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The Soviet Union has what is probably the largest and most prolific research center devoted exclusively to Latin America in the world. The institute has about 100 full time researchers who have produced 233 books and many other publications since the Institute was founded in 1961.

The article describes the work of the Institute and gives biographic data on leading figures of the Institute. The Institute's major function is research, it performs no teaching at the undergraduate level and now has about 18 graduate students in residence.

The Institute's journal, Latinskaia Amerika, is one of the most innovative and lively of Soviet academic journals. Next year it is scheduled to be published once a month in Spanish, as well as in Russian, and could prove to be immensely influential in Latin America, as Soviet publications go.

The other relevant institutes in the social sciences and humanities have several Latinamericanists on their staffs. Many of these are critical of the Institute of Latin America for its conservative and rigid approach to the field. Influential Latinamericanists outside the Institute include the head of the Latin American section of the Party Secretariat, the head of the main Soviet foreign propaganda agency, Novosti, the Director of the Institute of Linguistics, and several leading publicists.

The Institute of Latin America works closely with Latinamericanists in most of the East European countries, particularly in Poland and East Germany.

It has superficial professional and social ties with Latin American, Western European, and U.S. scholars and intellectuals.

The most glaring handicap of Soviet Latinamericanists is their lack of field experience in Latin America, except Cuba. Very few senior scholars have had as much as one year field work in the area and graduate students rarely have a chance to visit the area, even for two or three weeks.

The intellectual and research climate in this field is not exciting, but Soviet scholars are diligent and competent, considering their isolation from the rest of the world. Their work is especially useful in the study of Soviet Latin American relations and the Communist parties, and for reference purposes through country and topical studies. Their best chance of catching up and possibly overtaking western scholarship is on subjects distant from politics and policy.

Soviet Latinamericanists have played a constructive and illuminating role, within Soviet norms, by informing public opinion, by training academic and government specialists, and by providing background and reference materials essential to policy making. Their impact on policy day to day, however, appears minimal.
The Soviet Latinamericanists

By Cole Blasier
University of Pittsburgh

The Soviet Union has established what has become the largest and probably the most prolific research center devoted exclusively to Latin America in the world. Soviet progress has been especially dramatic because the USSR was so weak in this field in 1961 when the Institute of Latin America was established in Moscow.

The Institute has one hundred full time researchers and supports the activities of many other Latinamericanists there and in other Soviet cities. Soviet Latinamericanists have also maintained ties with new Latinamericanist groups in Eastern Europe, particularly in East Germany and Poland.

Soviet ambitions in Latin American studies have been apparent now for nearly a decade but the West knows little about progress toward achieving them. Soviet work has failed to attract much attention here partly because few western Latinamericanists know Russian and they have been understandably skeptical about access to Soviet scholars and sources. My training as a Soviet specialist at the Russian Institute, Columbia University, and nine years experience as a career foreign service officer working in and observing Central and Eastern Europe, including the USSR, caused me to share this skepticism. It was not until 1975 that I became aware that research in Moscow might be useful with respect to my own work in contemporary international relations.

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In that year, as I was preparing for a two month exchange visit with the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, the subject of research in the USSR came up quite by accident in a conversation with Allen Kassof, the Director of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). Kassof told me that conditions had changed and that serious research in the USSR on contemporary problems, though still difficult, was possible. As a result, I paid a brief visit to Moscow in the summer of 1975 which revived the fascination Russia has always held for me but provided little evidence to support Kassof’s view. However, my acquaintance with leaders of the Institute of Latin America in Moscow was expanded at that time, and we arranged later to have the Institute send representatives to the national meetings of the Latin American Studies Association in Atlanta in 1976 and Houston in 1977.

Meanwhile, I applied for and was awarded an IREX grant for senior scholars under an agreement between the American Council of Learned Societies and the USSR Academy of Sciences. The grant provided for four months research in Moscow, the first such grant for work at the Institute of Latin America. As late as the Christmas holidays 1978, when I took off for Moscow, I feared that my access to Soviet sources might be denied. My experience in the USSR was a pleasant surprise. I met many Soviet scholars and officials and gained access to Soviet collections of books, articles, and other published works on Latin America, thereby gaining a unique perspective on one group in Soviet society about whom little is known in the West.

The Institute of Latin America

The Cuban Revolution gave the decisive impetus to the formal establishment of Latin American Studies in the Soviet Union, just as it did in the expansion of such studies in the United States. Prior to the Cuban Revolution there were some
Soviet Latin Americanists scattered about the country, most particularly at the
Institute of Universal History and the Institute of World Economy and International
Relations in Moscow. When Anastas Mikoyan, the first high Soviet official to visit
Cuba, returned home from his trip to the Americas in 1960, he recommended the
foundation of an Institute for the study of Latin America. In the spring of 1961
the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences authorized the establishment of the Insti-
tute of Latin America as part of its Social Science Department. Sergei Sergeevich
Mikhailov transferred from the Soviet Foreign Service to become its first director.
After four years at the Institute he was appointed Ambassador to Brazil.

Mikhailov was succeeded by the current Director, Viktor Vatslavovich Vol'skii,
then chairman of the Department of Geography of Moscow State University. A doctor
of economic sciences, he is best known as a scholar for his book, Latin America, Oil
and Independence. Vol'skii was made a Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest Soviet
military honor, for heroism in the Moldavian front during World War II. He was
one of six survivors of two batteries of one hundred Soviet artillerymen who held
off a German tank attack. As the Institute's Director, Volskii has displayed a jov-
ial and paternalistic style of leadership.

The Institute of Latin America, referred to here as the Institute, is located
on Bolshaia Ordynka Street, a main artery leading to Red Square. It is just a
fifteen minute walk to the Kremlin, and two subway stations are conveniently nearby.
The offices are located in a yellow and white nineteenth century Greek Revival Man-
sion, once the home of a rich merchant. Cars and pedestrians enter the courtyard
through wrought iron gates. Several older women, who request credentials from
strangers, are usually in attendance inside the main entrance. The foyer is
decorated with idealized figures of American Indians, other Latin Americans, and
what appears to be their oppressors, including the U.S. Army.
The Grand Hall of the mansion serves as the main meeting room of the Institute. Its crimson walls contrast sharply with its white interior Greek columns. A huge pure white bust of Lenin is displayed at one end of the room under a banner: "Glory to the Great October [Revolution]." Pictures of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Brezhnev, and Kosygin adorn the walls. The Hall, which overlooks what was once the rear garden, is back to back with the Director's office, an impressive, old fashioned room overlooking the front court.

The Library of the Institute, which has about 54,000 books and journals, is located in one wing along the front court. In an anteroom catalogues in the Russian and Latin alphabets contain subject as well as author and title cards. The Reading Room proper houses a collection of reference works and most relevant Soviet and foreign periodicals. The collection on Soviet relations with Latin America (my research topic) and on the Communist parties for the period after 1961, when the Institute was founded, is the best I have used anywhere. Working conditions in the Reading Room are comfortable with light coming from large windows overlooking the court. The Librarians are alert, attentive, and helpful. Although attached to the Institute of Latin America, the Library is actually a branch of the Institute of Scientific Information in the Social Sciences (INION).

Like the Director, department and several sector heads have private offices. Staff researchers are usually grouped together, one sector to a room, with perhaps as many as eight desks crowded into small space. Such crowding is not as serious as it may seem because researchers do much of their work at home or in Moscow's libraries. More office space will become available in the next few years when the Institute takes over an adjoining building.

Most of the Institute's staff of one hundred full time researchers have advanced degrees in historical or economic sciences. The Candidat degree is roughly equivalent to the American Ph.D., the doctor's degree representing a
higher level of achievement. Nine have doctor's degrees, five in historical sciences, four in economic sciences. About 70 of the remainder have Candidat degrees. Researchers who work on political, international relations, or social topics usually have degrees in historical sciences. The staff of the Institute, whose academic work is drawn up as a part of the Five Year Plans, are divided among three departments: country studies and international relations; socio-political problems; and economics.

Anatolii Nikolayevich Glinkin, the Deputy Director of the Institute, is responsible for country studies and international relations. A doctor of historical sciences, Glinkin wrote his candidate's and doctor's dissertations on U.S. imperialist expansion in Brazil (1945-1952) and on Brazilian history (1939-1961). He has published on other themes, such as Latin America and UNESCO, in whose Paris office he worked for four years. Glinkin was an exchange scholar at Columbia University for four months several years ago. The country sectors include Cuba under the direction of A.D. Bekaevich, an economist. This group has probably published more scholarly work on Cuba than any other group in the USSR. Other sectors work on the Andean countries, the La Plata Basin and Brazil, and Meso-America. Much of the Institute's ethnographic work is under the direction of Iu. A. Zubritskii, a Quechua specialist, and leader of the Andean sector. Multidisciplinary surveys have been published on most of the leading Latin American countries. Soviet relations with Latin America also are in this department. A. I. Sizonenko is the responsible specialist and one of the Institute's most prolific scholars.

Anatolii Fedorovich Shulgovskii heads the department responsible for research on socio-political questions. A doctor of historical sciences, he is another prolific writer specializing in Marxist-Leninist theory as it relates to Latin America.
Sectors in his department deal with general social problems, the communist and worker movements, ideology, and culture. This department's books have been about such subjects as the revolutionary process in Latin America, national liberation movements, the ruling classes, agrarian questions, the role of the army, political parties, and the Church.

Lev Levovich Klochkovskii, a doctor in economic sciences, heads up the Institute's economic work. At one time he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Trade specializing on Asia. His department has sectors dealing with general economic relations, Soviet-Latin American economic relations, territorial and regional problems, and geography. Among the department's recent projects is a study of Comecon economic relations with Latin America to which Latinamericanists from various Comecon countries contributed.

Scholars associated with the Institute published 233 books from 1961, when the Institute was founded, through 1978, plus countless articles, reports, conference papers, and other publications. Many of the most important and authoritative books appear under the imprint of the publisher of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Nauka. Other more popular works are published by Politizdat and Mysl'. The Institute itself publishes, usually in inexpensive and limited editions, short specialized studies, reports, conference papers, etc., useful for foreign scholars. These are sold from a small office in the wing directly across the court from the Library.

The work of the Institute staff receives its widest and most frequent diffusion in the Institute's Journal, Latinskaia Amerika. The offices of the Journal used to be located at the Institute; now they have moved to more comfortable and freshly decorated quarters off Kropotkinskaia Street.
**Latinskaia Amerika** is attached to the Institute and depends heavily on Institute scholars to fill its pages, but the Journal is expected to reflect the work of, and be responsible to, a larger scholarly community than that of the Institute. The Institute belong to the Economics Section of the Social Science Department of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. With other scholarly journals, the Journal, reports through the Academy's publications' hierarchy, thereby gaining latitude vis-à-vis the Institute. By Soviet standards the leaders of the Institute tend to hold predominantly orthodox and conservative views. Opposing opinion within the Institute, especially among junior staff, tends to be muted. Some of the more innovative and unconventional Latinamericanists work outside the Institute. *Latinskaia Amerika* provides a forum for the spectrum of scholarship approved by Soviet authorities.

Founded in 1969, the Journal is livelier, more colorful, and more innovative than most other Soviet scholarly journals, which tend to be drab. Emphasis is on contemporary economic and socio-political topics but there are also articles on historical and cultural themes. The Journal reproduces Latin American art in full color and frequently publishes photographs of authors. Round table discussions among Soviet Latinamericanists are a standard feature. I had the unique opportunity to contribute several pages of commentary to one such round table on President Carter's Latin American policy which was carried in Number 4, 1979. Interviews with leading Latin American political and intellectual leaders, most particularly from the Communist Parties and the labor movement, are also frequent features. The editor of the Journal is Sergo Anastasovich Mikoyan.

*Latinskaia Amerika* is published six times a year in Russian with a circulation of about 8,000 copies. America Latina, the Spanish edition, appears four times a year with a circulation of about 15,000 copies. Next year there are plans to publish Russian and Spanish editions monthly. Soviet Latinamericanists publish articles in virtually all the other relevant journals dealing with history, economics, international relations, U.S. affairs, etc.
The Institute has no "undergraduate" students so that the training of Soviet Latinamericanists at the undergraduate level takes place at Soviet Universities. Moscow State and Leningrad State are the main feeder institutions but other Universities participate too.

Although the Institute's primary mission is research, it does train in historical and economic sciences for the Candidate and Doctor's degrees. Last year the Institute had 18 graduate students, aspiranti, for the Candidate degree, the majority from Moscow State University. The Award of advanced degrees is supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education and a Committee of the Council of Ministers.

Aspiranti normally train at the Institute for three years under renewable annual stipends of a 100 rubles a month from the Ministry of Higher Education. Their principal and continuing commitment for this period is their dissertation. Soviet aspiranti, who usually have completed five years of University preparation, are not required, as are most graduate students in the U.S., to earn two years of credit in course work. Instead, they must pass a series of qualifying oral examinations in specified fields. One is in foreign languages. Most prepare in Spanish, some in English, and a very few in Portuguese, often in addition to Spanish. Another qualifying examination is in Marxist philosophy, a requirement common in study for all advanced degrees. Finally, aspiranti must pass an oral examination on their special field, such as the history of the international relations of Latin America. While they could take courses at other Universities or Institutes in preparation for that and other examinations, the Institute does not offer formal "courses" itself. Instead, members of the staff offer seminars, attended by clusters of graduate students, on themes directly related to such special fields. One or more such seminars are often offered in a given week.
Most of the time of the aspiranti is spent doing research for and writing their dissertations, which are defended formally in oral examinations. There is also an unwritten rule that aspiranti publish the equivalent of about three articles before the award of the degree, which articles are apt to be drawn from the dissertation. Abstracts are published individually and widely distributed; the dissertations themselves are ordinarily available to be read at the home institution. The Institute awards an increasing number of advanced degrees in historical and economic sciences with Latin American specialization, but other Institutes and institutions of higher education have awarded and continue to award such degrees.

Aspiranti are assigned to advisors in the Institute whose interests correspond to the students' dissertation topics. The aspiranti are not responsible for helping complete the Institute's obligations under the Five Year Plan, but they do participate in the regular activities of their particular sector. They attend sector meetings, seminars, contribute to discussion, and the staff make use of their findings. From time to time the Institute publishes collections of students' work on particular themes. Up to now many of the aspiranti have remained at the Institute as full-time researchers (sotrudniki) after completing their three year training period.

The Doctor's degree is not ordinarily achieved until mid-career, late thirties or older. Successful candidates for this degree have at least the equivalent of one book beyond the Candidate's degree; the criteria relate, not surprisingly, more to the quality of the scholar's work and his professional stature.

Other Soviet Latinamericanists

The Institute of Latin America has the largest concentration of Soviet Latinamericanists, but many other Institutes also have specialists on the area on their staffs. Many of the first Soviet Latinamericanists were on the staff of the Institute of Universal History in Moscow which still has one of the largest contingents
outside the Institute of Latin America. There are about ten specialists there under the leadership of N. N. Lavrov. The group confines itself mainly to the pre-1945 period.

The most influential institute in contemporary international relations is the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, from which many of the original staff of the Latinamerican Institute came. Latinamericans there include K. L. Naidanik and I. N. Zorina. The Institute of the International Workers' Movement, which deals with labor and political parties, has Latinamericanists on its staff, including Boris Iosifovich Koval' and I. V. Danilevich, daughter of the pioneering Soviet Latinamericans M. V. Danilevich. Its yearbook frequently carries chapters on Latin America.

Two institutes which have only recently begun to build up their expertise on Latin America are the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System and the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada. The former is concerned with studying the Comecon countries and their relations with one another. Although it has several trained Latin Americanists and publishes works on Cuba, the main center of Cuba studies is still the Institute of Latin America. The Institute of the U.S.A. has added young Latinamericanists to its staff to interpret U.S. policy towards the region. Other Soviet institutions with several Latinamerican specialists are the Institutes for geography, ethnology, literature and the arts.

The Institute of Latin America collaborates with many Soviet Universities in the development of Latin American studies, and most particularly with Moscow State University and Leningrad State University. At Moscow State there is a student association of aspiring Latinamericanists who meet regularly for lectures, symposia, and cultural events.

The Universities, and particularly those outside Moscow, tend to offer more courses in literature, history, geography, and anthropology than in economics and
politics, which depend more on access to current sources. Most Soviet training in economics is technical, without an area focus. Training in government and politics often has a legal, or administrative orientation, or is part of Marxist-Leninist indoctrination. As a result, undergraduate students often may never take introductory courses of broad scope on Latin American politics or economics of the sort now common in the United States and the United Kingdom. Part of the explanation also lies in the Soviet and European organization and philosophy of higher education as mainly professional in character. Patrice Lumumba University has over a thousand Latin American students, almost all in programs of professional study. Cities in other republics with nascent programs in Latin American studies include Minsk, Kishinev, and Kiev. Latin American specialists from other Soviet cities come to Moscow for brief periods of research.

Several of the most influential Soviet Latinamericanists are not employed directly by the Institute of Latin America. No doubt the most politically powerful is Mikhail Fedorovich Kudachkin, the chief of the Latin American section of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Kudachkin heads a staff of about thirty professionals concerned mainly with Soviet party's relations with the Communist Parties of Latin America and general oversight of Soviet policies toward the area. Kudachkin, who appears to have minimal contact with representatives of the capitalist West in Moscow, recently edited an authoritative, discursive study of the contemporary history, organization, and policies of the Latin American Communist Parties.

K. A. Khachaturov, who has published extensively on U.S. propaganda operations in Latin America, heads the Soviet Press Agency, Novosti, the major agency for foreign propaganda. Iosif R. Grigulevich of the Institute of Ethnography was recently elected as a Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, one of the few Latinamericanists ever to be so honored. Great prestige is attached to
such election as well as extra compensation, 500 rubles (U.S. $1.50 at the official rate) a month for full Members and 300 rubles for Corresponding members. Since the vast majority of the members of the Academy are from the Natural Sciences and the remaining seats for the social sciences and humanities are few, the prospects for additional memberships for Latinamericanists are not promising. Grigulevich has written on indigenous populations in Latin America and has published popular biographies of many Latin American heroes from Bolivar to Che Guevara under his pen name, I. R. Lavretskii. He is also the ranking Latinamericanist on the Board of editors of the Academy's Spanish language Journal, Ciencias Sociales. Another of the Academy's Corresponding Members is Georgii Vladimirovich Stepanov, Director of the Institute of Linguistics and author of a book about the Spanish language in Latin America.

Foreign Ties

The Institute of Latin America has also been active in organizing conferences and research projects with Latinamericanists from other socialist countries. Formal gatherings of Latinamericanists from socialist countries usually take place at least once a year. Among the principal collaborators are the Latin American section of the Wilhelm Pieck University, Rostock, the German Democratic Republic; the Latin American section of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw; and the Institute of World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest. The Czechs often participate, and occasionally the Rumanians. Bulgaria has been the least active of the European socialist countries. The Institute of Latin America has developed close ties with Cuban specialists through the Cuban Academy of Sciences. The European socialist countries emphasize their particular strengths: the Poles, history and anthropology; the East Germans, revolutionary movements and literature; the Hungarians, economics. The Comecon Latinamericanists recently published a book on their economic relations with Latin America mentioned above, and a book on their political relations is to be published in 1979.
The Institute also maintains ties with many Latinamericans. Leaders of Latin American communist parties routinely visit the Institute during their periodic stays in Moscow and give lectures to the staff. I heard, for example, a lecture by Gilberto Viera, the Secretary of the Colombian Communist Party, whose speaking style was more professorial than political. Leading Latinamerican intellectuals and artists also visit the Institute and contribute articles or give interviews to the Journal, Latinskaia Amerika. Students from Latin America frequently work at the Library; there were no Latin American scholars (other than Cubans and students) in residence at the Institute during my stay. Latinamericanists from western countries occasionally come to the Institute but these visits have a largely formal and social character.

Contacts between U.S. and Soviet Latinamericanists have not been extensive. Since 1968 several Latinamericanists from each country, usually academic administrators, have made visits of two or three weeks to the other's country. Such visits have been devoted primarily to getting acquainted, establishing professional ties, and participating in conferences, such as the national meetings of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) or international congresses of historians or geographers. Few scholars have engaged in field research in the other's country. Russell H. Bartley, a historian from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the first U.S. Latinamericanist to conduct field work in the USSR, was in Moscow during the academic year 1967-68. My four months of research in early 1979 was the first such assignment of a U.S. scholar to the Institute of Latin America. The only Soviet Latinamericanists to complete research assignments in this country to my knowledge are A. N. Glivkin and E. E. Litavrina. As far as I know, no U.S. nor Soviet students in Latin American studies have completed a term or more of graduate work in the country of the other.
The Institute's exchanges of persons and publications are managed by a Department for International Liaison. Its head is A. D. Maevskii, a former Soviet foreign service official who served in Latin America; his deputy is A. N. Borovkov, whose dissertation for the candidate's degree dealt with Bolivia's contemporary foreign relations.

The Department receives foreign visitors, helps selected visitors with personal travel, interviews and other arrangements that do not fall within the scope of the Soviet tourist Agency, Intourist. Such matters in the Soviet Union are far more complicated and time consuming than in the United States, or so they seem to foreign visitors. The rules and procedures tend to be detailed and inflexible, causing a variety of complications not experienced in the West. They impose a heavy burden on Maevskii's Department. The Department ordinarily does its best to satisfy the visitor within the existing norms. Its services are often welcome and sometimes indispensable. Obviously, the relationship helps insure close supervision and control over the visitors.

One of the most sensitive aspects of foreign ties are interviews between foreign visitors and Soviet scholars and officials. The latter ordinarily make available data which is generally understood to be suitable for release, and give interpretations of developments that are in accord with party and government policies. Soviet scholars and officials do not need to be told individually what they are; they have been schooled in such judgments all their lives. Well-informed foreigners soon learn the rules too, and can predict Soviet responses. Most Soviet scholars and officials but significantly not all, follow those rules. Established controls over foreigners' appointments and interview situations reinforce existing Soviet procedures governing the transmission of information and opinion.

Some foreigners hastily conclude that Soviet restraint applies only to western visitors. In fact, Soviet specialists are believed to be only somewhat less
restrained with visitors from other socialist countries. And even with respect to their own Soviet colleagues, especially in public situations, Soviet specialists are more cautious in expressing themselves than most of their counterparts in the West.

One Soviet friend counseled me that my interviews would not be fully satisfying because of the "delicate" nature of the relations between our two governments. As he predicted, the interviews were often disappointing compared to what one would expect in the West, but only partially because of our "delicate" relations. If the subject of my interviews had been military or nuclear matters, he would have surely been right. But "national security" concerns, strictly interpreted, do not apply very much to general political and economic matters. Both governments have masses of data on each other's societies and sophisticated understandings of the other's capacities, intentions, and interests. The problem for the Soviets is not so much military security vis-à-vis the other power, as the Party and Government determination to maintain tight control over their own bureaucracies, public opinion, and the transmission of information and ideas. In that sense, such controls are more a matter of domestic than foreign policy.

The Soviet Latinamericanists' ties with their counterparts abroad are limited. Not surprisingly, their contacts with scholars from the socialist countries is most frequent but even these are probably more reserved and formal than ties between scholars in the West. Soviet acquaintance with scholars in the West is limited mainly to that of a few senior men who have been authorized to travel abroad in the past. Soviet Latinamericanists are hungry for books and contacts with the West but many seem reluctant to initiate contact or to press on with contacts once made. Senior staff of the Institute are frequently invited to Latin American Embassies for national days and the like. Although Latin American diplomats usually are
warmly welcomed at the Institute, personal contacts are rather formal and limited. This pattern is not unusual in the Soviet context, corresponding to that of Soviet contacts with foreign embassies generally. There may be slightly more personal contact with the large staff of the Cuban Embassy.

Trips to Latin America, and even more to Western Europe and the United States, are dreams of many Soviet researchers. Such trips last usually from two to four weeks so the objectives are as much personal as professional, serving as an exhilarating break with the daily routine.

Field Work

A glaring handicap of Soviet scholarship related to Latin America is the insufficient opportunity researchers have for field experience in the area, outside of Cuba. Some, however, have done remarkably well without it.

Graduate students rarely have an opportunity to visit the area before the completion of their dissertations much less engage in sustained field research. The lucky younger researchers who have shown exceptional scholarly promise or tactical cleverness, are able to arrange short trips as tourists, interpreters, delegates, and the like. Few senior men have been able to complete field investigations of an academic year or more. The Institute's academic administrators make frequent trips to the area, but these are usually limited to a few weeks and are largely of an administrative character. Cuba constitutes a happy exception in that there are institutional opportunities for field experience at almost all levels. Mexico and Peru are the two countries besides Cuba to which trips are easiest to arrange. When prospects for visits to the area come up in conversation with some researchers, they exhibit a depressing pessimism and resignation, a personal version of "geographic fatalism".

Shortage of hard currency is frequently and correctly cited as a reason more field work does not take place. The Soviet authorities could allocate the necessary
foreign exchange but do not assign the area a high priority. The fact that the
Soviet Airlines, Aeroflot, which has weekly service to Mexico City and Lima, and
daily service to Havana, can provide space payable in rubles greatly facilitates
travel. Such flights are vital to the maintenance and expansion of Soviet scholarly
relations with the area.

Foreign exchange to cover expenses in Latin American countries has to be
raised, however, even if air transportation is payable in rubles. Most Soviet
scholars are dependent on host country institutions to pick up these expenses, and
in exchange for which they can usually arrange to cover reciprocal expenses in the
USSR. But scholars in Latin America have difficulty raising locally funds for
visitors from Europe and the United States, much less the Soviet Union. As a
result the Soviet Latinamericanists face an uphill struggle in building exchange
relationships in the area.

Soviet scholars sometimes cite political discrimination as another cause.
Visas are refused them, or more likely, delayed many months. Latin Americans may
prefer not to be closely associated with Soviet exchanges. Certain governments
such as the traditional military dictatorships, may be hostile. Two countries
with military regimes where trade has been relatively large, Brazil and
Argentina, are frequently charged with spotty and sporadic dis-
crimination.

Foreign currency problems and Latinamerican disinterest are enough in them-
selves to minimize field work opportunities. The reason why there is not more
impetus on the Soviet end to overcoming these difficulties may be official hesita-
tion to expand such exchanges too rapidly for domestic political reasons. Soviet
society is so effectively insulated and protected from alien influences from the
outside world that the authorities may not want a sudden large increase in the
number of Soviet scholars in foreign areas, including Latin America.
Insufficient field experience has had its impact on the Soviet scholars' concept of research functions. Most seem to view it as exclusively something which takes place in a Library. The younger people work with what they find there (which, incidentally, is considerable), and a few of the resourceful will request missing materials, too. Many do not seem to be motivated to seek the reports and documents, that is, the memoranda, government publications, business reports, and other public and private publications which can be so illuminating. One reason may be that such materials are so hard to come by in the USSR that they are not in the habit of using them, much less requesting them from abroad.

The younger scholars, particularly, may not be fully aware of or are pessimistic about their possibilities for capitalizing on interviews and informal personal contacts. Even if their opportunities for such contact in Latin America are limited or absent, some opportunity exists in Moscow. Very few Soviet scholars approached me for data or ideas about their research; most contacts were initiated by me. Nor do they seem to have much contact for specific research purposes with Latin Americans who come to Moscow.

Security minded Americans may oppose an expansion of Soviet scientific and cultural relations with Latin America on the grounds that such relations would be used as a cover for covert intelligence operations. My own impression is that intelligence work and scholarship are not easily combined in the sense that those who can pass muster under the scrutiny of fellow scholars are unlikely to have much time for other work. Moreover, Latin America has few scientific or military targets of high priority. The USSR needs to strengthen its scholarly resources on the area and the question arises how much significance covert operations conducted at the edges of cultural exchange could have. In any case, the USSR has easy access to the open societies of the West through a variety of other avenues, most particularly by nationals of third countries.
Professional Life

Most scholars at the Institute of Latin America are full time researchers. A few who love teaching or want a following of younger scholars teach at local Universities in their "spare" time. For this they receive extra pay, as much as 200 rubles a month and an academic title, the latter carrying prestige. Teaching on top of research responsibilities, however, imposes a strain that many scholars prefer to avoid.

The entire staff is required to be at the Institute on Wednesdays. Many administrative meetings and lecturers take place on that day. The presence of researchers at the Institute is also required on a second day each week, with different departments coming in on different days. Much of the socializing and casual plotting, so common to scholars everywhere, takes place in a low ceilinged, white tile cafeteria in the basement. On week days, the concessionaire, a sturdy no-nonsense matron, dispenses soups, meats, cheese, cabbage, sour cream, tea and other beverages to a chatty queue of staff members. Fridays she sells sausage and fowl to take home to families for the weekend.

During the three days of the week the staff are not required to be at the Institute, they work at home or in various libraries in the city, including the Institute's. Among the most popular is the Institute for Scientific Information in the Social Sciences, whose glass and steel structure is a show place located in the rapidly developing Southwest section of Moscow. Other collections used by the staff are the Lenin Library and the Library for Foreign Literature.

Salaries at the Institute vary from 100 rubles a month for graduate students to 600 rubles for the Director. The ruble is worth about U.S. $1.50 at the official rate and U.S. $.30 in Western European "black" markets. For crude comparisons of living costs, many equate the dollar and ruble. Soviet citizens pay only about 12 rubles a month to rent an apartment, minimal or no income taxes, and receive health and educational services free. Apartments consist of one
room, kitchen, and bath for a bachelor or a couple, and two rooms for a couple
with one or two children. Occasionally, three or more rooms become available
for larger families. The Academy of Sciences controls a number of new apartment
buildings for its staff members, including Latin Americanists.

Scholars’ other earned income is from sources similar to that of their
counterparts in the West. Payment for articles and books is made by the list,
a unit of printed text, equivalent to about 24 legal size pages typed double
spaced. As a result, there is no economic incentive to keep articles short, a
partial explanation why so many Soviet articles are wordy. Royalties range from
one hundred or more rubles for articles to several thousand rubles for books,
the latter mainly for books in mass circulation, rare in the Latin American field.
Scholars also take commissions for various kinds of propaganda work, such as
publications distributed abroad or radio. Selected books have been translated
into Spanish and distributed in Latin America by the Soviet publishing house,
Editorial Progreso.

Some members of the Institute staff are also active in bi-national friend-
ship societies whose Soviet headquarters are located only a few minutes by
subway from the Institute. These societies appear to serve primarily public
relations and social purposes.

Vacations are more generous for the scholarly professions than in government
and industry. Junior scholars have under a month and senior scholars, for ex-
ample doctors of sciences, approaching two months vacation annually. Some of
the latter have cars, possibly a dacha. The Director of the Institute is as-
signed a car and driver.

The Scholar’s Club (Dom Uchenii) is among the most prestigious of the clubs
for intellectuals. The Writers’ Club and the Journalists’ Club are also fre-
quented by employees of the Academy of Sciences. Most of these Clubs emphasize
their dining and bar facilities. Some have athletic or other recreational facilities and arrange programs for families. Membership in such clubs may not prove easy to obtain, requiring letters of recommendation and screening through a committee.

All members of the Institute staff, as far as I could determine, are Soviet citizens. There are no permanent staff who are Latin Americans as is frequently the case in U.S. universities and research centers. There were two Cuban researchers in residence during my stay, but long visits of Latin American scholars from other countries are rare. Usually, there are several Latin American graduate students in residence. Latin American students from local universities frequently use the Institute's library and participate in Institute activities.

The collegial body ruling the Institute is the Scholars' Council (Uchenii Soviet). I attended one meeting of the Council, which reminded me of the meetings of professional societies in the United States. While there were comments and suggestions from the floor, all the important business appeared to have been prepared and decided earlier and the members present quietly ratified Committee and administrative action.

The Institute has its own Communist Party and Komsomol (Youth) committees which meet from time to time in the Institute. Such meetings appear devoted primarily to political education. Lectures and discussions elucidate the decisions of higher party bodies, examine prominent political documents, such as Brezhnev's autobiography, and celebrate anniversaries important in Party life. The leadership of the Party Committee appears to correspond to the leadership of the Institute. The higher administrative posts in the Institute are occupied by party members; membership may be desirable but not necessarily essential for scholarly advancement.
Difficult to verify is the question whether, on balance, the private life of Soviet scholars cuts more or less deeply into professional time than in the United States. On the one hand, shopping for food and other consumer items is far more time consuming and frustrating than in the West. Paperwork and red tape seems everywhere more burdensome, if such could be possible. More Soviet scholars are members of families where both both husband and wife work. (The burden on the Soviet wife is proportionately greater than in the United States, since Soviet husbands seem to take on fewer family chores.)

On the other hand, other housekeeping responsibilities are less time consuming. Small apartments require less care, maintenance is theoretically and sometimes actually provided by the building staff, and there are no lawn chores. ("Voluntary" labor is not taken very seriously). The great majority do not have automobiles, nor the burden of keeping them operational. Families are slightly smaller, frequently only one child or less. The strain of getting children into the "right" University or Institute (like the Institute of International Relations Moscow) can be great; but the state pays most education bills. As a result, Soviet scholars seem more carefree in these respects. This is not to say that Soviet scholars would refuse the houses, gardens, cars, and their accompanying cares that are part of life in many Western countries.

Scholarly Climate and Contributions

Places of intellectual discovery and excitement are rare enough in the West, and I did not expect that the Institute of Latin America would be such a place. The announcements, posters, and other visible signs at the Institute confirmed my expectations and the political discipline that tends to ensure politically approved behaviour and findings. Some critics might term the atmosphere routinized and stale; such characterization seems harsh for describing many of the scholars I met.
The best words to describe my impressions of the Institute's intellectual climate, always such a subjective matter anyway, are diligence and competence. There is evidence of tension and a respect for time which often characterize purposeful institutions. As to the even more elusive quality of competence, the Institute has its fair share of critics, particularly among younger, energetic, and influential groups in the Academy of Sciences. Soviet Latinamericanists appear to be suffering from the same occupational hazards as their colleagues abroad who get type cast as professionally parochial, committed as they are to an isolated and politically neglected area of the world.

The Soviet Latinamericanists of my acquaintance are dedicated to the study of the region, have a good reading knowledge of one of its languages (ordinarily Spanish) and seem broadly knowledgeable about literature on the region. In general, the Soviet researchers seem better informed about U.S. work on Latin America than U.S. scholars about European work on the area, as indeed they might be expected to, in view of the larger volume of the work on the western side of the Atlantic. Assigning each researcher to a relatively narrowly defined topic for sustained investigation with limited or no teaching responsibilities, permits greater specialization. Not surprisingly, their work which is supposed to meet Soviet ideological and policy criteria, often seems stereotyped. Such scholars are usually more interesting to talk to than to read.

Two decades ago Soviet studies of Latin America were weaker and more rudimentary than in any other advanced industrialized society, except possibly for Japan. Today, the Soviet Union has the largest centrally planned research program on the area in the world. What contribution has the impressive Soviet effort made and is likely to make toward the advancement of scholarship in the field? As
a partial answer to that question, and replying from the perspective of an inter-
national relations specialist, I have listed below some topics on which I believe
Soviet scholarship has made, and is likely to make, the greatest contributions.

1) Russian and Soviet relations with Latin America: political, economic, and cultural. Russian and Soviet sources are absolutely indispensable for research on these topics.

2) Communist, revolutionary and labor movements. Soviet sources are convenient and desirable for this subject, and indispensable for certain aspects: illegal Communist parties, historical episodes where primary sources have been lost or are inaccessible, and defining interaction between Soviet and Latin American party leaders. Such sources supplement Communist publications on international congresses and the like, which are usually available in western languages.

3) Highly specialized fields with a relatively low ideological, political, or policy content. Talented Soviet scholars may move ahead of their counterparts in the West on certain topics. Archaeology, ethnology, and pre-revolutionary history may have the greatest promise.

4) Data collection and collation. The Soviet scientific leadership has a far greater capacity than scholars in the East to focus massive resources on sharply defined topics. The Institute of Latin America, for example, routinely assigns a half dozen or more scholars to work full time on a particular theme. As a result, Soviet scholars are able to bring together quickly vast information from widely dispersed sources on topics not always treated systematically in the West.

Such books can prove exceptionally handy reference material. The Institute has prepared one volume national studies of broadscope on almost all the important countries in the area. Soviet scholars have also edited books, each dealing
comprehensively with the literature and arts of a leading Latin American country. A large two-volume encyclopedia in Latin America is now in press. The handbooks for statistics and political parties are also useful. Topical books on agrarian, religious, educational, and other topics assemble information from around the continent. I have found the book on the foreign policy of Latin American countries since 1945 a handy reference.

The most effective way for Western scholars who do not know Russian to keep up with Soviet scholarship in the Latin American field is through the pages of América Latina, to be published monthly next year in Spanish. Most Soviet books on Latin America will continue to appear only in Russian, but the authors write articles on the same or similar subjects for the Journal. And their books are usually reviewed there.

Public and Policy Impacts

Soviet specialists have had and will continue to have great opportunities to raise the level of public knowledge of Latin America particularly since the Soviet public, understandably, has been so far behind many leading western countries in this respect. As in other fields, little information about Latin American from outside the Soviet Union is available to the Soviet citizenry generally. To help educate the public, Soviet LatinAmericanists write popular articles and books for readers in schools and institutions of higher learning, in the media, and in other bureaucracies. The All-Union Society for Knowledge, which popularizes advances in science and the arts, occasionally devotes one of the monthly issues of Znanie (Knowledge) to a Latin American topic in a format similar to that of the Headline Series of the Foreign Policy Association. Others who publish books on Latin America for the general public or for rank and file party members are Politizdat (a short form for Political Publishing House) and Mysl' (Thought).
Soviet Latinamericanists exert some of the same kinds of influence on Soviet trade and diplomatic officials as do their counterparts in the United states. Soviet scholarship increasingly provides the basis for these officials' formal training about Latin America and later as a source of useful background and reference information. Soviet scholarly materials on Latin America are also used to prepare the authoritative textbooks used in the schools of the Communist Party. Except for training stints, government officials, there as here, often lack the time or the inclination to pursue such subjects systematically.

Determining scholars' direct impact on Soviet policy is even more difficult than evaluation of parallel impacts in the United States. Western scholars may play their greatest role in policy decisions, such as it is, through criticism in letters to the editors of influential papers and through popular articles and books. Soviet scholars clearly have no such opportunity, at least after Party decisions have been taken. Recently, there have been lively discussions in the pages of Latinskaia Amerika about the interpretation of developments in the area. The authors tend to avoid explicit discussion of Soviet policy, but their interpretations of "realities" have policy implications.

When asked how much impact his work has on policy, a Soviet scholar gives the same wry smile as do U.S. scholars. The various Soviet bureaucracies (party, government, scientific) may be even more insulated from one another than in the United States. Lateral transfers occur more often from policy positions to the Academy of Sciences than the reverse. If they take a turn in operations, scholars are more apt to do so in some international organization than in the Soviet diplomatic or commercial service. Thus, such lateral moves as those of Kissinger, Brzhinski and their counterparts in the Latin American field, like Grunwald or Fishlow, seem rarer than in the United States.
The Soviet Foreign Office consults scholars from the Institute of Latin America, but the instances described to me seemed insignificant. The Institute appears to have less political influence than certain other Soviet institutes, like those dealing with the United States or China. The latter two regions are so much more important to Soviet interests and correspondingly, their leaders are better placed in the party and government hierarchies. Informal contacts between Latinamericanists do occur across these hierarchies, but these are likely to have even less impact than in the United States because Soviet political authority is much more centralized.

Conclusions

The isolation and insulation of Soviet Latinamericanists from Latin America and from their colleagues in the West is awesome. Yet, in their own way and by their own rules, they are working steadily to break out of that isolation.

Already the Soviet authorities have assembled a large, well trained and productive group of specialists on Latin America. A rapidly growing literature on almost all aspects of life in the region is now widely available within the Soviet Union. Soviet research on Soviet-Latin American relations, the Communist parties and the labor movement, and handbooks for reference on many topics are among the products of Soviet scholarship which will be useful to the few western scholars who know Russian. As in other fields, Soviet prospects for eventually meeting and surpassing Western scholarship in Latin American studies are probably best on topics farthest removed from politics and policy. The single most important handicap of the Soviet research effort which can ultimately be remedied within the existing Soviet context is insufficient opportunity for scholars and graduate students to have field experience in Latin America.
The Soviet Latinamericanists are doing a constructive job of informing the Soviet public, which, understandably, has been ignorant of Latin America. In contributing to the training and general knowledge of Soviet officials, they will probably exert an illuminating influence on Soviet policy in the long term. Their day to day impact on such policies appears minimal.

For westerners the best convenient and up-to-date source on Soviet scholarship in the field is the Spanish language Journal, América Latina. If monthly publication begins as planned, it may provide wider and more frequent coverage than any other government sponsored journal on Latin America in the region.
Editor's note: Professor Blasier would appreciate receiving the names and addresses of U.S. or Soviet scholars who have completed a research assignment of several months in the country of the other who are not mentioned above in the section entitled Foreign Ties. Similarly, he would appreciate receiving the names and addresses of U.S., Latin American, or other western University students who have a good command of Russian as well as of Spanish or Portuguese. He can be reached at the Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.