularly. Published by Leningrad University with a circulation of 1,600 copies. In character resembles Trudy Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy SSR.

VOPROSY EKONOMIKI (Problems of Economics). 12 issues per year. Published by the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 47,000 copies. Deals with theoretical questions of economics.

VOPROSY YAZIKOVANIYA (Problems of Linguistics). 6 issues per year. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with a circulation of 3,500 copies. Deals exclusively with linguistic questions. Fairly technical but can be read by the layman.

ZVEZDA VOSTOKA (The Star of the East). 12 issues per year. The organ of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan. Circulation - 5,500 copies. Very like Sovetskiy Kazakhstan, except in that it contains more original creative work.

The following are technical periodicals relating mostly to the oil industry of the USSR but occasionally containing material on Middle East oil.

GEOLOGIYA NEFTI (The Geology of Oil).

NEFTYANNIK (The Oil Industry Worker).

NEFTYANOYE KHOZAYSTVO (The Oil Industry).

STROITEL'STVO PREDPRIYATIY NEFTYANOY PROMYSHLENNOSTI (The Construction of Oil Industry Undertakings).

Daily Newspapers

A. Republican

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY (The Baku Worker). Organ of the Central and Baku Committees of the Communist Party of Azerbaydzhan.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (The Kazakhstan Truth). Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, of the Supreme Soviet and of the Soviet of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR.

SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA (Soviet Kirgizia). Organ of the Central Committee and the Frunze oblast' Committee of the Communist Party of Kirgizia, of the Supreme Soviet and of the Soviet of Ministers of the Kirgiz SSR.

KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA (The Communist of Tadzhikistan). Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tadzhikistan and of the Supreme Soviet of the Tadzhik SSR.

PRAVDA VOSTOKA (Eastern Truth). Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and of the Supreme Soviet and Soviet of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR.

TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA (The Turkmen Spark). Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan, of the Ashkhabad Oblast' and City Committees and of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Turkmen SSR.

B. Central

PRAVDA (Truth). Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

IZVESTIYA (News). Organ of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Reference Books

NARODY PEREDNEY AZII (The Peoples of South-west Asia). A volume in the "Narody Mira" series. Published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Contains ethnographical essays on the peoples of Afghanistan, Persia, Turkey, the Arab Countries and Israel. Lavishly illustrated and provided with maps and diagrams. Refers to non-Russian (including Western) sources.

ZARUBEZHNYAYA AZIYA (Non-Soviet Asia). A collection of advanced geographical essays on Asia outside the boundaries of the Soviet Union. Lavishly illustrated and supplied with maps and diagrams.

EKONOMICHESKOYE POLOZHENIYE STRAN AZII, AFRIKI I LATINSKOY AMERIKI (The Economic Position of the Countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America). Published by the Foreign Trade Publishing House, Moscow, 1957. Each state is dealt with in a separate chapter, the chapters being subdivided into sections (agriculture, industry, foreign trade, etc.). The book is well supplied with statistical data.

KONSTITUTSII GOSUDARSTV BLIZHNEGO I SREDNEGO VOSTOKA (The Constitutions of the States of the Middle and Near East). Contains the constitutions of Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Persia, the Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

NOVEYSHAYA ISTORIYA STRAN ZARUEBZHNEGO VOSTOKA (The History of the Countries of the Non-Soviet East since 1918). Vol. 1 deals with 1918-29, Vol. 2 with 1929-39. Each country is given a separate chapter. Maps, diagrams and chronological tables.

SOVREMENNY IRAN (Modern Persia). Published by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Moscow, 1957. A handbook dealing with population, economy, history and culture. Refers to Persian and Western sources. The book is supplied with numerous appendixes and also has detailed indexes.

SOVREMENNAYA SIRIYA (Modern Syria). A handbook dealing with Syria in exactly the same way as the preceding volume dealt with Persia. The appendixes give economic statistics. There are no indexes.

PEREDNEAZIATSKIY ETNOGRAFICHESKIY SBORNIK (South-west Asian Ethnographical Collection), No. I. Published by the Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, 2,000 copies. Contains a general article by D'yakonov on the area, and ethnographical articles on the Kurds, feudal relations in Syria, the Lebanon, Palestine and N. Arabia. Illustrated. Refers to non-Russian sources, both Asian and Western.

THE GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA, 2nd edition, 1949-58, 51 volumes. This contains long articles on all the countries of the Middle East as well as a large number of separate articles on a great range of Middle Eastern subjects.

The following is a list of prominent Soviet experts on the Middle East, including those who play an important part in the organization of Soviet Middle East studies and determine their political orientation. Certain important deceased scholars have been included, but for the most part the list only covers those who are still writing.

- Akopyan, G.S. Writes on imperialism and national-liberation movements in the Middle East, mainly in VOPROSY EKONOMIKI.
- Aristova, T.F. Writes on the Kurds, and has an article in the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA on the subject.
- Avdiyev, V.I. Specialist in ancient history and particularly ancient Egypt. Attends international congresses of orientalists, and wrote articles in the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA and various historical journals.
- Bartol'd, V.V. (1869-1930) The greatest Russian orientalist and one with a world-wide reputation. Published over 400 works on a wide range of eastern subjects. His activities extended into the Soviet period, when, however, he was criticized for his "bourgeois" attitude.
- Belyayev, I.P. An economist, and author of AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN SAUDI ARABIA, Moscow, 1957. Edited by B.M. Dantsig.
- Belyayev, Ye.A. A prominent authority on Arab affairs and on Islam. In 1920 entered the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. He has attended various congresses and has written a number of articles on Islam and Arab culture. In the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA he wrote on the history of Syria (1st edition, 1945), on the history of Palestine (1st edition) and on literature and music in the article on Arab culture in the 2nd edition.
- Bertels, Ye.E. Until his death in 1957 was the leading Soviet authority on Persian literature and particularly on the mystic poets.
- Bochkarev, Y. A propagandist who writes mainly for NEW TIMES on the subject of Iraq, Egypt, and the Middle East in general.
- Bondarev, S.N. Wrote the chapter on the Lebanon in the symposium THE ARABS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, Moscow, 1957.

- Braginskiy, I.S. Chief editor of SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE since 1957. Specializes in Tajik and Persian literature.
- Dantsig, B.M. Writes on the Middle East in general and particularly on Iraq. His works on this country include a book published in Moscow in 1955 - IRAQ, the chapter on Iraq in THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA, Moscow, 1956, and the chapter entitled "The Arabs of Iraq" in the symposium THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, Moscow, 1957.
- Dmitrevskiy, Yu.D. An expert on the Sudan, of which he wrote an economic survey entitled: THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN, Moscow, 1951.
- Dyakonov, I.M. A "Candidate of Historical Sciences". Reviewed books on ancient Mesopotamia, and wrote the chapter entitled "The Peoples of the Middle East in Ancient Times" in the MIDDLE EAST ETHNOGRAPHIC SYMPOSIUM, Moscow, 1958.
- Fedchenko, A.F. Wrote the chapter on Iraq in the symposium THE ARABS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE and contributed to the symposium called PRESENT-DAY SYRIA, Moscow, 1958.
- Gafurov, B. Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. A Tajik, Gafurov was formerly First Secretary of the Communist Party of Tajikistan. His appointment is primarily a political one but he is the author of a history of Tajikistan. Is also Editor-in-Chief of SOVREMENNY VOSTOK (The Modern East).
- Gataullin, M.F. Writes on various Middle Eastern countries but particularly on Syria and was one of four editors of the symposium PRESENT-DAY SYRIA.
- Genin, I.A. A specialist in economy, geography and ethnography. Apart from a booklet entitled LIBYA and an article on the economy and geography of Libya in the 2nd edition of the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA, he wrote THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAB EAST, Moscow, 1948, the chapters on Jordan, Israel, Yemen, Katar and Kuwait in THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA, 1956, the chapters on "Jews and Arabs of Israel" and "The Arab states of southern and eastern Arabia" in the symposium THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, Moscow, 1957.
- Gurko-Kryazhin, V.G. An important figure during the early years of Soviet oriental studies. Between 1922 and 1927 he wrote a number of articles on different countries of the Arab East dealing to a large extent with national-liberation movements. In 1928 he was on the editorial committee of BIBLIOGRAFIYA VOSTOKA (Bibliography of Eastern Countries).

- Ivanov, M.S. An authority on Persian history. Wrote an Outline of the History of Persia, Moscow, 1952, which is largely concerned with the modern period.
- Kiselev, V.I. A student of the Sudan and author of various articles, and of a book entitled THE SUDAN'S ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE.
- Klimovich, L.I. A prominent writer on Islamic subjects with a strongly atheistical point of view. Wrote a pamphlet called "Islam, its origin and social essence" (1956).
- Komissarov, D.S. Writes on modern Persian literature. Served in the Soviet embassy in Tehran during the Second World War.
- Krachkovskiy, I.Yu. (1883-1951). A great Arabist and oriental historian, and author of numerous works on every aspect of Arab culture. He was one of the first Arabists to pay particular attention to modern Arabic literature.
- Lebedev, Ye.A. A writer on Jordan and in particular on its "struggle for independence". He wrote an article on the history of Jordan under "Transjordan" in the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA. (1956, 2nd edition).
- Lemin, I.M. On the editorial Board of SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE 1956-7 and on the editorial kollegium of WORLD ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 1957. He wrote an article in THE IMPERIALIST FIGHT FOR AFRICA AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLES, Moscow, 1953.
- Leonidov, A. A propagandist who writes articles (mainly in NEW TIMES) on various aspects of the Middle East.
- Lutskiy, V.B. A very prominent contemporary orientalist. A "Kandidat" of Historical Sciences, apparently in the Moscow Academy of Sciences. Participated in various conferences, and was on the editorial board of SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE 1957. In the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA he wrote an introduction to the article on Arab culture (2nd edition, 1950) and an article on the history of Libya (2nd edition, 1954). He has produced a large number of articles on imperialism and national-liberation movements in the Middle East in general, and contributions on Africa, Syria and the Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine to various symposiums.
- Malyukovskiy, M.V. Author of "The paper 'al Marar' as a source for the study of the Muslim reformation in Egypt" (1956) and of a joint article with M.F. Gataullin "The Egyptian republic on the road to economic independence" (1956).

- Maslennikov, V.A. Chief editor of SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE up to 1957 when he was replaced by I.S. Braginskiy. He is an economist and Deputy Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics. From 1948-54 he was on the board of "Problems of Economics", and since 1956 has been head of the Chinese Sector of the Institute of Oriental Studies. He wrote two general articles on the countries of the East.
- Ode-Vasil'yeva, K.V. Born 1892. Wrote on modern Arab literature and is mentioned by Krachkovskiy, whose pupil she was. In 1930 she wrote an article "The life of the modern Arab woman as reflected in the novel".
- Figulevskaya, N.V. A "Corresponding Member" of the Academy of Sciences. In 1956 editor of PALESTINSKIY SEBORNIK (Palestine Symposium). Attended congresses in 1954 and 1957. She writes mainly on the mediaeval history of the Near and Middle East, and many of her articles appear in VOPROSY ISTORII and SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE.
- Pershits, A.I. A prominent expert on Middle Eastern affairs, much of whose work is devoted to the Arabian peninsula. He edited THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, in the series THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, Moscow, 1957, and contributed chapters to THE ARABS OF SAUDI ARABIA and THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.
- Potekhin, I.I. An important expert on Egypt and Africa. Doctor of History and Deputy Director of the Institute of Ethnography. In 1957 he was on the editorial board of SOVETSKAYA ETNOGRAFIYA, and in 1954 with D.A. Olderooge edited THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA to which he contributed an introduction and three chapters. He visited Egypt in 1956 and in the same year THE AFRICAN ETHNOGRAPHIC SYMPOSIUM was published under his editorship. Most of his work is concerned with a study of the ethnography of Africa and with imperialism and national-liberation movements in Africa.
- Primakov, Ye. A propagandist writer whose articles appear in NEW TIMES. He also wrote THE COUNTRIES OF ARABIA AND COLONIALISM, Moscow, 1956.
- Smirnov, N.A. Professor (1952). Professor of history at Moscow University 1957. On the editorial board of various historical journals. Author of the article on Arabs "Epoch of Imperialism" in the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA (1st edition, 1926), AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF ISLAM and a chapter on Turkey in A NEW HISTORY OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE EAST, 1952.

- Smirnov, S.R. A student of the Sudan. His work includes the historical outline in the article on the Sudan in the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA (2nd edition, 1956), "Egypt and the Eastern Sudan" in THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA, 1954, the chapter "Sudan" in the symposium THE ARABS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, Moscow, 1957.
- Sprygina, L. In collaboration with I. Tishin wrote on the Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.
- Struve, V.V. Born 1899. In 1935 he was made an academician of the Prague Oriental Institute. He is an expert on ancient history, and in 1956 was on the editorial board of SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKO-VE DENIYE. Author of the article on history in the section "Ancient Egypt" of the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA, and other works on ancient history.
- Stupak, A.I. Author of "The Arabs of the Yemen" in the symposium NARODY PEREDNEY AZII, Moscow, 1957.
- Sultanov, A.F. Candidate of Historical Sciences, and a prominent expert on Egypt. He was on the editorial board of CONTEMPORARY SYRIA, Moscow, 1958, and has written on such subjects as the national language of Egypt and other countries of the Arab East, the position of Egyptian peasants before the revolution of 1952, modern Egyptian literature, and Arabic literature in general. He has also reviewed a number of books on Egypt and collaborated in a shortened translation of THE RISING OF 1919 IN EGYPT by Abdurrahman ar-Rafii edited by Ye.A. Belyayev in 1956.
- Tagiyeva, Sh.A. Author of a history of the rising of Mohammad Khabani in Azerbaijan in 1920.
- Tishin, I.G. Author of articles in the 2nd edition of the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA on the history of Palestine and the economy and geography of the Lebanon. Wrote articles in collaboration with L. Sprygina (mentioned above).
- Tolstov, S.P. Born 1907. In 1953 became a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences. A Doctor of History. A prominent figure in archaeology, history of Central Asia and ethnography. In 1957 editor of SOVETSKAYA ETNOGRAFIYA. Editor of the series THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD and author of various other works on ethnographic subjects. 1957 Vice-President of the International Association of Anthropologists and Ethnographers.
- Vatolina, L.N. A prominent economist and expert on Egypt. With Ye.A. Belyayev she edited the symposium THE ARABS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, Moscow, 1957, to which she contributed the chapter on Egypt. Since 1933 she has written a large number of articles on a variety of subjects relating to Egypt - for example: "The crisis of agriculture in Egypt", "The Palestine problem" and "The British debt to Egypt", to mention only a few. In addition she has written a book entitled: PRESENT-DAY EGYPT, and articles on the Arab countries in general.

- Yusupov, D.I. An Arabist. Wrote two articles in SOVETSKOYE VOSTOKOVEDENIYE and the section on literature in the symposium PRESENT-DAY SYRIA, Moscow, 1958.
- Zakhoder, B.N. Head of the Department of Near and Middle East, Institute of Oriental Studies. Author of HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES, Moscow, 1944, and of an article on Arabic written records (1956).
- Zhukov, Ye.M. One of the most prominent figures in Soviet oriental studies from their political aspect. In addition to holding a number of academic appointments, he is a member of the Academy of Social Sciences associated with the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Has been head of the Pacific Ocean Institute. Specializes in international relations - primarily in those of India and the Far East, but he is also connected with Middle East policies.