

Our View: Revelations from the Russian **Trump** Archives

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The text below comes from the introduction to a Library of Congress exhibition titled “Revelations from the Russian Archives: Internal Workings of the Soviet Union.”¹ With a bit of editing, it becomes, given the actions we have seen from the Trump/Musk administration so far, a preview of what might be in store for the United States and the world.

Having come to power in ~~October 1917~~ **January 2025** by means of a ~~coup-d'état~~ **an election**, Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks **Donald Trump and the Republicans** spent the next few years struggling to maintain their rule against widespread popular opposition **consolidating their power and dismantling the traditional federal government**. They had ~~overthrown the provisional democratic government~~ **defeated the incumbent Democratic administration** and were inherently hostile to any form of popular participation in politics **criticism of or opposition to their autocratic actions**. In the name of the revolutionary cause “**Making America Great Again**,” they employed ruthless methods to suppress real or perceived political enemies. The small, elite group of ~~Bolshevik revolutionaries~~ **Trump acolytes** who formed the core of the newly established Communist Party dictatorship **administration** ruled by decree, enforced with ~~terror~~ **baseless media attacks and political and legal retaliations**.

This **new** tradition of tight centralization, with decision-making concentrated at the highest party levels, reached ~~new~~ **unprecedented** dimensions under ~~Joseph Stalin~~ **Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency**. As many of these archival documents show, there was little input from below. The party elite determined the goals of the state and the means of achieving them in almost complete isolation from the people. They believed that the interests of the individual were to be sacrificed to those of ~~the state~~ **oligarchs and monopolistic companies**, which were advancing a sacred ~~social task~~ **MAGA agenda**. **Trump and Musk’s Stalin’s** “revolution from ~~above~~ **the right**” sought to build ~~socialism~~ **their wealth** by means of ~~forced collectivization and industrialization~~ **tax cuts and rollbacks of oppressive regulations while working, in the interest of “efficiency” and “public safety,” to reduce or terminate federal entitlement programs, expel undocumented “criminals and rapists,” and suppress dissent in the “fake news” media and elsewhere**, programs that entailed tremendous human **financial and psychological** suffering and ~~loss of life~~ **social confusion and chaos**.

Although this tragic episode in ~~Soviet~~ **US** history at least had some economic purpose, the ~~police~~ **terror** inflicted **by executive order** upon ~~the party and the population in the 1930s~~ **immigrants, liberals, the environment, and US trading partners in the 2020s**, in which millions of innocent

¹ “Revelations from the Russian Archives: Internal Workings of the Soviet Union,” Library of Congress [<https://tinyurl.com/46djwbsf>].

people ~~perished~~ **were treated with an arrogant disrespect for their rights**, had no rationale beyond assuring ~~Stalin's~~ **Trump's** absolute dominance. By the time ~~the Great Terror ended~~ **Trump left office**, ~~Stalin~~ **he** had subjected all aspects of ~~Soviet~~ **US** society to strict party-state control, not tolerating even the slightest expression of local initiative, let alone political unorthodoxy. The ~~Stalinist~~ **Trumpist** leadership felt especially threatened by the intelligentsia, whose creative efforts were thwarted through the strictest censorship; by ~~religious groups~~ **anyone who pushed back or spoke out against them**, who were persecuted and driven underground; and by ~~non-Russian~~ **non-white** nationalities, many of whom were deported en masse to ~~Siberia during World War II~~ **or sent to Guantanamo Bay detention camps** because ~~Stalin~~ **Trump** questioned their loyalty.