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HIS 240: Russia, the Soviet Union, and the CIS **Midterm Paper Assignment: Primary Source Analysis**

Assignment Overview

The goal of this assignment is to refine your skills in working with primary sources. Remember that *analysis* is not the same thing as *summarizing*. Don't just tell your reader what the source says. Make an **argument** about it! There are many different arguments you can make using a primary source. Be creative and have fun!

Instructions

Choose one of the **primary sources** assigned during the first half of this semester as the basis for your analysis. Read the source closely and critically. Analyze your chosen source, place it in its historical context, and develop a unique **historical argument** based on your interpretation of it. Your argument should address how your source helps us understand something specific about the history of the Soviet Union or post-Soviet Russia.

Your paper should focus directly on the primary source you have chosen. You may also juxtapose two sources, but not more. You may use Chatterjee, et al.'s *Russia's Long Twentieth Century* for context, but do not concentrate on it. For the purpose of this assignment, you can also treat information you learned in class as common knowledge.

*Make sure the piece you have chosen is a **primary source**! You may not analyze Choi Chatterjee et al., *Russia's Long Twentieth Century* for this assignment.*

Mechanics

- Your analysis must be **1500 words long**—and I will count! If you write less than 1300 words, you will be penalized.
- Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page and **number your pages**.
- Use **12-point font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins**.
- You must use **internal citations** for all quotations.
- You must attach a **Works Cited** page. This should be a separate page. It must be properly formatted, using *The Chicago Manual of Style*. You can access the *CMS* through the Library. (Trust me, this is good practice for the future!)

DON'T PLAGIARIZE! I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I **will** figure it out if you plagiarize. If you have a question about how to avoid plagiarism, please feel free to ask me. I am happy to meet with you during office hours any time before the paper is due.

Due Date

This assignment must be submitted on **Sakai** and is due **Friday, March 6 at 10pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

Good luck!!!

List of Primary Sources from Weeks 1-7

All sources are available on the course website:

Vladimir Lenin, “What Is To Be Done?”

Anna Litveiko, “In 1917”

Isaac Babel, “The Life Story of Pavlichenko”

Boris Arvatov, “The Proletariat and Leftist Art”

“AKhRR Manifesto”

Alexandra Kollontai, “Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle”

John Scott, “Behind the Urals”

Joseph Stalin, “Problems of the Collective Farm Movement”

Mukhamet Shayakhmetov, *The Silent Steppe*, chapters 1-4, 8-9

Joseph Stalin, “Speech at the First All-Union Congress of Stakhanovites”

Pasha Angelina, “The Most Important Thing”

“Jahon Obidova”

Andrei Zhdanov, “Soviet Literature—The Richest in Ideas”

Nikolai Ostrovsky, “How the Steel Was Tempered”

Joseph Stalin, “On the Inadequacies of Party Work”

Evgenia Ginzburg, *Into the Whirlwind*, chapters 3, 8-13, 15-20

Ol’ga Berggolts, “This Is Radio Leningrad!”

Mikhail Sholokhov, *The Fate of a Man*

Media Primary Sources

Art for the Revolution Slide Show

Bed and Sofa

Cult of Personality Slide Show

Dmitrii Shostakovich, *Symphony No 7 “Leningrad”*