



# A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union

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## **A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union** Rick Smolan , David Cohen

In 1987, 50 Western and 50 Soviet photographers spread out across the Soviet Union and captured on film a day in a country that stood at the apex of remarkable change as it celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. As the Soviet people looked back on decades of war and famine, conquest and achievement, and forward to sweeping changes during a time of new leadership and openness, the photographers were granted unprecedented access to homes, factories, schools and even prisons. They traveled to all 15 Soviet republics and across 11 time zones. They ventured into areas that have been closed to outsiders for centuries, and they came back with candid images of the daily life of the people behind the headlines, capturing a lost Soviet era, the twilight of a country.

## **A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union Details**

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## **From Reader Review A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union for online ebook**

### **M says**

What a collection of pictures! It gives you a glimpse into what life was like in the Soviet Union.

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### **Cws says**

RefYA1

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### **Sami Ismail says**

It highlighted the Human side of the then Soviet Union!

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### **Greta says**

This wonderful book of "old school" photographs and their captions gives the reader a brief glimpse of a vast country and the many different people who inhabited it in 1987. In many ways it is so very different from what we, in the West, know. On the other hand, one sees the similarities in our humanness as well.

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### **BoekenTrol says**

A beautiful photo book. Today it is probably outdated, but for me, at the time of reading it was great. I gazed through the book, looking at the pictures from a country I knew hardly anything about. The Soviet Union just started to open up and I was learning the language. I looked with great eyes.

When I finally arrived to Moscow, two years later, it all wasn't that strange to me. I had 'seen' something already.

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### **Steve Cobleigh says**

An eye-opener when I purchased it in 1988.

The scenes of everyday life gave no real indication of what, shortly, was to come.

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## James says

I believe I've had this book since 7th or 8th grade, about 20 years ago, when I had to do a group project for the city's Multicultural Fair or something like that. The book just stood in our group's table, in front of our neat posters and Russian food, but I never actually peered inside it.

UNTIL NOW.

I don't know why I've hauled around this giant coffee book all these years, other than the reason that a book lover has a tough time parting with books they own but have never read, even if they have no real interest in getting around to reading them.

The book is fascinating in the sense that it was produced 31 years ago, and yet you feel like you are peering back in time perhaps 60 years. All these pictures were taken within a 24 hour period on May 15, 1987 around the time the great Soviet Union was beginning to show its cracks.

In the forward and afterwards the writers and project organizers made a big deal about how this project was years in the making, that the Soviet government had turned the project down multiple times before Gorbachev, promoting *glasnost*, said he was fine with giving world-famous photographers guided access to cities and towns across their nation. For one day, anyway.

You get the impression that lots of places over there are COLD.

I particularly liked a picture of a mother pushing her child in a tiny home-made sleigh car across the snow. Cute by itself, but the next picture is of a small school with a dozen such tiny sleigh cars parked in the snow, all the parents arriving to pick up their children.

There's a few Inuits talking with Soviet guards, the caption reading that where once the native people hunted and fished on their own for centuries they must now carry paperwork that gives them the permission to do so. The waters now belonging to a few Russian naval bases.

A few trains. A few saunas (which over there are called *banyas*, for my Seinfeld-appreciating friends). Camels being sheered and milked.

There's one of a *babushka* kneading a giant pile of sausage filler. Yum.

Lennin's image was in the background of many pictures, as were the hammer and sickle. It left me wondering if a lot of Soviet imagery and structures still stand out of historical significance, or if they've since been removed in the twenty-some years past the fall of the Union.

Pretty pictures, but I didn't get any real urge to time travel and go on vacation there.

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