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SOVIET CORPORATIONS AND THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF USSR:
THE PROBLEM OF DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE

The economic history of the USSR usually operates with: a) statistical indicators (production of steel, cars, airplanes, etc.), b) the names of factories with reference to their geographical location, c) the names of directors, designers, scientists who have achieved outstanding success in business "socialist construction". By default, it is assumed that such a story is analogous to foreign the west economic history, where, along with the mentioned data, the names of the owners of corporations, outstanding managers, and bankers appear. Speaking about the USSR, it is assumed that all economic organizations were owned by the state, therefore, at best, historians mention the ministries that were in charge of socialist enterprises, often doing without it.

The problem, however, is that socialist firms were not comparable to capitalist firms. Most of them were "city-forming". This meant that, in addition to the production units themselves, such a "plant" included housing maintenance offices, trade and catering organizations, transport, preschool institutions, a polyclinic and / or a hospital, a sports club and a palace of culture. Sometimes in the literature this is how "collective farms" are described. But industrial enterprises were also such "collective farms", moreover, they often included "subsidiary" agricultural farms. Apparently, such large socialist enterprises should rather be considered (and described) as Soviet "quasi-states" responsible for the life of the population in a particular territory (for completeness, the factory newspaper and security units should be added).

In turn, the enterprises were part of the central administrations, departments, ministries. These Soviet corporate entities, somewhat reminiscent of the Dutch East India Company, often clashed among themselves in the struggle for the resources of a particular territory. The arbitrators in this struggle were the territorial bodies of the CPSU and, in some cases, the Soviets of People's Deputies.

The struggle for control over the territory and the organization of life is a **political**, not an economic activity. The economic absurdity, which is often found in the publications of newspapers and magazines of the USSR in the second half of the twentieth century, is a separate, largely random, pictures of such a struggle. It was impossible to characterize it as political at that time; moreover, the names of most influential political actors who represented Soviet corporations and had real power are not even mentioned in the economic history of the USSR; unlike the leaders of the CPSU. In essence, we do not know who "owned" certain districts and / or cities, how decisions on the appointment of leaders were made, and so on. The published separate volumes of documents show, for example, that the leaders of the Soviet Baltic region constantly asked for the placement of more and more factories with them, for "accelerated industrialization"; and when they pointed out the shortage of labor, they answered that this "problem is being solved". In this regard, the economic history of the USSR in the second half of the twentieth century not yet written.