

1. Before its communist revolution, Russia was an agrarian superpower. Yet,  
2. during the 20th century, it slipped from this position due to ( 26 ). Socialist  
3. economists contended that large, communal, centrally planned farms would be  
4. more efficient than small homesteads. Thus, from the 1920s, the Soviet state  
5. began to forcibly collectivize all farms, making the land, machinery, livestock,  
6. and crop seeds national property. The result was disastrous. Once-independent  
7. farmers became salaried employees with no incentive to improve production  
8. methods or increase output. The country went from being the world's largest  
9. exporter of grain to being a net importer. The folly of the policy was emphasized  
10. by the fact that the small plots set aside for private use—a tiny fraction of the  
11. land under cultivation—ended up producing around one-quarter<sup>1/4の</sup> of Russia's  
12. harvest.

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21. farms to go the way of socialist economics. This was certainly the intention of the  
22. new government, which passed a series of laws making it possible for people to  
23. run farms as family businesses again. Given the choice, most people opted to  
24. ( 27 ). Experts have debated this unexpected setback; some ascribe it to the  
25. farmers' apathy, while others maintain the changes did not go far enough—local  
26. governments still controlled the supply of fuel and seeds too closely, and strict  
27. limitations were imposed on the amount of land that could be privately owned.

28. (27) 1 stay as they were                      2 try for bigger profits  
          3 side with the new government        4 oppose communist ideas

### Further Questions

29. 4) What did the new government do after the downfall of Soviet communism?  
30. *They passed a series of laws making it possible for people to run farms as family*  
31. *businesses again.*

32. 5) Why do experts believe the laws did not have the expected result?

