

THE BEGINNING OF THE POLICY OF PERESTROIKA IN THE USSR

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ANNOTATION

The article describes the socio-political processes of the last years of the Soviet regime. The main causes of the socio-economic crisis are listed here.

Keywords: USSR, politics of perestroika, acceleration, shadow economy, communist parties

Аннотация: В статье описаны общественно-политические процессы последних лет советской власти. Здесь перечислены основные причины социально-экономического кризиса.

Ключевые слова: СССР, политика перестройка, ускорения, теневой экономики, коммунистических партий

INTRODUCTION

The reforms that determined the essence of the socio-economic, political and spiritual development that began in Soviet society have been brewing for decades. The need for these reforms is explained by deep technological transformations in the 60-70s of the twentieth century all over the world and, especially, in developed countries, the entry of human civilization to a qualitatively new level - to a post-industrial society. The historical conditions of the reforms, which determined the essence of the socio-economic, political and spiritual development of the USSR in 1985 - 1991, have been brewing for a long time.

Over the course of more than ten years, that is, from the mid-70s to the mid-80s of the twentieth century, various crisis situations began to arise in the Soviet Union. Further development of traditional heavy industry hampered the development of new scientific and technological, information and computer areas [1].

The reason for the need to carry out reforms in the USSR is explained by the deep crisis phenomena in the country's economy that arose as a result of the arms race, that is, the use by the Soviet government of large funds for the purchase of modern weapons, spending 23-36% of the state budget for the acquisition of offensive weapons, which was the result of systematic and purposeful economic, political, military pressure from NATO countries under the leadership of the United States [2].

An ineffective socialist economy was burdened with huge military spending. The Soviet Union maintained the largest army in the world, numbering 4,490,800 people [3]. At the same time, the structure of the army was aimed at offensive actions. The introduction of a limited contingent of troops into Afghanistan in 1979 dealt a strong blow to the process of easing international tension, which began in the early 70s. After that, the United States declared the USSR an evil empire.

Many factors indicated that on the eve of 1985 the USSR was going through a deep socio-economic and political crisis, and the expected real socialism in the country was never built. In terms of the level and quality of life of the population of Soviet society, the duration of the average standard of living, in terms of providing the population with consumer goods and services, the USSR was far behind not only developed countries, but also from capitalist countries with an average level of development.

The quality of education, the qualifications of workers, the performing discipline did not meet the requirements for a highly industrial society and modern technologies. By this time, the need was increasingly felt to renew all aspects of socialism, its economic foundations, social life, political system, and the spiritual sphere. However, the paths, forms and essence of the renewal processes were not fully understood. Many aspects of the historical stage of Soviet society, which received the name of perestroika, had to be clarified, corrected and revised anew.

A new stage in the history of the USSR, with the coming to power of the team under the leadership of M.S. Gorbachev, was called perestroika (1985-1990). These years were a contradictory period of awareness and attempts to resolve a complex knot of extremely topical internal and external problems that had accumulated in Soviet society. The confidence that the USSR is a great state gave hope that, in terms of a number of economic indicators, the country could reach the level of the developed countries of the world in a few years. This thinking led to the announcement in 1985 at the April plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU that the process of accelerating the country's socio-economic development had begun.

To a certain extent, perestroika provided an opportunity to strengthen transparency, democracy and pluralism. However, the country failed to carry out fundamental democratic transformations, to bring the initiated reforms to the end. The ever-increasing economic crisis and political fragmentation gave rise to doubts about the possibility of achieving social justice through political means [4].

During the period of the beginning of perestroika in Soviet society in the USSR, crisis phenomena intensified sharply, which covered all spheres of the country's life. Under the conditions of the existence of the totalitarian Soviet regime in the monopoly of state property and management, the domination of the administrative-distribution system became increasingly stronger, as a result of which there was a sharp drop in the growth rates of production, the volume of the gross product, labor productivity, and the alienation of productive forces from the means of production, the results of labor, etc.

Along with deep negative processes that led to the crisis of the national economy, a disdain for the social interests of the people and other huge factors, but not giving the expected results, the plans of the CPSU in economic policy predetermined the backwardness of the entire socio-political system.

The main reason for the impossibility of implementing the announced policy of perestroika was the preservation of the dominant position of the CPSU in state and public life, the reluctance of the Center to lose control over the union republics or abandon its monopoly position.

The Soviet government allocated huge funds to support the communist parties and socialist-oriented countries (Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique) all over the world. The CPSU provided funds for more than a hundred communist parties. Such strategic and geopolitical

activities of the Soviet leadership led to the aggravation of a number of territorial confrontations. At the same time, the Soviet government harshly persecuted any dissent within the country.

The merging of the shadow economy with the top of the party, state and economic apparatus became one of the manifestations of the serious moral decay of Soviet society.

Corruption, bribe-taking, the use of official position for personal gain, subsistence have penetrated into the spheres of society. The sober-minded part of Soviet society clearly saw the ineffectiveness of the huge state apparatus, the acceleration of the collapse of the existing system.

Thus, the severe crisis phenomena in the socio-economic and political sphere that took place in the USSR testified to the fact that the building of socialism had not actually been carried out. In terms of such indicators as the level and quality of life, its duration, provision of the population with consumer goods and services, the USSR was far behind the developed countries of the world.

CONCLUSION

The policy of perestroika pursued in the USSR was not fully thought out, the need for a radical restructuring of public administration was not comprehensively studied by the Soviet leadership in scientific, theoretical and practical terms, consisted of ideological slogans far from reality and unfounded views without reliance on specific concepts and mechanisms.

At the beginning of the restructuring policy, no specific strategic goals and objectives were identified. Instead, one after another, various experiments that did not pass life tests were carried out. As a result, the policy of perestroika did not change the existing system, but within the country and in society itself, a worldview was formed aimed at rejecting the existing system and system based on the rule of a single communist ideology.

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