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INTRODUCTION

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The important factor in the third five-year plan is that of increasing military industries.

Since the danger of invasion of Russia appeared to be coming from the west and would involve the motherland itself, it was decided to build up industries that would support a military effort, such as machinery factories, the chemical industry, oil refineries etc. in the Urals and in Siberia. In this planning they also decided to stockpile coal, cement etc. They also determined to set up metallurgical plants at Komsomolsk as a base and to establish a hundred or more industries where they had not existed before in the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, as well as the magnetic metals united industrial area [sic] in the Urals in a vast expansion of production areas.

Russia's great third five-year plan to meet Germany's war plans spelled down to any lacksadaisical attitude and afforded a fine pretext for converting the Urals and Siberia into an industrial base for the Red Army before war should come and thus provide that in time of war there should be no shortage of necessary war materials.

The numerous war industries of the Soviet built during wartime and those removed from the battle areas were centered in the eastern Urals and Siberia. Eventually these two war industry areas were linked together so that this area at present has become an arsenal for aggression both eastward and westward.

Present day Siberia is divided into western Siberia, Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

So-called Western Siberia is the wide expanse extending from the Yenesei River to the Ural Mountains, the world's greatest low-lying plain. The Siberian railway crosses it from east to

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tributary the Irtysh River forming a Fough [&] cross.

This vast plain may be sub-divided into four parts. The extreme northern part bordering on the Arctic Ocean is an area of tundras. South of this and north of the Siberian Railway is a densely forested area. South of this along the railway is an area of grasslands interspersed with forests and last of all the open grasslands extending to the Altai Mountains.

The population of Western Siberia is densest in the southern interspersed grasslands and open grass lands where there are railways.

Western Siberia, before the October Revolution was a vast barren frontier land. The treasures in the earth had not been touched and there was not a single industrial plant in any town. Only in the south in the region of agricultural economy had there been some industrial development. Within the last twenty years under the Soviet rule the area has changed from a barren frontier to a mighty center of industry.

Within a brief time this great plain with a teeming population has become the united Ural industrial district. Great factories equipped with all sorts of machines are able not only to refine steel, but to manufacture excellent metal goods and products of chemical industries. Wood working and food industries are also flourishing.

At the outset the ores for the smelters in the united industrial area were brought in from the Urals. At present a part of the ores used are obtained from the nearby mining district in the south, where the ore reserves are abundant for the use of the industrial area. Coal reserves are also five times as abundant as those of the Don River.

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Before the revolution coal production in the area was very slight. A great increase has occurred during the three five-year plan periods.

During the second world war, after the German armies occupied the Don River coal fields, there was a great spurt in coal production in the new industrial area for an increase in 1943 of 4,000,000 tons, becoming the basic behind-the-lines fuel supply area of the country.

The chemical industries of this area can produce aluminum, and a number of new aluminum factories have been opened.

New cities in this ^{region} are Stalinsk, Anshero-Sudzhensk, Leninsk, Prokopsk, and Kemorovo.

The agricultural economy has made great advances under the patronage of the Soviet authorities. Mechanization has taken place. Grains and manufactures of domestic animal meat products are increasing annually, but a large arable area that should support a goodly population is still unused.

The most important city of Western Siberia is Novosibirsk (formerly Nikolsk) located at the junction of the Ob River and the Siberian Railway.

During the period of the five-year plans this city has become one of the great centers of Soviet heavy industry. Machine manufacturing industries, cotton mills, food processing industries have been growing until during the war the industrial section saw a thousand percent expansion.

Eastern Siberia is the area between the Yenesej and the Lena Rivers. The area is vast, vaster far than the whole area of Western Siberia.

It is an area of plateaus and mountains largely covered by dense forests. The climate is very disagreeable, hot in summer

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and in winter the coldest in the world. The population is sparse. The area is not suitable for agriculture, but is suitable for heavy industry.

Eastern Siberia is in the drainage basin of the Yenesei and its tributary the Angara, and the Lena. There is ample water power for the needs of industry.

Coal reserves are abundant in Chersakove (?), Kansk, Tungusk, and the autonomous Republic of Yakutsk. Eastern Siberia is a land of forests and is rich in all sorts of mineral wealth. Before the revolution it had no industry worth mention, being outside the pale of civilization. Later, ^{it was} used as a place of criminal or political exile. Present-day Eastern Siberia teems with activity busily using all the modern techniques.

Without river boats, highways and aeroplanes it will be impossible to conquer this vast wilderness.

Eastern Siberia produces much gold. The mines of Leninsk [Irkutsk] are world-renowned. The smelting industry of Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk is completely mechanized. Newly opened factories in Eastern Siberia manufactures locomotives, combines and other complicated machinery. Hides are another source of wealth for this area. Lumbering and manufacture of wood products is widespread. The new city of Igarka on the lower Yenesei within the arctic circle is a center of lumbering and distributes lumber via the Arctic Ocean to many places.

The cotton goods industry of Eastern Siberia was started during the war.

The prosperity of the projects in this area has resulted from their proximity to coal supplies and metallurgical plants, the Ural industrial area, and the northern sea route.

The economic status of the provinces and autonomous republics of Eastern Siberia is progressive. Buriat-Mongolia is one of the

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great grazing areas of the U.S.S.R. There is an abundance of cattle, horses and sheep. Since this area has become an area of immigration, farming is beginning to flourish. At Ulan Ude, the capital of this republic are located locomotive works, glass works and other industries. Within the boundaries of this republic are reserves of manganese, antimony, gold etc. During the war sugar factories and ~~cement~~ ^{woolen mills} ~~industries~~ were established.

In the distant Yakutsk ^g [autonomous Republic] life is different. Outside the business in furs, industry is only in the budding stage, consisting only of the metallic and coal industries.

The Khakass g autonomous Republic is a part of ^k Prasnoyarsk with Abakan at its center. It has abundant reserves of coal and iron and produces much wheat and timber.

Within the confines of Eastern Siberia on the headwaters of the Yenesej River is the A.S.S.R. of Tannu Tuva formerly a part of Chinese territory, taken over by Russia in 1914 without China's consent. It is at present being developed by the Soviet as a grazing area with leather and lumbering as industries.

The Soviet Far East extends from Vladivostok on the south along the Pacific Coastline and over wooded mountains over 4,000 kilometers northward to Chukotsk ^{in peninsula} and westward to the Lena River, a vast area, exceedingly cold in winter and warm in summer, a frontier area, indeed.

It abounds, however, in natural resources, minerals, timber, and water power. Recently there has been great advance in construction. Before the recent war industry already accounted for three-fourths of the economy of the area. A foundation for

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an industrial economy had been hard, and is now much advanced. Fishing, lumbering, coal, mining etc. are indeed flourishing and progressive. Mining and refinery methods have made great progress. In the Maritime Province, Sakhalin, and Kamchatka the fishing industry is entirely modernized. Sailing vessels have all given way to motorized ships. The united fishing industries all have canneries.

The lumber industry has been growing by leaps and bounds. Formerly the timber, when cut, was exported, but now mills have been constructed and lumber, plywood, and wood products are made on the spot.

In the Amur province and the area north of it there are modern metallurgical industries. In addition to refining alluvial gold they are able to smelt ores.

The coal mines of Suchan and Artem have been equipped with Modern Machinery. With great hardships the inexhaustible treasures of this wild waste are being revealed and investigated.

In addition to improving industries already existing in the ~~Soviet~~ Far East new ones are being established.

Mining of both common and scarce metals is making great strides. Big machine factories and ship yards are appearing at Komsomolsk, Khabarovsk and other cities. Much oil is being secured on Sakhalin Island. In the area around the new city of Okha white mineral oil is found. Gasoline refining is developing. The construction industry, sugar industry, and oil industry seem to be firmly established.

Komsomolsk is the principal industrial center of the area. The chief of the industries there is the Amur Steel Works. Other industries such as metallurgical, electrical, shipbuilding, and fuel industries are very flourishing.

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The farming industry of the [Soviet] Far East has been improved of late. The newly opened agrarian areas are along the Amur River on the plains in the neighborhood of lake Turi Heg. The farming is mechanized and reckoning by the number of tractors and combines in use, the area under cultivation is the largest in Soviet Russia [sic] besides grains such as wheat and barley, beans, paddy rice, and sugar beets can be raised.

Soviet Army Forces in the Far East
Soviet Army Expenditures
1927-1939

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	Unit: hundred millions of rubles)
1927	6.5
1928	7.6
1929	9.8
1930	11.5
1931	11.5
1932	13.9
1933	24.0
1934	50.0
1935	82.0
1936	148.0
1937	175.0
1938	232.0
1939	408.0

Before 1929 the Soviet government placed its greatest emphasis on its European military forces and maintained in the Far East only a skeleton border defense force, largely concentrated around Khabarovsk and a few other important points.

During the short war with China in 1929 they were compelled to shift European forces to the theatre of operations in order

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to win.

Before 1929 the Soviet authorities maintained only skeleton border defense forces in the Far East amounting to approximately three infantry divisions and two cavalry brigades, concentrated at Khabarovsk and a few other important points. During the brief war with China in late 1929 they were compelled to transfer additional forces from Europe in order to win.

Following the ^{is} experience the Soviet authorities began to pay particular attention to their Far Eastern military establishment and this attention increased still further after the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1939. Large forces were moved eastward from Siberia and Europe until they had a force of eight to nine infantry divisions and one cavalry division plus one brigade with a total of from 110,000 to 120,000 men.

After 1935 the Soviet authorities have regarded the strengthening of their Far Eastern forces as imperative and have completely modernized the establishment.

After the Chang-ku-feng incident in 1938 the first and second red flag armies were organized one based ^{at} on Vladivostok and the other on Khabarovsk. After the ^{Nomonhan} ~~Nomonhan~~ incident in 1939 the Soviet Far Eastern forces moved over from a defense force to an offensive force. The two red flag armies were combined into the so-called Far Eastern Front Army. After the onset of the Russo-German conflict it would seem these forces would have been weakened but there was no change in ^{the} ~~the~~ over-all strength.

Chart of Strength of Far Eastern Soviet Forces

Date Before Manchurian Incident	Total Forces	Infantry Divisions	Cavalry Division	Armored Cars
1937	50,000	4		30
	400,000	25	5	1,700
1941	800,000	30	12	2,100

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