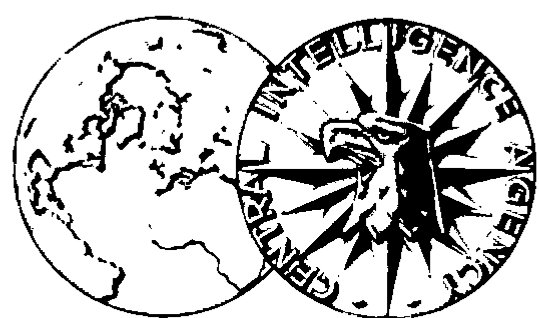


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TWO NEW MAPS OF THE U.S.S.R.



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TWO NEW MAPS OF THE USSR

- A. Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik, Politiko-administrativnaya Karta. (Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, Political Administrative Map), 1:4,000,000. Compiled in 1945, corrected in 1947 and authorized for publication 6 October 1947.
- B. Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik. (Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics), 1:4,000,000. Compiled in 1945. Authorized for publication 6 January 1947 and 7 March 1947.

Both are published by (Kartograficheskaya Chast', Voenno-topograficheskogo Upravleniya General'nogo Shtaba Vooruzhennykh Sil SSSR).

1. General Significance.

These two new Soviet maps, each covering the entire USSR in four sheets and providing wall maps 5 feet 4 inches by 7 feet 9 inches when mounted, have recently been obtained by the US Government. They are the most recent Soviet maps of the entire country at this scale available in the United States and the first postwar publications of the military cartographic agency received in this country. Map A, the later of the two, is the latest medium-scale map source for political-administrative boundaries and centers, for place names, for transportation, and for such physical features as drainage, coast line and head water limits of river navigation. It is a particularly valuable source for the latest available map data on drainage, transportation, political boundaries in Siberia and Soviet Central Asia. Map A is the first known political administrative map published by the military. Heretofore the Glavnoye Upravleniye Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSR - abbreviated as GUGK -- (Principle Administration of Geodesy and Cartography under the Council of Ministers, USSR), founded in 1938, has published all the political administrative maps of the Soviet Union. Map A is superior in every way to the standard 1:5,000,000 political administrative map published by GUGK (title given above).

The two maps present the best in Soviet cartography in respect to design, format, and printing. The symbols are clear and the colors

Note: This report was submitted on 1 July to the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force for information, at which time comments were solicited.

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are harmonious and distinctive. A Lambert-Gauss conformal conic projection is used which is well suited for portraying such broad continental areas as the USSR. Although it is not an equal area projection, the distortion is at a minimum making the maps satisfactory for showing areal distributions. While the basic information on both maps is nearly identical, Map A is a later map showing later international frontiers, political-administrative boundaries, and railroad data. Map B shows certain additional physical features. A sample section of Map B accompanies this report.

Either map is recommended as a base for the compilation and construction of base maps for which the final scale will be 1:4,000,000 or smaller. Map A is preferred when more recent boundaries and railroads are required. Map B, however, offers additional physical features, particularly in Soviet Central Asia where the deserts are classified and saline water bodies are differentiated. Both maps contain an adequate number of place names for general purposes. The drainage pattern includes the principal tributaries. Supplementary detail may be taken from the 1:2,500,000 map and the Great Soviet Atlas of the World, Vol. II.

2. Reliability.

It is difficult to evaluate the reliability of Maps A and B. It has been known for some time that Soviet policy has been to omit certain information from Soviet maps. Undoubtedly some roads and railroads have been left off these maps. A recent German PW report goes further and claims that Soviet maps have been falsified in the past. It has not been possible to determine as yet whether these maps show deliberately misleading information. Until further study uncovers any such falsification, what is shown is presumed to be correct.

3. Other Comparable Soviet Maps.

Other maps available at similar scales and of similar content are: Karta SSSR (Map of the USSR), 1:2,500,000, 1937-1939; Politiko-Administrativnaya Karta SSSR (Political-Administrative Map of the USSR), 1:5,000,000 ca. 1946; and Gipsometriceskaya Karta SSSR (Hypsometric Map of the USSR), 1:5,000,000, 1940. All were issued by GUGK or its predecessor.

4. Political-Administrative Information.

Political-administrative divisions shown include union republics, autonomous republics, krays, oblasts in krays, autonomous oblasts, and administrative and national okrugs. Boundary symbols (and color tints on Map A) designate the different units. The center of each unit is shown by symbol. Boundaries of the leaseholds of Port Arthur and Porkalla-Udd are also shown. Map A was corrected in 1947 and most of the political-administrative changes up to October 1947 have been incorporated. Changes in the political-administrative structure occur frequently. Since the map was published the Oyrot-Tura Avtonomnaya

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Oblast' was renamed the 'Gorno-Altayskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast' and its administrative center Oyrot-Tura was renamed Gornyy Altaysk. The map does not agree with the 1947 Soviet handbook of political-administrative divisions¹ in the correct administrative designation of the new center of the Sakhalinsk Oblast'. According to an order of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet date 2 January 1947 the newly formed Sakhalin Oblast' was detached from the Khabarovsk Kray and attached directly to the RSFSR. The map incorrectly shows the administrative center of the new oblast' Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Japanese: Toyohara) as the oblast; center of an oblast' attached to a kray.

Map B is an earlier map and does not incorporate later international and political administrative boundaries which appear on Map A. Boundary differences between Maps A and B are given in Appendix I.

Some settlements are classified according to population. Other settlements include: Other settlements of an urban type; workers settlements; other settled points; huts; winter and summer quarters; and nomadic quarters. A new category of cities is added which has not appeared before; large cities of strategic or economic importance are identified by a distinctive symbol. In sparsely populated areas the place names are printed in larger type than elsewhere. On the whole, there are more place names than on the 1:5,000,000 maps.

5. Information on Physical Features.

The maps provide valuable physical information, incorporating what appear to be later survey data on coastline and drainage. While the density of the drainage pattern is generally not as great as on the 1:2,500,000 map or the 1:5,000,000 physical map, some regions have additional detail such as the lakes in the Kolyma Lowland of Eastern Siberia. Further, what is shown appears to be more recent and more correct. Most stream courses are delineated in greater detail than on other Soviet maps of similar scale. A distinction is made between surveyed and approximate drainage and coastlines. The maps thus supplement and supersede the 1:2,500,000 map which shows a similar distinction, and are more trustworthy than the 1:5,000,000 physical map which does not make this distinction. Spot heights are similarly assumed to be based on later information. On the whole, more spot heights are shown than on the 1:5,000,000 physical map. A comparison with the 1:2,500,000 map reveals considerable regional variation in the number of spot heights given. The new maps are recommended as primary sources with the other maps as secondary, supplementary sources for the compilation of spot heights. Although isobaths are not shown, the elevation above sea level of low-water levels of the larger or important lakes and rivers are given in meters.

1. SSSR, Administrativno-Territorial'noye Deleniye Soyuznykh Respublik (USSR, Administrative-Territorial Divisions of the Union Republics) na 1 Yavarya 1947 (for 1 January 1947) Moscow, 1947, p. 483.

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In desert areas the maps show more wells than the 1:5,000,000 and fewer than the 1:2,500,000 map. The dry river courses that appear on the 1:2,500,000 map are not shown, although intermittent streams and lakes are. A generalized distribution of mountain glaciers and permanent snows is shown which does not appear on earlier maps. A greater number of rapids and waterfalls are located than on other medium-scale maps although no distinction is made between rapids and waterfalls as is done on the 1:5,000,000 physical map. The limit of navigation is shown on most streams. On Map A the portrayal of water bodies is confusing since they are given in three ways; some in a semi-transparent blue tint, others in a light linear pattern, and still others in a cross-hatched pattern. The legend does not identify any of the patterns. A comparison with other maps proves that these differences have no meaning. Although the legend on Map B does not identify the saline water bodies, they are differentiated on the map. Blue-colored water bodies contain fresh-water while lavender-colored bodies are saline. Other physical features shown are the generalized distribution of swamps and shoals. Unlike the older maps, Maps A and B do not show escarpments. Generalized mountain features shown by shading appear only on Map A. Both maps give names of the more important upland features, desert features and a few lowland features. Map B carries additional features: Salt marshes; saline waters; and four types of arid desert features -- flat sands, knobby sands, longitudinal dunes, barchanes (crescent dunes), and dunes. These new maps are recommended as the principal medium-scale sources of the indicated physical data. The older 1:5,000,000 maps provide supplementary data.

6. Information on Transportation.

The maps show valuable transportation data. Not only is the information recent but the transportation classifications are detailed, particularly in respect to roads. Roads are classified as: Super-highways in use and in construction; highways in operation and in construction and principal auto roads in China, Mongolia, and Korea; improved dirt roads; dirt paths and caravan trails; and winter trails. These are the only maps covering the entire country that distinguish between improved and unimproved dirt roads - an important distinction in the Soviet Union. In 1937 about 93 percent of the Soviet roads were dirt roads; improved dirt roads amounted to about 24 percent. An additional feature is the presentation of roads that paralleled railroads. These were not shown on the 1:5,000,000 series and were less completely shown on the 1:2,500,000 map.

Railroads are shown as multitrack, single track, narrow-gauge, and in construction. These are the first Soviet maps showing the route of the strategic Komsomol'sk-Sovetskaya Gavan' line, the take-off point of the Baykal-Amur (BAM), and the extension of the Pechora-Vorkuta line to Khal'mer-yu. The line from Alapayevsk to Sos'va shown as in construction on Map B is shown as completed on Map A.

Canals are shown but no distinction is made between irrigation canals and navigation canals; the Fergana irrigation canal is shown with

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the same symbol as the Stalin White Sea - Baltic ship canal.

Naval bases, fortified points, fuel stations, and ferries are given only outside the USSR. Within the USSR principal maritime ports are indicated and polar stations are classified as a part of the transportation pattern -- a new departure in Soviet map making. An important station Nordvik, is located correctly for the first time.

7. Availability.

Eight copies of each of these maps have been received by the US Government. As soon as facilities will permit, additional copies of Map B will be reproduced incorporating desirable revisions based on more recent information obtained from Map A, and will be distributed to the recipients of this report.

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APPENDIX I

Boundary Differences Between Maps A and B

1. International Boundaries.

a. Map A shows the latest Russo-Finnish boundary change just southwest of its junction with the Norwegian frontier. The boundary shown on Map A, however, does not agree with a recent Finnish sketch drawn on a Finnish map 1:1,000,000. The Finnish sketch shows the boundary as drawn northwest of the Paatsjoki River whereas Map A shows it running along the river.

b. On Map A the Czech-Soviet boundary near Uzhgorod (Uzhorod) is a little closer to the city on Map A than on Map B, possibly indicating a minute modification in favor of Czechoslovakia.

2. Political-Administrative Boundaries.

a. Map A shows the new boundary between the Oblasts of Ryazan' and Moscow. Ryazan' gains a little territory at the expense of Moscow.

b. The Aldan Okrug of the Yakutsk ASSR has been abolished on Map A. The former Okrug was created 8 April 1939. It measured 104,683 sq. miles.

c. A number of boundary changes in Soviet Central Asia are incorporated on Map A:

(1). A minor shift in a Union Republic boundary between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Kazakh SSR occurred at approximately 50°30'N., and 61°30'E.

(2). A greater change occurred between the Kazakh SSR, and the Uzbek SSR northeast of Bukhara.

(3). The boundary changed in the Union Republic between the Uzbek SSR and Takzhik SSR northwest of Leninabad; there is another change west of Stalinabad.

(4). A similar change is found between the Kirgiz SSR and Takzhik SSR southeast of Leninabad.

(5). Another boundary change has been made between the Kazakh SSR and the Kirgiz SSR northeast of Przheval'sk.

(6). In the Turkmen SSR the Krasnovodsk and Kerki Oblast's are shown as abolished.

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(7). In the Tadzhik SSR the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast' is shown as divided between Stalinabad and Kulyab Oblast's. The boundary is changed between the Garm and Stalinabad Oblast's.

(8). In the Kazakh SSR the boundary is changed between the Aktyubinsk and Kzyl-Orda Oblast's.

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