

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^{1/4の} 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?

33. *Some ascribe it to the farmer's apathy, while others maintain the changes did not*
34. *go far enough.*

35. Now, another force has entered the scene: international agricultural
36. conglomerates. Keen to profit from rising world food prices, these conglomerates
37. are (**28**) the post-communist government. They are snapping up farms and
38. combining them into huge, factory-style operations, rather than dividing them
39. into the private plots that the government had imagined. In the process, they
40. have increased agricultural efficiency; in one area that was previously farmed by
41. 3,000 people, only 340 people now work, yet more food is produced. If these new
42. conglomerates continue to grow, Russia could once more emerge as a major
43. source of the world's food supply.

44. (28) 1 relying heavily on 2 being taken over by
 3 taking an alternate approach to 4 struggling to keep up with

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