

ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF THE USSR

The Soviet people and all progressive peoples mark a wonderful jubilee in 1972—the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first multinational socialist state in the world, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

On December 30, 1922 the First Congress of Soviets of the USSR opened in Moscow, which considered and ratified the Declaration on the founding of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Initially the USSR was made up of the Russian SFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Belorussian SSR, and the Transcaucasian SFSR. The Russian Republic formed the nucleus around which the multinational socialist state was created and strengthened. The counterrevolutionary propaganda and the bourgeois politicians predicted a rapid death for the new state, but it emerged even stronger from all the trials.

The newly formed Turkmen SSR and Uzbek SSR entered the USSR in 1924, and the Tadzhik SSR entered in 1929.

In December 1936 the USSR numbered 11 republics. In 1940 the Latvian SSR, Estonian SSR, and Lithuanian SSR voluntarily entered the USSR, and the Moldavian SSR was also founded. Each of the republics obtained genuine autonomy in the land of the Soviets. The entire history of the Soviet State has been a triumph of Leninist national politics.

The new state made an energetic attack on the economic and cultural backwardness of the peoples who had been oppressed under czarism. During the years of Soviet rule more than 40 nationalities first obtained their own written language. The number of middle schools and institutions of higher education in the republics grew immeasurably. National teaching cadres were formed. For example, in Kazakhstan, where before the October Revolution not more than 2% of the Kazakhs were counted among the literate population, there are now more than 40 higher education institutions, and 44,000 specialists with a higher or middle education are employed in the national economy of the once backward Buryat.

The realization of profound social reforms is accomplished by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government on the basis of scientific foresight and based on the teachings of Marx and Lenin. The series of speeches and works of V. I. Lenin, the founder of our state, is permeated with the idea of the importance of the role of science in the building of a new social structure and the development of its industrial base. Many great scientists took an active part in solving the important and difficult problems standing before them from the first days of the existence of the Soviet State.

The study of natural resources and productive forces of the country and the exploitation and development of its remote regions was a necessary prerequisite for the formation of the industrial and energetic foundation of communism. This problem was successfully solved by the combined forces of the scientists, engineers, and workers. The plan for the electrification of Russia (GOÉLRO) developed on the initiative of V. I. Lenin was of enormous importance. The accomplishment of this plan and its further development required the solution of many complicated scientific and technical problems. The development of native aviation was closely connected with the development of many areas of Soviet science, primarily of mechanics. Soviet aerohydrodynamics, which occupies one of the foremost positions in world science, is the firm foundation of modern aviation and rocket technology. The fact that in a difficult period for the young state the Party found it possible to support a whole series of timely new fields of science and technology played a large role here. In particular, the Central Aerohydrodynamics Institute was created, within whose walls scientists developed who became the founders of pioneering trends in modern solid state mechanics.

---

Translated from Zhurnal Prikladnoi Mekhaniki i Tekhnicheskoi Fiziki, No. 6, pp. 3-5, November-December, 1972.

© 1974 Consultants Bureau, a division of Plenum Publishing Corporation, 227 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, microfilming, recording or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. A copy of this article is available from the publisher for \$15.00.

The works of N. E. Zhukovskii, S. A. Chaplygin, and N. E. Kochin and their students are the foundation of modern aerohydrodynamics, its gold stock.

In the years of Soviet power the geography of Soviet science expanded immeasurably. Republic academies of sciences were founded along with higher education institutions and scientific-research establishments; talented scientists emerged, the fundamental science schools were founded which make a considerable contribution to the development of native and world science. The Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, in which studies in the areas of cybernetics, solid state physics and the science of materials, physical chemistry, and geology are extensively conducted, is a great science center. The Ukraine is the home of the scientific school of metal welding. Wide recognition has been received by the studies in astrophysics in the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, mechanics and mathematics in the Academy of Sciences of the Georgian SSR, alkaloid chemistry in the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, geology in the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, petrochemistry in the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaïdzhani SSR, fine organic synthesis in the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, etc.

Scientific institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR are presently situated in more than 60 cities and populated points of the country. Great new scientific centers are created and are being created. The experiment of the creation of the Novosibirsk Scientific Center has enormous significance. The Ural Scientific Center in Sverdlovsk, the Far Eastern Scientific Center in Vladivostok, and the North-Caucasian Scientific Center High School in Rostov-on-Don were organized for the purposes of future study and development of the industrial forces of the Urals, Siberia, the Far East, and other regions of the RSFSR. Branches of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR were founded in a number of autonomous republics (in Komi, Yakutsk, Tatar, and others).

The development of Soviet science is inseparably linked with the development of the Soviet Socialist State. Even in the prewar years Soviet scientists belonged in the front ranks of world science in mechanics, physics, chemistry, and other areas.

During the difficult years of the Great Patriotic War scientists along with all the Soviet people devoted all their strength and knowledge to the service of the cause. The development of new types of artillery and rocket weapons, new types of fighter planes and tanks, and the active participation in providing the front with all necessities – these are only a few of the many jobs of scientists in this period. Nor were fundamental investigations broken off. This enabled our country, despite all the hardships and losses brought about during the war, to enter fully equipped into the atomic-space age, the age of scientific and technical revolution. The Party and the government display a tireless concern for the future development of Soviet science, the strengthening of its ranks, and supplying it with high-grade equipment in the form of new experimental apparatus and computers. This concern is reflected in the many decisions on concrete problems of the development of science and education.

The vision of V. I. Lenin has been fulfilled: "Only socialism liberates science from its bourgeois paths, from its subjugation to capital, from its slavery before the interests of filthy capitalistic self-interest" (V. I. Lenin, Works, Fourth Ed., Vol. 27, p. 375).

The number of people directly engaged in the sphere of scientific studies in our country exceeds one million. Science has become a direct productive force of socialist society. In connection with this, the Party devotes great attention to the search for paths of future increase in the productive work of scientists, for an increase in the effectiveness of scientific research, and for the earlier introduction of the achievements of science into practical productive activity directed toward improving the well-being of the Soviet people and to strengthening the defensive capacity of our country.

Noting the increasing rates of scientific and technical progress, the 24th Session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union set before Soviet scientists new tasks in the business of building communism. A grandiose goal stands before the scientists of the Soviet Union – the building of communism. The positions achieved by Soviet science in the past have laid a firm foundation for successes to come in achieving this great goal.