

Country: USSR

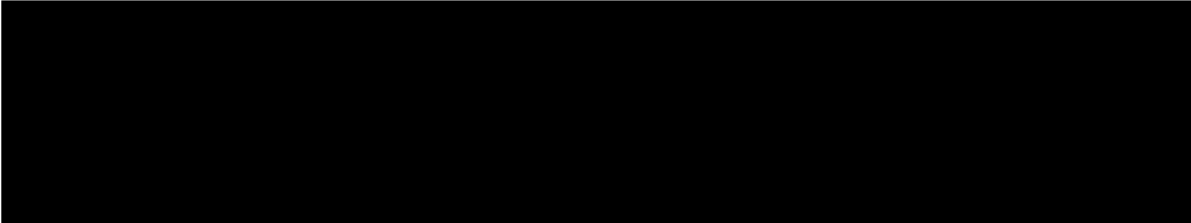
Subject: Soviet Academic Degrees

Place Acquired: - - -

Date Acquired: 1953 and prior

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1. The Soviet degrees or titles of "aspirant", "kandidat" and "doktor", are not comparable to the US degrees of "bachelor", "master" and "doctor". Generally speaking, the Soviet titles are not given in recognition of the accomplishment of a prescribed course of study, but rather constitute appointments by university faculties of research students who show promise of further progress in a particular field of research.
2. No degree is given following the completion of the usual five year course of undergraduate work in a Soviet university. Consequently, there is no Soviet degree comparable to the US "bachelor" degree. The Soviet "aspirant" is selected by a board appointed by the Ministry for Higher Education following a course of post-graduate study in a particular field of endeavor. An "aspirant" receives a monthly stipend from the government and it is assumed that he will continue his career for the remainder of his active life.
3. The Soviet "kandidat" was originally a title used in only certain fields of study, such as law. However, it is now used in all academic fields and is most comparable to the US "PhD". The student has completed all of his preliminary work in a specialized field and he is then selected by the same board as a "kandidat", prior to a final oral examination. A "kandidat" is given a higher monthly stipend than the "aspirant".
4. The Soviet "doktor" is, in reality, an honorary designation in recognition of outstanding research work in academic fields. The degree of honor involved, and its indication of ability, is dependent to a great extent on the standing of the institution granting the degree. Many Soviet academic institutions grant these doctorate degrees and not all of these institutions are of equal standing in the academic field. A Soviet "doktor" would be somewhat the equivalent to an established US "PhD" who shows outstanding promise in his academic field; it is a stamp of approval on his accomplishments. Oftentimes, however, political and personal influences are brought to bear so that not all Soviet doctors are of equivalent accomplishments.
5. A typical Soviet scientific laboratory is headed by a doctor of science or a professor. If the doctor of science holds a teaching appointment concurrently with his position in the institute of which the laboratory forms a part, he is given the title of "professor". He will have a number of assistants in his laboratory who are designated as either senior or junior laboratory workers. The senior worker would correspond roughly to the honor level of the US "Master's" level.