



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	ROSHIA SOREN O SHIRU JITEN [CYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET UNION], Edited by Kaori Kawabata et al., Tokyo : Heibonsha, 1989, 767+57pp., ¥5,974
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Citation	Acta Slavica Iaponica, 8, 193-195
Issue Date	1990
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/8010
Type	departmental bulletin paper
File Information	KJ00000034178.pdf



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The Gorbachev era with its dramatic changes and flood of new information has made many reference tools in Soviet studies obsolete. Everywhere people complain about a "knowledge gap," but this awareness is particularly acute in Japan where specialists long felt isolated from Soviet developments and public opinion once was content with one-sided, negative impressions. While Japanese sources on the Soviet Union have remained incomplete in their coverage, Japanese reference works on East Asia have an outstanding reputation among the specialists who use them. Could a marriage be arranged between a field in need and a rich scholarly tradition previously applied to other fields?

The answer found in the new one-volume encyclopedia is a resounding "yes." This is a work of high quality that succeeds in the breadth of its coverage and even in the depth of the knowledge made easily accessible. What stands out, above all, is the coordination of 1500 well-chosen articles with little repetition or contradiction and the incorporation of statistics from 1989 and events as recent as the meeting of the Soviet legislature in June 1989 barely two months before publication. If a book of this quality and timeliness appeared in English, I am confident that it would be warmly acclaimed. It is a convenient tool for any readership.

To review the contents of the encyclopedia I have contrived seven headings into which nearly all articles can be grouped : 1) daily life ; 2) geography and national characteristics ; 3) history ; 4) politics and foreign policy in general ; 5) economics and workplace organization ; 6) literature and the arts ; and 7) relations between Japan and Russia. For each heading I comment on the range and quality of contributions, concentrating on the entries by several prolific contributors. Although this first edition has no index of authors, I calculated that of the roughly 300 contributors, ten wrote one quarter of the total pages and another thirty or forty added another quarter. I concentrate on these major contributors, while occasionally noting a few articles by others on important topics.

Special mention should be made of the final 100 pages after the 700 pages of alphabetical listings. Overviews cover nature; inhabitants, language, and religion; history; politics; society; law; diplomacy; military affairs; bilateral relations; and bilateral trade. There is also a 10-page bibliographic guide to Japanese sources and a 37-page topical index. The overviews usefully supplement the preceding entries, although a few, such as the half-page review of society, are too brief.

Daily life. The reader will be delighted with the wide range of headings important for understanding Soviet society. Taking advantage of the discretion possible in this area, the editors chose topics that give a genuine flavor of Soviet life. Nakamura Yoshikazu writes on such diverse themes as : bells, clothing, coins, the forest, greeting words, the GUM department store, holidays, kvas, the national flag, Red Square, shashlik, and vodka. Hakamada Shigeki adds entries on : anecdotes, hooligans, the Komsomol, and leisure, as well as various items related to the media and education. Morishita Toshio writes about the Soviet family, marriage, and divorce. Bannai Tokuaki treats bears, birch trees, the circus, fur coats, Gypsies, and walks. Through these varied subjects much can be learned about Soviet customs.

Geography and nationalities. Using up-to-date population data, the encyclopedia covers many peoples, administrative units, and cities. There is clearly a division of labor by region :

Nakai Kazuo prepared the 2 1/2-page general entry on Moldavia, the 5-page general entry on the Ukraine (covering nature, inhabitants, industry, history, the formation of national consciousness, the civil war and establishment of socialism, and the Soviet era), as well as separate entries on cities and personages in the region. Takahashi Seiji presents 2- or 3-page sections on Armenia, and Georgia as well as articles on Erevan, Shevardnadze, and other regional topics. Other contributors are: Toriyama Shigeto on the Baltic, Yokote Shinji on Belorussia, Kuramochi Shunichi on the Volga region, Kimura Hidesuke on Central Asia, including the Koreans there, Inoue Koichi on the Urals, Yamamoto Satoshi and Togawa Tsukuo on Siberia, and Watanabe Ichio on the Far East and the great rivers. Longer studies are presented of Moscow and Leningrad by Nakamura Yoshikazu and Kawabata Kaori. Coverage of small nationalities and cities in Siberia is wide-ranging, although entries are brief. Even in a small space, the authors succeed in mentioning some of the recent inter-ethnic conflicts that have flared across the Soviet Union.

History. A convenient 10-page chronological table at the end of the volume lists events from the establishment of ancient states in the ninth century B. C. to the publication of the *Gulag Archipelago* in July 1989. In addition, Wada Haruki presents a 4 1/2-page overview of Soviet history at the back along with an earlier 10-page synopsis of the Russian Revolution with its own 1-page chronology. Wada's keen interest in the revolutionary era can also be seen in his entries on such themes as Leninism, Trotskyism, and World War I. On early Soviet history I would also note Shiokawa Nobuaki's coverage of the NEP, socialism in one country, and the Stakhanovite movement. Earlier history is covered by entries on the separate tsars, such as Toriyama Shigeto's articles on Ivan IV, Peter I, Catherine II, and tsars in general. Also there are longer entries on major periods and developments, e. g., Toriyama's Muscovite Russia and Yamamoto's piece on the opening of Siberia. Most substantial is Toriyama's summary of the Russian Empire. The history coverage reflects the professional quality of Japanese research in this area.

Politics and Foreign Policy in General. Shimotomai Nobuo leads in coverage of Soviet politics, including his 5-page summary in the concluding section. He writes about individuals such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikita Khrushchev and Roy Medvedev, and about themes such as the nomenklatura, Kremlinology, public opinion, and elections. The choices range from the obvious to the original, as in his entries on the environmental question and letters to the editor. Adding to the breadth of coverage are Hara Teruyuki's entries on Jews and the Doctor's Plot, and Wada Akiko's item on women's liberation. Foreign policy is not covered as much. Hirai Tomoyoshi provides a 3-page overview of diplomacy in the end section and adds entries on the German-Soviet pact of 1939 and Gromyko, Molotov, and the Comintern. Shindo Eiichi discusses the U-2 flight and the Cuban missile crisis, while Nakanishi Osamu reviews the Sino-Soviet split and the Czech and Afghanistan invasions. Soviet-American relations, however, are not intensely covered.

Economics and Workplace Organization. If there is one area which tends to be omitted in an encyclopedia on the Soviet Union, it is the sphere of production and associated social relations. Perhaps aware of this, the editors compensated with a ten-page overview of the economy by Nakayama Hiromasa in the back section. There are other useful contributions, such as Kaneda Tatsuo's articles on work collectives, brigades, the free market, consumption, fishing, and livestock, Shimamura Shiro's entries on national income and work time, and Sato Tsuneaki's entries on COCOM and COMECON. Furthermore, Okuda Shozo's historical coverage of the kulaks, the kolkhoz, and other rural topics complements other writings on industrial history. Relatively deemphasized is contemporary social structure. Several excep-

tions should be noted : Hakamada Shigeki's articles on individual enterprises and lines, Saga Toru's entry on blat, and Komorida Akio's item on social welfare. Komorida also contributes to the coverage of the legal system.

Literature and the Arts. The editors succeed in striking an appropriate balance between historical and contemporary, individual and general topics. Kawabata Kaori's writing treats the obligatory Pushkin and the theater as well as the somewhat unusual Yasnaia Poliana, Anna Karenina, and cemeteries ; added is a 10-page general discussion of literature. Kimura Hiroshi, the translator of Solzhenitsyn, writes about the famous emigre, but also about Mandelshtam, the thaw, and such children of the thaw as Evtushchenko. Egawa Taku addresses general themes as socialist realism, glavlit, samizdat, and Zhdanovshchina, but also Pasternak. Other noteworthy sections are by Sato Junichi on linguistics, Tanaka Yō on movies, and Morita Minoru on music.

Relations between Japan and Russia. No doubt for the foreigner this is the most original contribution to the volume. Several authors contribute, including Nakamura Yoshikazu who writes about drifters from Japan who made the first contacts between the countries, Kinbara Samon, who summarizes the Russian Revolution's influence on Japan, and Murakami Takashi, who writes about trade. Yet, the major input is by Wada Haruki, who describes Katayama Sen the Japanese Communist party leader long resident in Moscow, reviews the history of Russian studies in Japan as well America, writes about the Northern Territories, and adds the final overview on Japanese-Russian and Japanese-Soviet relations. As a critic of the Japanese government's policies toward the Soviet Union, Wada does not avoid controversial issues. He even outlines the path of recent bilateral negotiations, arguing on p. 548, that the Japanese Foreign Ministry was simply repeating its position in the face of varied Soviet ideas produced by the new atmosphere of freedom of speech, and then on p.740 that Japan only began to show flexibility in 1989.

In treating Japanese-Soviet ties, the encyclopedia places a distinctive national stamp on its coverage. Elsewhere I am writing about coverage that distinguishes this reference work from what western specialists would write. What is most unusual is the involvement and close coordination of so many of a country's superior scholars. The result is an extraordinary book perhaps the best one-volume reference of its type.

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