

# Before Stalinism: the Defense Industry of Soviet Russia in the 1920s

Andrei Sokolov

Institute of Russian History  
Russian Academy of Sciences

## Abstract

Competition and profit-seeking were never strong features of the Russian defense industry before the Revolution. World War I and the Russian Civil War profoundly influenced interwar perspectives on the Soviet defense industry and accentuated this characteristic in the process. The defense industry failed to adapt to market conditions under the New Economic Policy: it produced at a loss, depended heavily on budgetary subsidies, and still failed to meet the demands of the armed forces in virtually every field of armament. The blame, at first laid on those in charge of the defense industry, was directed more and more specifically against its “bourgeois” specialists. In the process the Red Army staff became enthusiastic advocates of forced industrialization under a command system through which they hoped to gain direct influence over defense industry personnel and allocations.

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Address for correspondence: Professor A.K. Sokolov, Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences, ul. Dmitriia Ul’ianova 19, 117036 Moscow, Russia. Email: [AK\\_Sokolov@mail.ru](mailto:AK_Sokolov@mail.ru).