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## Soviet Warship Development, Vol. I, 1917-1937

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been greatly improved had the author chosen to continue his discussion of the actions taken by the Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation after President Wilson replaced Denman and Goethals in the summer of 1917. It would have provided important information concerning the wartime shipbuilding program and the development of the "fabricated" ship. Because they were delayed by the Denman-Goethals controversy, most of these mass-produced ships were delivered to the government only after the cessation of hostilities. The production of so many ships, no longer needed for war, at the government's expense had important influence on both America's shipping and shipbuilding industries after the war.

Unfortunately, the exorbitant price of the book will probably limit its readership. It is well worth seeking, however, for those who are seriously interested in this subject.

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Breyer, Siegfried. *Soviet Warship Development, Vol. I, 1917-1937*. Rachel Magowan, trans. London: Conway Maritime Press, 1992. 288pp. \$68

The author of this weapons encyclopedia made his mark many years ago as an authority on twentieth-century battleships and battlecruisers. He is, however, also widely regarded as an expert on the former Soviet fleet and has published extensively in German on this subject. This work is an English

translation of the first volume of his critically acclaimed 1989 *Encyklopaedie des sowjetischen Kriegsschiffbau*.

The main text of this work is divided into nine chapters, which are clearly delineated chronologically. The first five provide a complete overview of prerevolutionary Russian warship construction, naval ordnance, and shipyards, and the status of the ships and construction program in the tumultuous days of 1918. The remaining four chapters discuss: the first tentative steps taken by the new Soviet government to mold into a useful fleet the hodgepodge of obsolete and new ships it had inherited; the first two construction plans; and lastly, Soviet naval ordnance in 1937. This material is supplemented by a cogent foreword, a note on methodology, and a chronology of the key events in the history of the Soviet Union and its navy. (It is unfortunate that the latter terminates in mid-1933). The author has thoughtfully provided both a list of abbreviations and an explanation of the transliteration of the Russian alphabet.

Although the narrative portions of this work are brief, Siegfried Breyer still manages to present a wealth of information in his text. Readers will certainly benefit from the overview of Russian naval history offered in the first chapter. The chapters on warship design, construction, and reconstruction offer a blend of detailed technical data and descriptive narrative on the ship-types covered. Depending on the subject and time period, these chapters focus on from three to sixteen different warship types. For the most part they are remarkably informative, and Breyer

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seems to have filled in most of the gaps in our knowledge of Soviet warships of this period. He also provides much-needed information on the performance of these ships.

Also well written and worthy of our attention are the chapters on Russian shipyards and naval ordnance. Breyer has thoughtfully provided both a map of the shipyards in the St. Petersburg (Leningrad) area and layout diagrams of two of them. The ordnance chapters cover virtually every weapon, from the 305mm (12-inch) battleship gun to minesweeping gear. He also gives details on Soviet fire control equipment of the period. One interesting consequence of the organization of this work is that some weapons, e.g., the 181mm (7.1-inch) guns and the turrets of the *Kirov*-class cruisers, are discussed though these ships are not covered in this volume. He has also included a brief appendix describing the salvage of the battleship *Imperatritsa Mariya*. All the notes are placed at the back of the book.

The text and data are complemented by a plethora of photographs and illustrations. Although some of the former are not pristine, they are still quite useful. The drawings are vintage Breyer, well executed, clear, and precise. However, his decision against a uniform scale does render comparisons between various ships more difficult. As well, the segregated type-period format will present a problem for readers who want to trace the progression of any particular vessel throughout its career. This difficulty is exacerbated by the lack of an index, but one will be provided in the final volume of this series.

Overall, Breyer has given us an excellent summary of the first twenty years of Soviet warship development. In particular, he has shown that the Russian and Soviet navies were consistently aware of the potential of submarines. Despite the absence of an index, this book should be regarded as the premier source for information on the evolution of Soviet warship construction. It should be consulted by anyone with a strong interest in early twentieth-century warships in general, and the Soviet fleet in particular. One can only hope that Conway will complete the publication of this series with a minimum of delay.

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Glantz, David M. *The Role of Intelligence in Soviet Military Strategy in World War II*. Novato, Calif.: Presidio, 1990. 262pp. \$27.50

The subject of conflict on the Eastern Front during World War II has been revisited in fundamental ways by military historians over the past several years. Colonel David Glantz of the Soviet Army Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth has dominated the field in analysis of the Soviet war experience. His impressive corpus includes exemplary studies of Soviet airborne operations, theater strategic campaigns, operational art, deception, and in the present instance, military intelligence. This is the third of three volumes Glantz has produced on Soviet intelligence and deception during World War II. In it