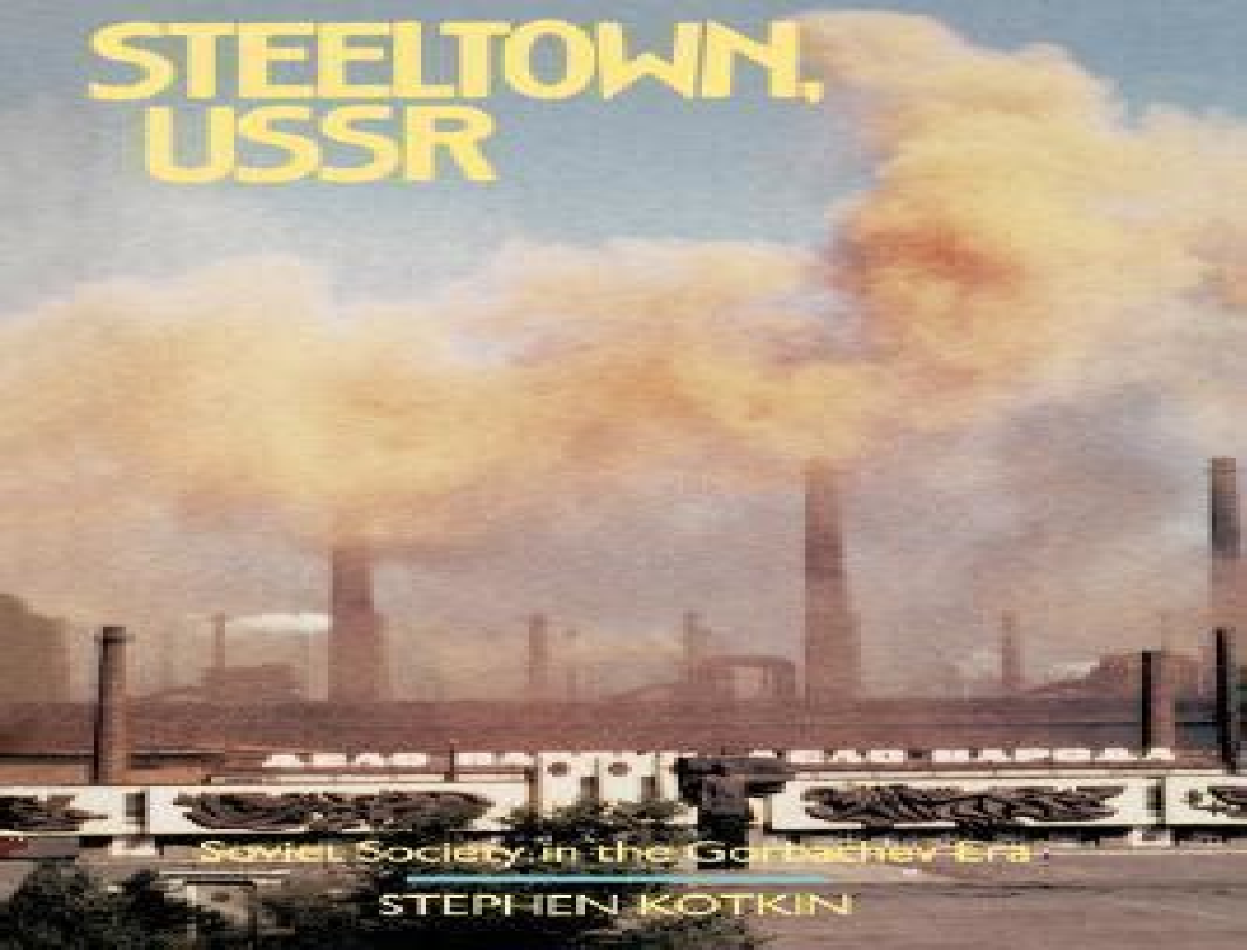


STEELTOWN, USSR



Soviet Society in the Gorbachev Era

STEPHEN KOTKIN

Steeltown Ussr

Paul French



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in the erstwhile USSR Sharlet a noted authority on Soviet law and constitutional development demonstrates the gradual transformation of law from an instrument of Communist Party rule into the new rules of the game for nonauthoritarian political development In effect he argues one of Gorbachev s most durable achievements may be his redefinition of Soviet politics into a legal idiom along with his relocation of policymaking from behind the closed doors of Party conclaves into the more open emergent arena of constitutional government In analyzing the politics of law from the Brezhnev era to the rise of Yeltsin the author takes account of the war of laws the symbolic uses of the Soviet constitution and even the fact that the leaders of the failed coup attempted to justify their seizure of power on constitutional grounds Constitutionalism has sufficiently suffused Soviet public life the book concludes that most of the sovereign republics as successors to the former USSR have begun designing their futures to varying degrees in constitutional forms

The Ghost of the Executed Engineer Loren Graham,1993 Stalin ordered his execution but here Peter Palchinsky has the last word As if rising from an uneasy grave Palchinsky s ghost leads us through the miasma of Soviet technology and industry pointing out the mistakes he condemned in his time the corruption and collapse he predicted the ultimate price paid for silencing those who were not afraid to speak out The story of this visionary engineer s life and work as Loren Graham relates it is also the story of the Soviet Union s industrial promise and failure We meet Palchinsky in pre Revolutionary Russia immersed in protests against the miserable lot of laborers in the tsarist state protests destined to echo ironically during the Soviet worker s paradise Exiled from the country pardoned and welcomed back at the outbreak of World War I the engineer joined the ranks of the Revolutionary government only to find it no more open to criticism than the previous regime His turbulent career offers us a window on debates over industrialization Graham highlights the harsh irrationalities built into the Soviet system the world s most inefficient steel mill in Magnitogorsk the gigantic and ill conceived hydroelectric plant on the Dnieper River the infamously cruel and mislocated construction of the White Sea Canal Time and again we see the effects of policies that ignore not only the workers and consumers needs but also sound management and engineering precepts And we see Palchinsky s criticism and advice persistently given consistently ignored continue to haunt the Soviet Union right up to its dissolution in 1991 The story of a man whose gifts and character set him in the path of history The Ghost of the Executed Engineer is also a cautionary tale about the fate of an engineering that disregards social and human issues

Would Trotsky Wear a Bluetooth? Paul R. Josephson,2010-02-01 After visiting Russia in 1921 the journalist Lincoln Steffens famously declared I have seen the future and it works Steffens referred to the social experiment of technological utopianism he found in the Soviet Union where subway cars and farm tractors would carry the worker and peasant figuratively and literally into the twentieth century Believing that socialism and technology together created a brave new world Boleslaw Bierut of Poland and Kim Il Sung of North Korea and other leaders joined Russia s Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky in embracing big technology with a verve and conviction that rivaled the western world s Paul R Josephson here explores these utopian visions of

technology and their unanticipated human and environmental costs He examines the role of technology in communist plans and policies and the interplay between ideology and technological development He shows that while technology was a symbol of regime legitimacy and an engine of progress the changes it spurred were not unequivocally positive Instead of achieving a worker s paradise socialist technologies exposed the proletariat to dangerous machinery and deadly pollution rather than freeing women from exploitation in family and labor they paradoxically created for them the dual and exhausting burdens of mother and worker The future did not work The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the end of communism s self proclaimed glorious quest to reach and surpass the West Josephson s intriguing study of how technology both helped and hindered this effort asks new and important questions about the crucial issues inextricably linked with the development and diffusion of technology in any sociopolitical system

Teaching Recent Global History Diana B. Turk, Laura J. Dull, Robert Cohen, Michael R. Stoll, 2014-03-05 Teaching Recent Global History explores innovative ways to teach world history beginning with the early 20th century The authors unique approach unites historians social studies teachers and educational curriculum specialists to offer historically rich pedagogically innovative and academically rigorous lessons that help students connect with and deeply understand key events and trends in recent global history Highlighting the best scholarship for each major continent the text explores the ways that this scholarship can be adapted by teachers in the classroom in order to engage and inspire students Each of the eight main chapters highlights a particularly important event or theme which is then complemented by a detailed discussion of a particular methodological approach Key features include An overarching narrative that helps readers address historical arguments Relevant primary documents or artifacts plus a discussion of a particular historical method well suited to teaching about them Lesson plans suitable for both middle and secondary level classrooms Document based questions and short bibliographies for further research on the topic This invaluable book is ideal for any aspiring or current teacher who wants to think critically about how to teach world history and make historical discussions come alive for students

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