Census Records

A comprehensive article entitled “Censuses in Russia and the Soviet Union” appears in The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History, Vol. 6, edited by Joseph L. Wieczynski. The article outlines the various censuses conducted from the early 18th century to 1959. Although this article does not disclose sources or methods of obtaining such census returns, it does indicate the names (by province and town) of 137 places where a census was conducted prior to 1917 and the type of data included.

Libraries and Archives

A collection of descriptive “guides” to the various regional Soviet Archives and a few to the Archives of other Eastern European countries exists on microfilm. These publications as a rule are printed in small quantities (in Russian), and are not well circulated, even within the country of origin. Furthermore, they are even less known abroad and thus have been very difficult for western libraries to acquire.

For those researching the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe while in Washington, D.C., the 17-page article, Library and Archival Resources on Russia, The Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe in the Washington, D.C. area by D. H. Kraus of the Library of Congress is useful.

Publications

1. A 37-page research report, Sources for Researching Ukrainian Family History (John-Paul Himka and Frances A. Swyrzyca) deals primarily with Canadian and Ukrainian sources.

2. A Moscow publication, Motorists Guide to the Soviet Union (Leonid Zadovorny) describes main auto routes through the USSR including maps, photos, historical data and includes charts closely resembling the AAA “trip tips” available in the United States.

3. A monumental series has resulted in the following publications:

A. Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Moscow and Leningrad (Patricia Kennedy Grimsted)

B. Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia (Patricia Kennedy Grimsted)

C. Volume 3, Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR: Ukraine and Moldavia has a projected publication date of Spring, 1988.


5. While browsing at one of my favorite haunts - used bookstores - I located an out-of-print book entitled The Slaughter of the Jews in the Ukraine in 1919 (Elias Heifetz, J.U.D.) consisting of eye-witness testimonies of survivors of pogroms in the Ukraine. Consult your local library and if not available, request via inter-library loan.

Oral Testimonies and Nuremberg Evidence

1. In 1976, Vad Vashem and the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research jointly published The Holocaust: Nuremberg Evidence, Part One: Documents (Jacob Robinson and Henry Sachs) which includes a digest, index and chronological tables. Copies of these documents are on file at the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C.

2. The Central Archives of the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance is the repository of individual testimonies given by Holocaust survivors describing not only their own experiences, but also detailed information about their towns and concentration camps. Testimonies are filed by location, town, or concentration camp. The holdings are listed in the Guide to the Unpublished Material of the Holocaust Period (Yehuda Bauer).

A 27-page reference guide including addresses and ordering instructions for Russian research can be ordered from: Miriam Weiner, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094. (Cost: $5.00 + $1.00 postage/handling).