

HANDBOOKS TO THE MODERN WORLD

THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Edited by

GEORGE SCHÖPFLIN



Facts On File Publications
New York, New York • Oxford, England

947
So 896
1986
cop 4

General Slavic
(Slavic)

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PREFACE

It hardly needs to be said that the history, politics, economics, and geography of contemporary Europe are in a constant state of flux. The most striking of this is that Western European countries that were once united in thought and action—France, Germany, Italy—have almost entirely disappeared as states over the years. Conversely, the formerly fragmented states are regularly being created and in such a manner that the student, journalist, businessman, and other casual reader is kept on his feet. It is not surprising that the study of the history of the region is a constantly changing discipline. This is not only understandable, but probably inevitable because of the nature of the subject. The study of the region is a constantly changing discipline. This is not only understandable, but probably inevitable because of the nature of the subject. The study of the region is a constantly changing discipline. This is not only understandable, but probably inevitable because of the nature of the subject.

The purpose of this volume is to provide both a historical and a geographical study of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. The purpose of this volume is to provide both a historical and a geographical study of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. The purpose of this volume is to provide both a historical and a geographical study of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. The purpose of this volume is to provide both a historical and a geographical study of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

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