



Historian tells how Russia struggled with communism

Igor Yefimov brings his firsthand experience to bear on the reasons for the fall of communism in Russia

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Communism was never in a position to succeed, declared noted Russian historian Igor Yefimov in a speech Friday at the Knight Library.

More than 30 people attended the lecture, entitled "The Fall of Communism 10 Years Later: What Do We Now Know About This Mystery?" despite the sunny May weather.

Yefimov said communism was never economically viable, and it essentially ended because of the military generals' revolution. Often it is assumed the government had the final say concerning the end of communism. Yefimov added that the United States never truly understood the problems the former Soviet Union was facing.

He came to the United States in 1998 and has since written books and articles on several subjects, including physics and the Soviet economy. He also owns New Jersey-based Hermitage Publishers.

Yefimov, who was an engineer for the most of his life in Russia, said dual authorities ran the country, composed of the military and the government. But, he said, the government ran it poorly.

Yefimov said people were put into jobs for which they were not qualified. To further compound the problem, communism encouraged equality among everyone, and because of this, he said, pro-

duction was poorly managed.

With communism, "you have no way of controlling your individual production," he said. "That is one of the reasons why socialism was guaranteed economic failure."

Yefimov said a market economy is more effective because choices are entrusted to people who are better qualified to make decisions.

"You have to make decisions, and the market system allows society to decide about people who can make the right decision," he said.

“What [students] hear is a person who has been gripped in Russian language, literature and culture in the last 10 years.”

Alan Kimball
director,
Russian and East European
Studies Center

He said Americans were wrong to believe communism was a well-run and powerful force. He said the United States often overestimated the level of competence in the Soviet Union.

The military essentially ended communism, Yefimov said, which led to the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991.

"The race of military technology was very effective in bringing total disappointment [to Russia]," he said.

He cited two military defeats that led nine of the country's gen-

erals to create a revolution and "lay down arms instead of raising them." In 1982, during the war in Lebanon, Russian-made fighter planes flown by Syrians were shot down by American and Israeli pilots at an alarming rate, Yefimov said. The Israelis lost no planes, he said, while the Syrians lost approximately 300 jets. Then during the Gulf War in 1991, American helicopters destroyed Russian-made tanks used by Saddam Hussein.

These two incidents, in Yefimov's opinion, showed the incompetence of Russia's military technology, which led to the generals' revolution and the end of communism.

Yefimov is the 2001 Marjorie Lindholm Professor of Russian Language, Literature and Culture. During the spring term, he will be teaching a Russian course at the University.

Alan Kimball, director of the University's Russian and East European Studies Center, said Yefimov is a welcome addition, and students can get a perspective from Yefimov's speech they can't find anywhere else.

"What [students] hear is a person who has been gripped in Russian language, literature and culture in the last 10 years," Kimball said.

Senior Jeremy Montz said he believes the study of the fall of communism is important.

"Every day we get new information about what is going on over there in Russia," he said. "I know so little that everything I do find out increases my understanding."

Announcing OSU's new MBA with a technology focus. It'll make you stand out in the crowd.

In as little as nine months, you could earn an MBA from Oregon State University. The program's innovative approach to the integration of technology in business is designed to give you the skills business leaders are looking for.

Along with the solid management education of a classical MBA, you'll cover the latest developments in customer relationship management, e-commerce and other cutting-edge information technology.* We offer evening and part-time options, as well, so you can work classes into your busy schedule.

If you want the advantage in the workplace, get the MBA that will set you apart.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Open minds. Open doors.™

www.bus.orst.edu/MBA • (541) 737-6031

*Some coursework pending approval.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FALL TERM.

NCAA
www.ncaachampionships.com

2001 Division I Men's & Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships

2001 NCAA Men's & Women's Division I Outdoor TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS
University of Oregon, Hayward Field
May 30 - June 2
Hayward Field • Eugene, Oregon
For tickets, call 800-WEBFOOT
Hosted by the University of Oregon

Official NCAA Corporate Partners
American Express • General Motors • Gillette • Hershey's • Holiday Inn International Paper • Kraft • Ocean Spray • Pennzoil
Pepsi/Aquafina • Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company • Rawlings Sears • Quokka Sports • KFC/Pizza Hut/Taco Bell • Verizon

Auto Pros Inc.
LOCALLY OWNED

LUBE, OIL, FILTER
• Chassis Lube • New Oil Filter • Up to 5 Qts.
10W-30 Kendall Oil • Clean Front Window
• Vacuum Front Floor Boards

No Appointment necessary
Most light cars & trucks

\$15.99

Kendall MOTOR OIL FOUR IN THE PROTECTION
3/4 or 1-ton & Extra Cab Trucks Additional

DOWNTOWN
1320 Willamette
485-2356
*2975 West 11th
344-0007
OPEN Sundays 11-4

LOUIE'S VILLAGE
Authentic Chinese Cuisine
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
947 Franklin Blvd.
343-4480

75¢ OFF Foot long Sub
Expires 6/10/01

50¢ OFF Half Sub

SUBSHOP
1225 ALDER
345-2434

Not valid with any other discounts or coupons.
MON-FRI 10AM-10PM • SAT 11AM-9PM • SUN 12PM-9PM

PHOTO SPECIALS

MAY 29 - JUNE 10

2ND SET FREE!

3 x 5 prints:
12 exp \$2.25
24 exp \$4.25
36 exp \$6.25

4 x 6 prints:
12 exp \$3.25
24 exp \$6.25
36 exp \$9.25

From 35mm color negative film only. Next day service.

20% OFF APS DEVELOP & PRINT

15 exp \$4.40
25 exp \$6.66
40 exp \$9.40

Allow 1-2 days for APS processing.

FUJICOLOR PROCESSING INC.

UNIVERSITY of OREGON BOOKSTORE
www.uobookstore.com

find fun stuff in the ODE classifieds

Got a story idea? Give us a call.
Emerald
346-5511