

Center for Economic History of Russia of Chelyabinsk State University
With the support of
Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences

ONLINE SEMINAR
BLIND SPOTS OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE (1945-1991)

23 OCTOBER 2020

14.00 (MOSCOW TIME)

PROGRAM

OSCAR SANCHEZ-SIBONY

Assistant professor, The University of Hong Kong

THE SOVIET UNION AND ITALIAN TRADE
THE COLD WAR MAVERICK THAT OPENED THE GATES TO THE WEST

Italy, of all countries in the West, had a special economic relationship with the Soviet Union. For two decades Italian economic elites regularly broke US-imposed Cold War discipline, introducing new commercial practices and opening doors through which other West European countries could enter into a relationship with the Soviet Union that radically changed Europe in turn. Italy accommodated itself best to the Bretton Woods regime that ruled over the first quarter century of the postwar period; then Italian elites destabilized that world by initiating a new energy and financial relationship with the Soviet Union that presaged the neoliberal Europe-to-be. Only, after the Italians opened the door to this new world, they politely waited for everyone else to go through it before they did.

PAVEL SZOBI

Assistant professor, Charles University, Prague

OIL AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY IN THE LONG 1970s

The potential of natural resources in the Soviet territory was widely explored in the 1940s and 1950s. The resulting coal, oil or nickel exploitation eventually became one of the pillars of the Soviet/Russian economy. Especially in the 1970s, oil trade on the world market secured high income in convertible currencies which ensured a continuing economic growth of the Soviet Union, as well as higher standards of living for its population. In the time of energetic crises, oil became a tool of Soviet foreign politics, both towards the capitalist West, as well as the Soviet COMECON allies. This paper will explore specific advantages and problems which came hand in hand with the dominant role of oil in Soviet foreign trade and Soviet global interests.

NIKITA PIVOVAROV

Senior researcher, Institute of World History
of the Russian Academy of Sciences

HOW SOVIET EXPORT-IMPORT PLANS WERE FORMED AND APPROVED

(SECOND HALF OF THE 1950s - 1970s)

(in Russian)

The study analyzes the Soviet export-import plans, as a reflection of the foreign trade strategies of the USSR. What structures were involved in the development of draft plans and in their final approval? What internal and global factors determined foreign trade planning? The author will show what information was used by the USSR Ministry of Trade, State Planning Committee and the Central Committee of the CPSU when approving plans. The dynamics of foreign trade turnover shown in the plans will be analyzed. Finally, the question will be raised about the extent to which foreign trade plans were fulfilled, what prevented their implementation. The main sources for the speech were documents from the thematic files of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, dedicated to Soviet foreign trade.