

**Abstract**  
**Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper**  
**(Bachelor degree)**

1. 2017

2. **Title:** The economic and social development of the USSR in the post-war period (1945-1953).

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4. **Research Supervisor:**

5. **Specialization:** 46.03.01 – History of international relations

6. **Bachelor degree**

7. **Higher School of political management and innovation management**

8. **Chair of historical and socio-philosophical disciplines, orientalism and theology**

9. **Topicality of the research** is conditional by the fact, that the post-war period of the development of the domestic history arouses steady interest in the broad sections of the society and scientific circles. The events after the end of the war were developing so radically and rapidly, and resulted in such changes that they can be assessed as kind of a revolutionary upheaval. In those conditions the senior state and political leadership of the USSR was faced with the choice of the model of further development. It was proposed that they switch to free trade, reincorporate industrial production as a joint-stock company, reform the monetary system. However, the beginning, of "the cold war" did not promote the realization of this intention. As a result the Stalin's entourage deemed it necessary to return to the pre-war model of the economic development. The study of the stimulating causes of such a choice conditioned the significance of the selected topic.

**Objective of the research** is the study of the economic and social development of the USSR in the post-war years.

**Tasks of the research:**

- to show the state of the USSR economy after the war;
- to characterize the process of the maturing of the alternatives in the choice of the economic policy and return to the pre-war model of the economic development;
- to examine the main problems related to the reconstruction of industry;

- to study the problems of the reconstruction of agriculture, to show the causes and effects of the famine in the post-war USSR;

- to detected the main parameters and directions of the state social policy.

**Theoretical and practical significance** of the research is that this work arisesthe questions connected with the problems and tendencies of the economic and social development of the USSR in 1945-1953. The factors regulating the given processes in the post -war period are brought to light.

The materials of the graduation qualification work may be used for the preparation of the teaching aids in the history of Russia, and also in course works and mini-projects of students of the history department.

**Results of the research** showed that the victorious ending of the war opened up a new period in the history of our country. The Soviet people had a difficult tasks of reconstructing the economy, of raising the people's living standard, of getting down to peaceful, constructive work. The difficulties the country encountered seemed insurmountable. Huge human losses resulted in the shortage of workforces. The rationing system and half-starved existence was exacerbated by the 1946 bad harvest. The absence of the elementary dwelling, inflation, shortage of the most necessary and elementary everyday essentials made themselves felt. All this increased hardships and deprivation of the people.

In the 1945-1953 there were two possible ways of the development of the society. On the one hand - the way of the alleviation of the pre-war mobilization model of the development, on the other hand - its reconstruction.

The economic decisions made after the war, stymied the super programs: the great constructions were a heavy burden on the state budget. The basis of the economic policy was determined by the old focus on industrialization. This course not only preserved the unconditional priorities of the heavy industry, but, practically, it hindered the development of the scientific and technical progress.

The social programs, especially important from the point of view of the help to the people that had just survived the war, were reduced to a minimum. The campaigns to cut prices had a great political effect, but the living standard of the people remained practically the same.

The Soviet people pinned great hopes on the sharp reduction of prices which would have promoted the improvement in their life. Those decisions did not affect the labor stimuli. In general, in the post-war period, the sphere of the operation of the material stimuli was sharply limited.

Of great significance was also the international situation. The unleashed "cold war" promoted the militarization of the economy, which in those concrete historical conditions, meant the development of heavy industry. Such economic policy led to the degradation of the general state of the socio-economic sphere and in the long term was bound to result in the political shocks.

**Recommendations:**

1. In the course of the subsequent study of the topic it is expedient that we show the role of the Communist Party in the mobilization of the efforts of the population over the liquidation of the effects of the post-war devastation.

2. It is necessary that the author provide her own assessment of the role of the unfavorable foreign political factors in the socio-economic development of the USSR in 1945-1953.