

The Institutional Setting of the Soviet Defense Industry, 1929 to 1953: Hierarchies and Markets

Abstract

The paper describes the organization of the supply of weapons and military goods in the Soviet economy, and the institutional channels through which demands on it were voiced and made effective. The general setting was one of a hierarchical command system. There were also relatively formalized market-like structures within the system, which are distinguished from formal and informal outside markets. Finally, there were overlapping systems of third-party regulation by an array of agencies responsible for planning, arbitration, audit, and state security.