

MAX BELOFF

The
Foreign
Policy of
Soviet Russia

VOLUME TWO

1936-1941

THIS SECOND VOLUME

takes up the main narrative where the first volume left off, in the spring of 1936, and continues to the date of the German attack on Russia in June 1941. It gives the Soviet interpretation of the international history of those years as found in Soviet publications, and places it alongside the documentation available from other sources. Chapters are devoted to the civil war in Spain, as it affected and was affected by the policy of the Soviet Union, and to the Montreux Conference on the Straits. The main body of the volume traces the course of Soviet policy in relation to the conflict developing among the European powers, from the remilitarization of the Rhineland, through the Munich settlement and the German occupation of Bohemia-Moravia. It also deals with the Soviet negotiations with Britain and France, the pact with Germany, and the territorial changes in Eastern Europe which marked the period between the outbreak of war and the entry of the Soviet Union as a belligerent. The final chapter attempts an analysis of the principles guiding Soviet foreign policy, and gives a brief account of the departments of the Soviet Government concerned. A classified bibliography is provided for the two volumes, as well as a series of maps to illustrate the territorial changes in Eastern Europe between 1938 and 1941.

THE
FOREIGN POLICY OF
SOVIET RUSSIA
1929-1941

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FOREWORD

I MUST renew my thanks to those inside and outside Chatham House who were named in the Foreword to Volume I. To an even greater extent than in the case of Volume I, I have been indebted to Mrs Jane Degras for her willing collaboration. I have also been in the fortunate position of having been able to make use in manuscript of her calendar of the documents of the subject. Mr. R. G. D. Laffan and Professor C. A. W. Manning have kindly given me access to manuscript studies written by them for the Institute.

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The preparation of this volume has suffered from the fact that important new material was appearing throughout the time it was in the press. As far as possible such material has been included at the proof stage if only in footnote form. It was felt that this was desirable even at the expense of literary elegance.

The publication has been considerably delayed by a fire at the printers which destroyed the proofs and part of the type. I am indebted to the publishers and to members of the Institute's staff for their help in overcoming these difficulties.

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