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RUSSIA—

Menace or Promise?

Headline Series

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RUSSIA—

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nationalities and races under its rule. In the United States, we have tried to Americanize all new immigrants, but this has been largely a process of education and adaptation, achieved by peaceful means—not an effort to impose a national pattern by force. But the Tsarist government, which had not yet progressed far toward education of the people as a whole—always fearing that education would bring revolution in its wake—tried to do this by force. The Soviet leaders have followed a different course. They have achieved a considerable measure of national unification by imposing on all the peoples of the U.S.S.R. a uniform political and economic pattern we call Communism. But within this centralized framework, administered from Moscow, they have given each national group a considerable measure of cultural and, more recently, economic autonomy. Every national group is encouraged to develop its music, literature, language, and so on, but each must

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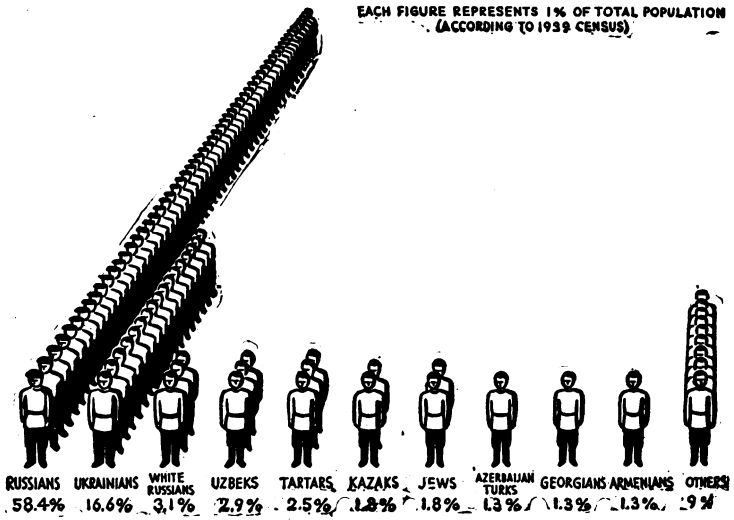

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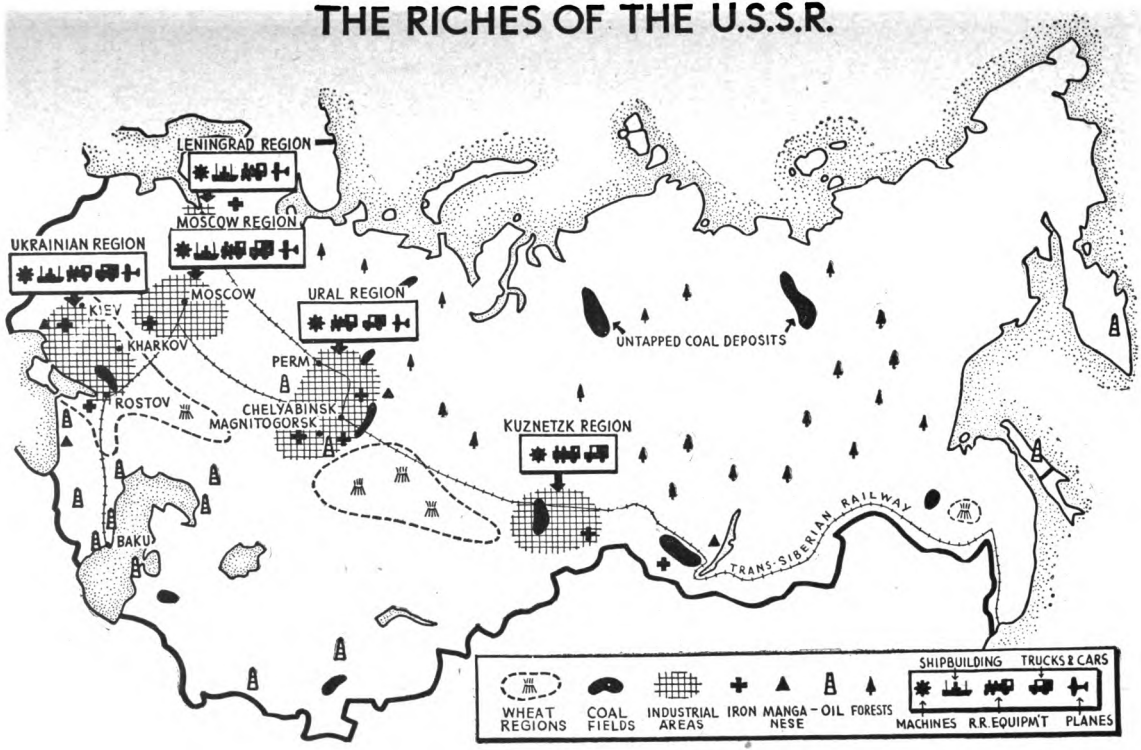

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RUSSIA'S HISTORIC DRIVE TO THE SEA



THE DRIVE TO THE OPEN SEA

Not only is Russia a continent. She is also a land-and-ice-locked continent which has few exits to the high seas. Russia's landlocked character explains her periodic isolation from the rest of the world, because Russians, for geographic, if for no other, reasons, found it difficult to maintain continuous contacts with Western Europe and the New World. Look at the map of Russia today, and you will see that Russia has no direct outlets except on the Pacific Ocean and the White Sea. To reach the Atlantic her ships must travel along devious routes through the Finnish Gulf, the Baltic Sea and the English Channel or the North Sea in the north; through the Black Sea, the Dardanelles and the Mediterranean in the south. The vastly increased use of the airplane and the air-consciousness of the young Russian generation may serve to break down this isolation. But until recently Russia's geographic remoteness from the rest of the world, and her inaccessibility

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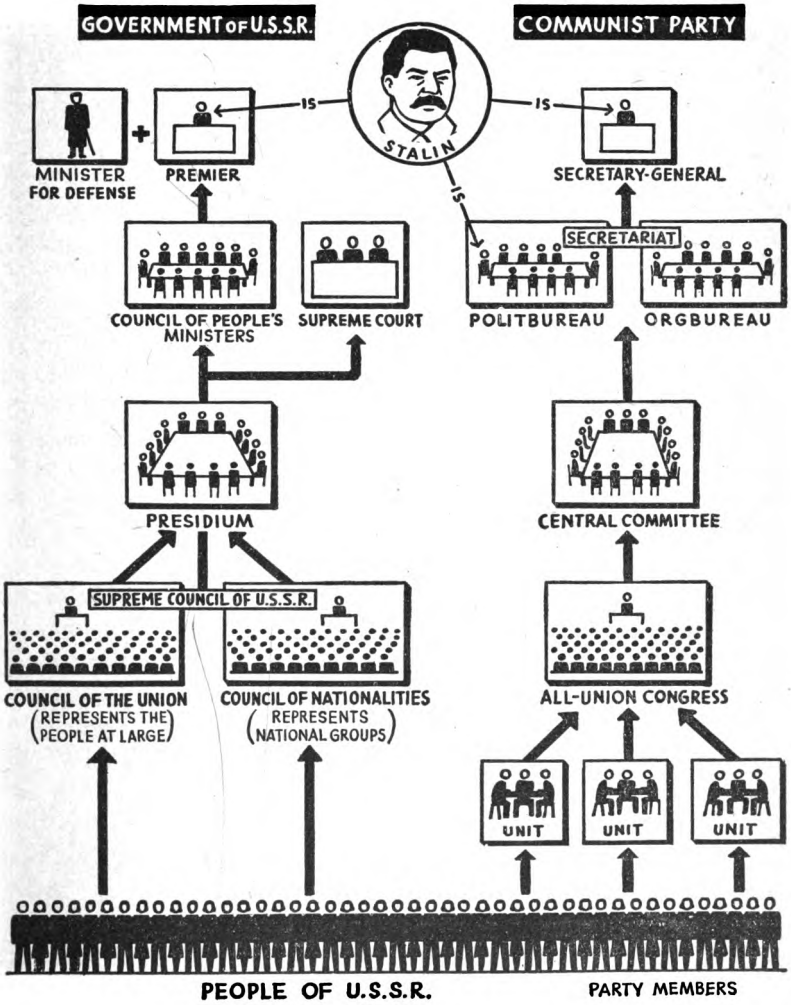

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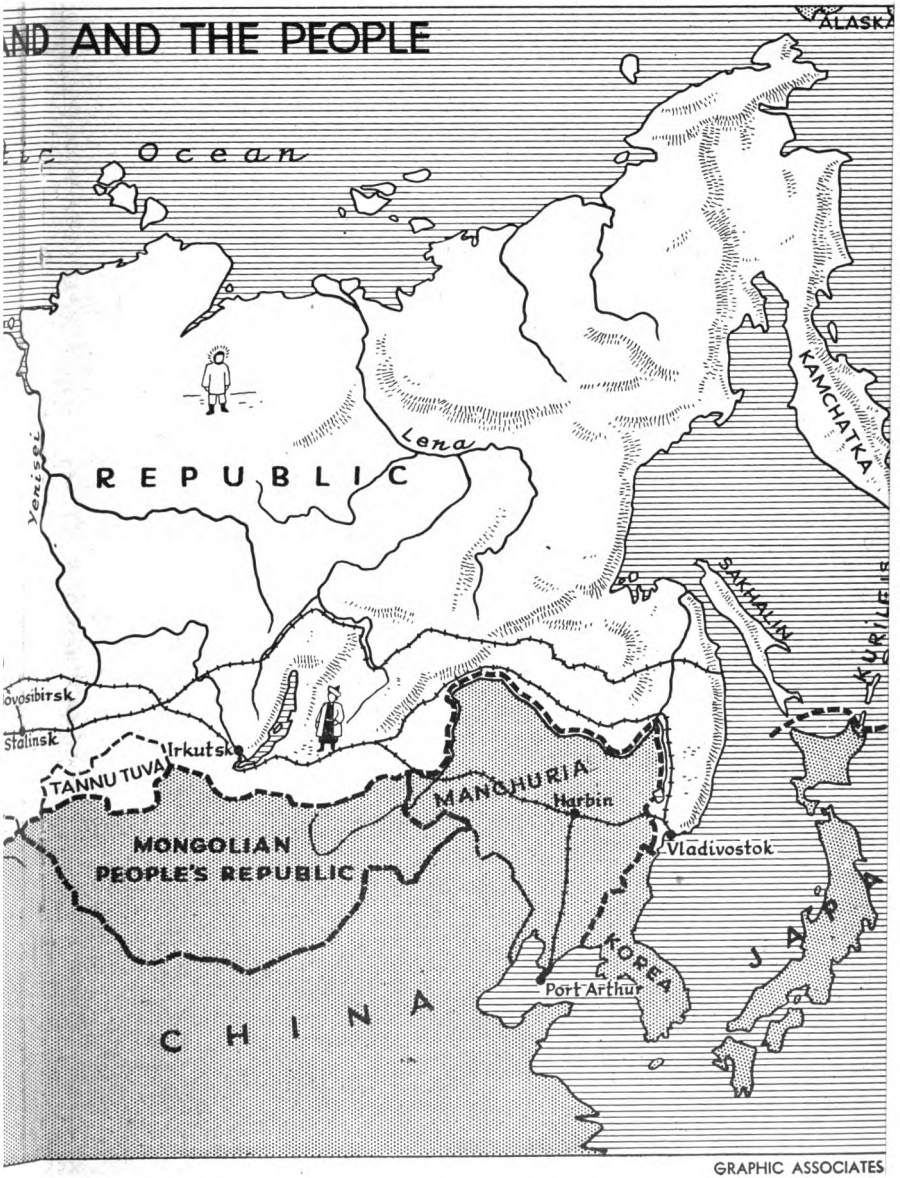

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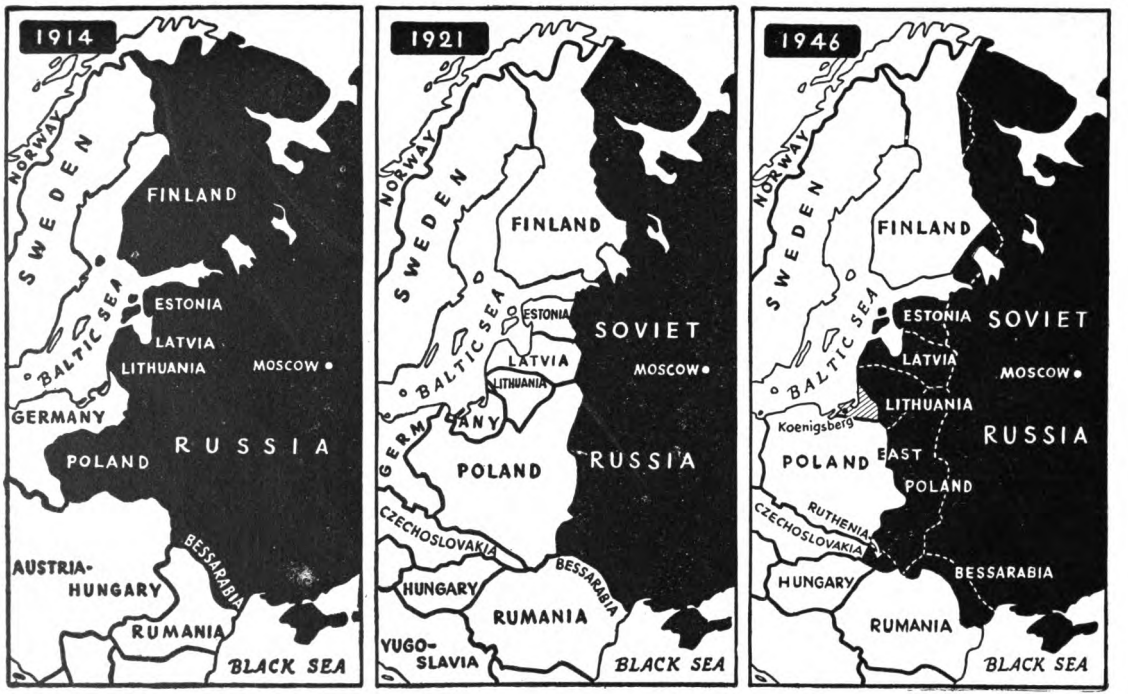

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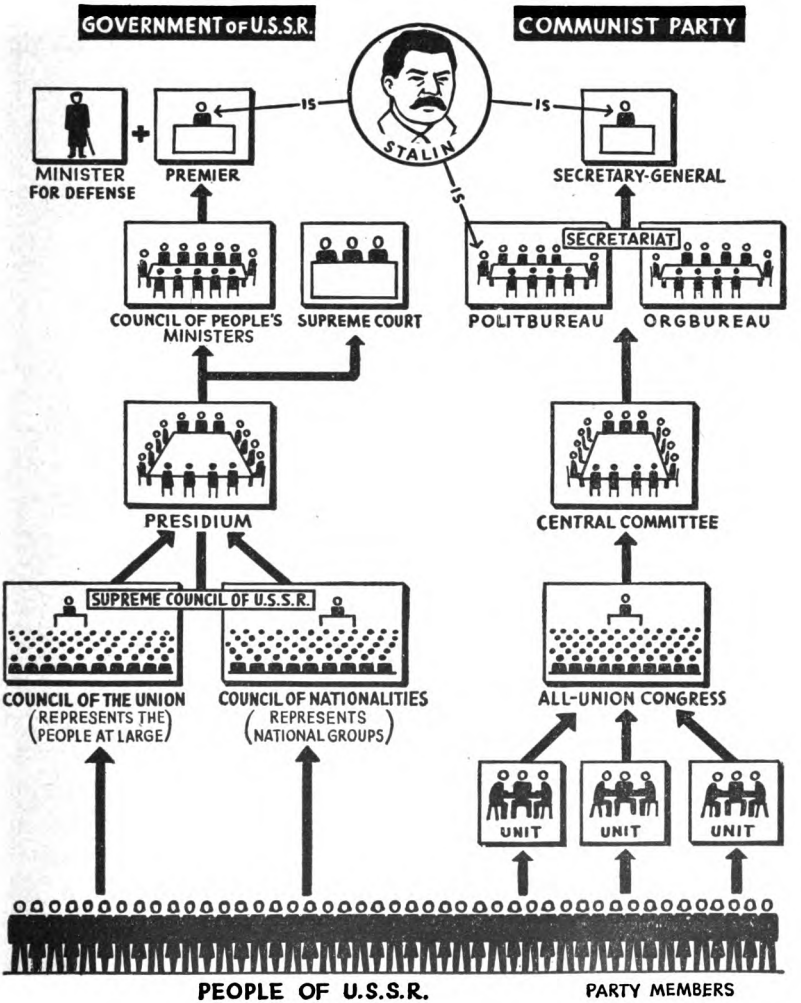

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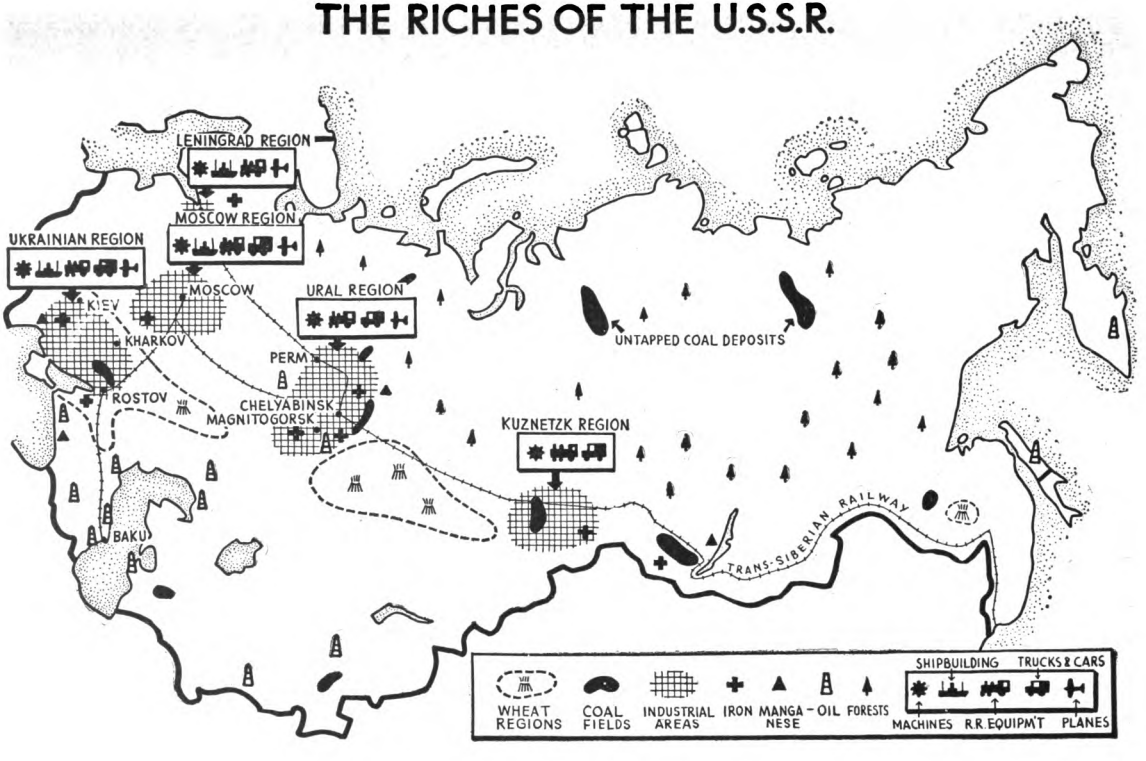

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