

# Return of the Essential USSR

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Despite its complete conversion to neoliberal capitalism, and its attempts at acceptance in the family of nations that feeds off the exploitation of world wide wage labor, the categorical rejection by its erstwhile fellow parasites, has split Russian political orientation into two main competitors: stay with Putin's disastrous policy if not complete surrender to the West -- or restore the state 'communist' system with an equal participation and control by public and bureaucratic elements.

Issues coming to a head following the break with 'Nato' capitalism involve the de facto bankruptcy of two mega-companies: Rusal (aluminium) controlled by oligarch Deripaska, and Norilsk Nickel belonging to oligarch Potanin. Most of their business has been to foreign entities, and even though the oligarchs hate each other they have united out of greedy necessity to propose a unified metal and mining entity. Of the two, Deripaska is the most gung-ho capitalist who has called for Putin to surrender to the West. Potanin supports the war and stresses Russia's history of resilience. Putin has yet to make his recommendation but there are others who want nothing to do with the failed capitalist experiment.

The ten member of the Anti-crisis Expert Group, led by prominent economist Sergey Glazyev and Mikhail Delyagin, Duma leader on economic matters, advocate a more or less reversal of Russia's economy in order to stand up to western aggression.

*There can be only one answer to such a threat—nationalization. And it should be comprehensive. Start, yes, with these two corporations, but do not stop there... the metallurgy sector, both non-ferrous and ferrous; the oil and gas sector; the coal industry; energy, mechanical engineering (or more precisely, what's left of it), the military-industrial complex, the aviation industry, the chemical industry, and so on. If all Russian manufacturing companies begin to receive the products of these industries at cost, this will be an excellent tool for a powerful economic breakthrough.*

State ministries can take over management of failed capitalist enterprises. But they have been known to evolve into oligarchs themselves.

*Accordingly, not any kind of central control is necessary, but PEOPLE'S control is required...And Gosplan, yes, it is necessary to revive it, together with the Soviet system of sectoral ministries, because what exists now is in no position to manage anything effectively. This has been discussed more than once—for example, last*

*summer when the chairman of the Just Russia-For Truth party, Sergei Mironov, proposed reviving the Ministry of Geology... Russia does not need the current Ministry of Industry and Trade, which is not responsible for anything. But ministries of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, for instance, are very much needed. Moreover, due to modern means of communication, collection and processing of information, their staff can be kept to a minimum, and there is no need to set up analogues of the Soviet structures (which, by the way, were quite effective). Applications from enterprises come to the order bureau of the ministry, for example, for a particular range of rolled products, with addresses for the recipients and other details. And an electronic system would then allocate them among the manufacturing plants. This means confiscating [steel oligarchs] Mordashov [Severstal], Abramovich [Evraz], Lisin [NLMK], Rashnikov [MMK], and others like them. The model, of course, is extremely simplified, but in general it is something like this.*

Recently Delyagin gave an address before the International Schiller Institute entitled -- ***The Global Crisis: Why Mankind Needs Russia.***

*As for the crisis he says: The task is two-pronged: to preserve the technologies we have and continue technological progress, despite the contraction of markets (and, consequently, a reduced division of labor), and to save humanism by putting an end to the general dehumanization.*

And concludes with:

*Russian culture is fundamentally messianic: The bearers of this culture do not live without a grand purpose, even when they are living in comfort (this is a common feature of the human species). Moreover, they are capable of independently generating such a grand purpose, even at the brink of ruin.*

*This allows Russia to make a serious attempt to find a way out of the trap in which modern society finds itself, through a kind of “technological socialism.”*

Watch for the removal of Elvira Nabiullina as head of the central bank as signaling the return to a kind of socialism which most notably will bring the economy in closer alignment with its main ally China.

## **Back in the USSR**

*“83 percent of Russians consider it necessary to revitalize Soviet brands amid the withdrawal of foreign companies (...) About 12 percent hold the opposite opinion and the remaining five percent found it difficult to answer,” summarizes the study, which was published by the Sputnik agency.*

The Soviet era products were judged to be affordable and fairly durable, but 24% thought it advisable to launch new improved versions of the older products.

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