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An Ideological Blunder:

Chinese Lessons Learned from the Soviet Collapse

Abstract. The collapse of Soviet Union has offered, thus far, several significant lessons to two generations of Chinese leaders. For the last 20 years, the political and ideological development of China has been based on the mitigation of risks assessed to be instrumental in the failure of the USSR. The author examines three primary Soviet 'blunders' that were identified by Chinese analysts: 1) acceptance of the 'peaceful cohabitation of systems,' which was essentially a disguise for cracking under the pressure of international imperialism; 2) flaws in the theory and practice of socialism, which were not identified and discarded in a timely manner by Soviet ideologists; 3) revisionism, expressed through the idea of 'human democratic socialism,' as proposed by Mikhail Gorbachov. Based on analysis of Chinese ideologists, the author argues that contemporary Chinese Marxism has taken the Soviet lessons to heart in the implementation of its own program; namely, the maintenance of Marxism as the foundation of social science, and its incorporation into state policies to safeguard economic success and social stability, and to enforce the leading role of the Communist Party of China.

Keywords: China, collapse of the Soviet Union, politics, ideology, Communist Party, reforms.

The whole text of this article is written in Russian.