Surnames of Soviet Russian and other Communist Celebrities

JOHN P. PAULS

Practically every day the names of Soviet Russian or other Slavic communist celebrities invariably make their appearance in the American press. The general reader is no doubt puzzled about the meanings of these names. It is for him that this article is intended and not necessarily for the Slavic specialist. Without going into their history, I shall give a short survey, including the English meanings, of some Soviet and a few non-Soviet Slavic names appearing frequently in the press. Soviet names are generally of Slavic origin. Russians, Byelorussians, and Ukrainians are Slavs and they constitute the overwhelming majority of the population of the Soviet Union. However, since the Soviet Union is composed of more than eighty different nationalities other than Slavic, some of the names are not Slavic at all. A few such non-Slavic names are included in this article. Without discussing the national ancestry of the bearer of the name, I shall examine each name as part of the language to which it belongs. I have explained here 160 surnames from the Soviet Union, and 80 surnames from its Slavic satellites. Russian names, being the most numerous, are divided according to the most common suffixes and within each group they are alphabetically ordered. The remainder are merely alphabetically arranged within each lingual group. I hope that this short survey gives the reader some insight into the linguistic and social structure of Slavic surnames.

For the sake of brevity, I do not repeat for every surname the language from which it is derived. If a given surname appears under the Russian subheading, the language is mentioned only if the name was derived from a language other than Russian. The same applies to other Slavic names.

220

I do not give the meaning of the common Latin or Greek names, from which the Slavic names are often derived unless the name is unusual, or seldom used in the Western languages. To go into the final etymologies of Russian or other Slavic names, was not my goal, because they are fully explained in Vasmer's etymological dictionary.

In this article, the names are explained in phrases, as in a dictionary. However, sometimes it was necessary to give a longer explanation in order to clarify, a procedure which is unfortunately in exception to the rule *unum principium divisionis*.

In order to avoid confusion with the palatal signs ('), stresses are marked by a vertical symbol (ı) before the accented syllable (ısokol), in accordance with the International Phonetic Alphabet, and are given in only the Eastern and South Slavic surnames. Czech names have the fixed stress on the first syllable, and Polish on the second from the end, and are for this reason not marked. The surnames are not transliterated according to the phonetic transcription, but appear as they do in our press, in order to make the pronounciation less difficult for the general reader. Exceptions are made only in a few instances, and sometimes a variation in spelling is given in parentheses. Perhaps it is not out of place to mention here that in a Communist state, the first secretary of the party is the most powerful figure, then the premier, the chairman of the Supreme Council (theoretically president, but merely a representative figure), members of the Political Bureau, ministers, generals, scientists and then people of culture, etc.

Like the names in all other Indo-European languages, Slavic names have the following sources of origin:

1) first names (patronymics)
2) the qualities of a person (descriptive nicknames)
3) occupations
4) places of residence or national origin (local or ethnic names).

The following suffixes are *typical endings* of Russian names (mostly possessive adjectives), derived from the first name, nickname, occupation, or place:

1) *-in*, feminine *-ina*, possessives derived from feminine nouns are known among all Slavs, although used mostly by the Russians.

2) *-ev/-ov* (sometimes spelled phonetically *-eff/-off* in the French and older English publications), feminine *-eva/-ova* (equivalent to Ukrainian *-iv*, *-uk*, *-ko*, *-enko*; Byelorussian *-aw*, *-uk*; Polish *-ów*, *-(i)ak*, *-czak*, *-ek*; Czech *-ův*, *ek*; Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian *-ov*), are derived from the first name, nickname, or occupation. Names ending in *-ov* occur most frequently among the Russians and Bulgarians.

3) *-ich*, fem. *-na*, which are the patronymic endings, used in Russia constantly with the Christian name (*Iv|an |Pavlovich*, *|Anna |Pavlovna*), are common among all Slavs as family names, but are most popular among the Byelorussians and Yugoslavs.

4) *-|oy* (*-|oi*), fem. *-|aya* (*-|aia*), are typical and exclusively Russian name endings. These endings are actually adjectives with a stressed ending, derived from nicknames or places. The following few examples, of course, are not communist names:

Tols|toy, derived from dialectal *tols|toy*, literary *tolstyi*, "thick, stout, corpulent"; *Bobrin|skoy*, derived from the place names *|Bobrin*, or *|Bobrinka* < *bobr*, "beaver."

5) *-sky* (*-ski*) or *-tsky*, fem. *-skaya* (*-skaia*), *-tskaya*, are the endings of names, derived from places, mostly of names of the former nobility or landlords, who were the first in history to acquire their names from their coats of arms, places of birth, or their estates, *e.g.*, *Dosto|yevsky*, derived from the place name *Dostoy|evo*, cf. *dost|oynyi*, "worth," or *dosto|yaniye*, "property, fortune"; *Tschai|kovsky*, derived from the place name *Tschayk|ov(o)* < *tsch|ayka*, "lapwing."

6) *-ik*, fem. *-ikova*, is a suffix of names derived from the designation of occupation and other qualities, and is common to all Slavs.

7) Numerous *other suffixes*, mostly from occupation and other qualities, are common among all Slavs.

The Bolsheviks (the name is derived from the Russian adverb *|bol'she*, "more") were the extremist and centralist majority, headed by Lenin at the Socialist London Congress, 1903, from which the Communist party later developed. The members of the opposition party, the more liberal minority, were known as Mensheviks, derived

from |*men'she*, "less." It is important to remember that the old Bolsheviks always used pseudonyms, in order to disguise themselves during their underground activities, *e.g.*, |*Lenin* (his real name was *U*|*lyanov*). Some of them, like |*Stalin* (*Dzhuga*|*shvili*), |*Trotsky* (|*Bronshteyn*), or *Lit*|*vinov* (|*Falkenshteyn*), wanted perhaps to abandon their non-Russian names, or like |*Molotov* (|*Skryabin*), his noble origin.

I. RUSSIAN (AND BYELORUSSIAN) NAMES

1. Names in *-in*

Bul|*ganin*, the former Premier. From *bulg*|*a*, and the suffix *-anin*, "alarm, trouble," derived from the Turko-Tartar languages.

Govo|*rushin*, a journalist. From *govo*|*rushka*, "a talkative woman."

I|*lyushin*, the designer of the IL-bomber. From *I*|*lyusha*, diminutive of *Ili*|*ya*, from Hebrew-Greek ʾΗλίας, "Elijah."

Ka|*linin*, the first President of the Soviet Parliament — *Ver*|*khovnyi Sovi*|*et*, "supreme council." From *ka*|*lina*, "snowball tree."

Ko|*rovushkin*, the Minister of the State Bank. From *ko*|*rovushka*, diminutive of *kor*|*ova*, "cow."

Ko|*sygin*, the present First Deputy Premier. From dialectal *ko*|*syga*, "slant-eyed." Cf. the adj. *ko*|*soy*, "slant."

|*Krasin*, one of the designers of the first atomic power station. From *kra*|*sa*, "beauty," or |*krasit'*, "to paint."

|*Lenin*, the father of the Bolshevik Revolution (November 7, 1917), and the builder of the Soviet Union. From |*Lena*: a) a diminutive of *Ye*|*lena*, "Helen," or b) a river in Siberia, where he was once exiled. In his novel, *Lenin*, the Polish author, Ossendowski, claimed that |*Lena* was *Lenin*'s first and only love. His real name, *U*|*lyanov*, is derived from *U*|*lyan*, a popular form of *Yuli*|*an*, from Greek ᾽Ιουλιανός, Latin *Julianus*, "Julian."

|*Lysina*, an outstanding woman architectural designer. From |*lysina*, "bald spot."

Mi|*gulin*, designer of the jet-fighter MIG-15, 17, 19. Probably from *mig* "moment," or *mi*|*gat'*, "to wink, blink, twinkle."

Na|*livkin*, a leading geologist. From *na*|*livka*, "fruit liqueur."

Ne|delin, the Artillery Marshal and commander-in-chief of Russia's newly established rocket forces. From *ne|delya*, "Sunday."

Per|vukhin, an engineer and the ruling Presidium's planning chairman. From the noun *per|vukha*, "the first-born daughter," which in turn is a derivative of the ordinal numeral *|pervyi*, "first."

|Pushkin, the former ambassador to East Berlin. From *|pushka*, "cannon, box." Cf. German *Büchse*, Latin *buxis*, Greek πυξίς.

|Skryabin (Skri|abin), a leading parasitologist. From the stem *|skryab-* in *|skryabka* "ship's scraper" (cf. *|skreb-* in *skreb|nut'* "to scrape").

So|fyin, an outstanding journalist. From *So|fia*, "Sophie."

|Stalin, the late dictator of the Soviet Union. From *stal'*, "steel," means "a man possessing the quality of steel, hard." His original name was *Dzhuga|shvili*, from Georgian *Dzhu|ga*, a Christian name, and *|shvili*, "son."

|Starostin, an outstanding soccer coach. From *|starosta*, "village chairman."

Ver|shinin, the commander-in-chief and marshal of the Soviet air force. From *ver|shina*, "top, summit, peak."

|Volin, the president of the Supreme Court of the USSR. From *|volya*, "freedom."

|Vyatkin, a well-known clown. From the city or river *|Vyatka* < tribal name *|Vyada*, whose etymology is uncertain.

Za|rubin, the former Soviet ambassador to Washington. From the verb *zaru|bit'*, "to mark a tree, to make a notch."

|Zorin, the first Soviet ambassador to Bonn. From *zo|rya*, "star."

2. Names in *-ev/-ov*

The most numerous group of Russian names (very popular in Bulgaria also) are the ones which end in *-ev/-ov*, fem. *-eva/-ova*, sometimes spelled *-eff/-off*, as it is pronounced (used especially by Russian immigrants in France). This ending is equivalent to Greek -πουλος, Scandinavian *-son* (*Gustavson*), and Polish *-(i)ak*, *-czak*, *-ewicz/-owicz*, *-ów*, fem. *-owa* (for a married woman), *-ówna* (for an unmarried girl). In Russian, a son of an *Ar|seniy* is *Ar|senyev*; of *Timo|fey — Temo|feyev*; *Ser|gey — Ser|geyev*; *Se|myon — Se|myonov*; *I|van — I|va|nov*; *Pyotr — Pe|trov*; *Mikha|il — Mi|khaylov*;

Ro|man — Ro|manov, etc. Nicknames and occupational names are constructed the same way: *gor|chak*, "persicaria" — *Gor|chakov*; *kol'|tso*, "ring" — *Kol'|tsov*; *kry|lo*, "wing" — *Kry|lov*; *pop*, "priest" — *Po|pov*; *kuz|nets*, "smith" — *Kuzne|tsov*, etc.

Aku|linichev, a physician and designer of a diagnostic apparatus for heart ailments. From *Aku|linich*, patronymic of *Akul|ina* < Greek 'Ακυλῖνα < Latin *Aquilina*.

Bak|ulev, a scholar and famous heart surgeon. From dial. *ba|kulit'*, "to talk endlessly."

Be|lyayev, the demoted Secretary of the Kazakstan Communist party. From *Belyay* < *|belyi*, "white, light, pale."

|Blokhintsev, a scientist and designer of the world's first atomic power station. From *|blokhinets*, "one who comes from *|Blokhino*," < *blo|kha*, "flea."

|Brezhnev, the new President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. From the old adj. *|brezhnyi*, now *be|rezhnyi*, "cautious, careful."

|Dudintsev, a Soviet writer, the first nonconformist and author of *Not by Bread Alone*. From *|Dudino*, < *du|da*, "pipe, shepherd's flute."

|Furtseva, the only woman member of the party presidium, the present Minister of Culture. From *|Furtsev*, a descendant of *Furts* (a nickname), from German *Furz*, meaning unsuitable for print, but can be found in most German-English dictionaries.

I|lyichev, a Soviet emissary who signed the Austrian state treaty in Vienna on May 15, 1955. From *I|lyich*, which in turn comes from *Iliy|a*, "Elijah"; a good example of an old Russian custom (which probably was introduced to Russia with the coming of Christianity from Byzantine Greece), of calling each person by his first name, which was followed by his father's first name with the ending *-ich*, feminine *-eva*, e.g.: *Vla|dimir I|lyich*, (feminine *I|lyicheva*.) It is customary to use only the initials of these two names before the surname, in the same way as the American middle initial, and even the first initial, *I. I. I|lyichev*. In pre-revolutionary Russia, however, it was the custom to call only a gentleman by his first name and his father's first name with the ending, *-ich*. Peasants and servants were called only by their patronymics (father's first name with the ending *-ich*); e.g.., if a gentleman, a man would be called *An|ton An|tonovich*; if a servant, merely *An|tonovich* or *An|tonych*.

ǀ*Khrunichev*, the Gosplan (*Gosuǀdarstvennaya ǀplanovaya koǀmis-siya*, "State Planning Committee") official of ministerial rank. From ǀ*Khrunich* < ǀ*khruni*, "rags." Cf. ǀ*khrunut'*, "to bellow."

Khrushǀchëv (pronounced *Khrushǀchof*; before a hard consonant, the stressed *ë* is pronounced as *o*), the first Secretary of the Communist party and Prime Minister. From *khrushch*, "brown beetle," (*Melolontha vulgaris*), a nickname. In Pushkin's works, this name is spelled in two ways: *Khrushǀchev* (in *The Captain's Daughter*) and *Khrushǀchov* (in *Boris Godunov*).*

Kisseǀl'ëv, *Ye. D.*, the Soviet ambassador to Cairo. *Kisseǀlëv*, *T. Ya.*, the Prime Minister of Byelorussia. From *kiǀsel'*, "jelly-like dish, pudding."

ǀ*Kon'ev*, a marshal and chief of the "Warsaw Defense Pact." From *kon'*, "horse."

ǀ*Maltsev*, a Soviet farmer, discoverer of the new plowing method. From ǀ*malets*, "boy, lad."

ǀ*Malyshev*, the Minister of Machine Building; from *maǀlysh*, "tot, kiddy."

Moiǀseyev, an artist, choreographer and ballet-master of the *Bolǀshoi* Ballet. From *Moiǀsey*, "Moses," (Jewish).

ǀ*Obruchev*, a scientist and specialist in space research; From ǀ*obruch*, "hoop, ring."

Pobedoǀnostsev, a professor of rocketry. A translation of a Christian name, *Niǀkifor*, from Greek Νικηφόρος, "bringing victory."

Proǀkofiev, the composer. From *Proǀkofiy* < Greek Προκόπιος, "Procopius."

Siǀbirtsev, a writer on rocketry. From *siǀbirets*, "dweller of *Siǀbir'*, Siberia." (From Kalmuk *siwŗ*, "woodland, marshy land.")

Snigiǀrëv, a leading engineer. From *sneǀgir'*, "bullfinch," (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*).

ǀ*Sobolev*, the chairman of Russia's United Nations delegation. From ǀ*sobol'*, "sable," (cf. Sanskrit *çabaras*, "spotted"). It was most likely

---

* The Russian emigres insist that *Khrushchev* is a Ukrainian, while the Ukrainians deny it vehemently. He was born in 1894 in Russia proper, in the village, *Kaʹlinovka*, near Kursk. His name is typically Russian (in Ukrainian, it would have been *Khrushʹchiv*). *Khrushchev* himself once declared to an English journalist that he is Russian. Although *Khrushchev* does not claim to be of noble ancestry, this name appears in the Moscow chronicles as early as 1563, with the remark, *dvoryaʹnin*, "nobleman." Cf. *Slovar' drevnerusskikh lichnykh sobstvennykh imen*, by N. M. Tupikov, (St. Petersburg, 1903), p. 811.

originally the name of a different animal, because sable is not spotted.

|*Tupolev*, a general, designer of planes and founder of the Soviet air industry (cf. TU-104, a jet passenger plane). Perhaps from |*tu*|*pol'*, possibly a dialectal form of |*topol'*, "poplar tree."

|*Zverev*, the Finance Minister. From *zver'*, "wild beast."

An|*tropov*, the Minister of Geological Prospecting. From *An*|*trop* < Greek ἄνθρωπος, "man."

A|*postolov*, a journalist. From *a*|*postol*, "apostle."

Ar|*tistov*, a rising Communist party member of the Russian Republic. From *ar*|*tist*, "artist."

Baiba|*kov*, the head of the Gosplan. From *bai*|*bak*, "bobac(k), marmot, a person leading a solitary life, a lazy person."

Belokh|*vostikov*, the head of the European desk of the foreign ministry. A compound of |*byelyi*, "white," and |*khvostik*, "a little tail."

Bogo|*mazov*, a radio program reviewer of children's stories. From *bogo*|*maz* (< *Bog*, "God" and |*mazat'*, "to smear"), "a poor painter of icons."

Bogo|*molov*, the former ambassador to Paris. From *bogo*|*mol*, "a worshipper, one who prays ardently to God."

Boy|*tsov*, a member of the Party Control Committee. From *bo*|*yets*, gen. sing. *boy*|*tsa*, "fighter, warrior."

Dobro|*nravov*, a scientist, leading figure in space research. From *dobr-o-*|*nrav*, "good manners," "son or descendant of one who is well-tempered."

Da|*nilova*, the famous prima ballerina. From *Da*|*nilo*, "Daniel."

Dolgo|*polov*, a journalist. From |*dolgiy*, "long" and *po*|*la*, "a *flap*."

|*Dudorov*, the present Minister of Interior (MVD = *Mini*|*sterstvo* |*Vnutrennikh* |*Dyel*, "Ministry of Interior Affairs"). From dial. *d*|*udora*, "rubbish."

Garbu|*nov*, the former Secretary of the Communist party of Byelorussia. From Byeloruss. *harb*|*un*, "hunchback."

I|*gnatov*, the President of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic. From *I*|*gnat*, "Ignatius."

Kaba|*nov*, a Gosplan official of ministerial rank. From *ka*|*ban*, "wild boar."

Kalmy|kov, the Minister of Radio and Electronics. From *kal|myk*, "Kalmuk."

|Khlamov, a Gosplan official of ministerial rank. From *khlam*, "trash."

Komar|ov, a member of the Party Control Committee. From *ko|mar*, "mosquito."

Ko|nenkov, a famous sculptor (who lived in America for twenty years, returning in 1945). This is a Russianized Ukrainian name, *Ko|nenko*, from *kon'*, "horse."

Koso|lapov, an associate editor of *Sovi|etskaya Kul|tura*. From *koso|lapyi*, "awkward, intoed."

Ko|zhevnikov, the Minister of Transportation. From *ko|zhevnik*, "leather-dresser," cf. *|kozha*, "skin, hide."

Ko|zlov, the former Vice-Premier, now a party secretary. From *kozy|ol*, gen. sing. *ko|zla*, "billy-goat."

Kru|glov, the successor of Beria. From *|kruglyi*, "round."

Ku|stov, a journalist. From *kust*, "bush."

Kuzne|tsov, the Vice-Chairman of Russia's United Nations delegation. From *ku|znets*, "blacksmith."

Le|onov, the author of *Russian Forest*. From *|Leon* < Greek Λέων, "Leo."

Lit|vinov, the first Soviet ambassador to Washington; in 1933, he won diplomatic recognition for the USSR. From *Lit|vin*, "Lithuanian," a Lithuanian Jew — *Falken|shteyn* (*|Falkenstein*), German *Falke*, "falcon" and *Stein*, "stone."

|Malenkov, former Premier, now in exile. From *|malen'kyi, mal*, "little, small."

Ma|zurov, the present Secretary of the Communist party of Byelorussia. From *Ma|zur*, "a Pole from *Mazowsze*," a province in which Warsaw is located.

|Menshikov, the present ambassador to Washington. From *|men'shik*, which comes from *|men'she*, "less" and the suffix *-ik*.

Mi|khailov, the recently demoted Minister of Culture. From *Mikha|il*, "Michael."

|Molotov, the former Foreign Minister. From *|molot*, "hammer." His real name was *|Skryabin (Skri|abin)*; on this see above, p. 4.

Nesme|yanov, the President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, also a specialist in space research. From *ne*, "no" and *sme|yat'sya*, "to laugh," "a descendant of one who did not laugh."

|*Novikov*, the state's chief planner and Deputy Premier. From |*novik*, "novice."

Or|lov, the editor of *Sovi|etskaya Kul|tura*. From *o|ryol*, "eagle."

Polya|kova, a leading woman reporter. From *po|lyak*, "a Pole."

Po|pov, an outstanding reporter. From *pop*, "priest."

Po|spelov, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Russian Republic. From *po|spel*, "arrived in time."

Sa|burov, a leading economic planner, now discharged. From *sa|bur*, "aloe."

Se|myonov, the former ambassador to East Berlin. From *Se|myon*, "Symeon."

Se|rov, the former Security Minister. From *ser*, |*seryi*, "gray, coarse."

She|pilov, the former Foreign Minister. From *she'pilo*, "one who hisses." cf. *shi|pet'*, "to hiss."

|*Sholokhov*, a prominent writer, author of the masterpiece of Soviet fiction, |*Tikhiy Don*, "The Silent Don." From |*sholokh*, |*shelest*, "rustle."

|*Sokolov*, an outstanding artist of space travel. From |*sokol*, "falcon."

Soko|lova, a woman artist and member of the Art Academy. See above.

|*Suslov*, a party propagandist. From |*susel*, or |*suslik*, "earless marmot."

U|lanova, the famous prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theater. From *u|lan*, "uhlan, lancer."

U|stinov, a Vice-Premier. From *Us|tin*, "Justin."

|*Volkov*, the Minister of Labor. From *volk*, "wolf."

Voro|shilov, a marshal, former President of the Supreme Soviet. From *voro|shila*, "a mover"; cf. *voro|shit'*, "to move, to rustle."

Tikho|mirov, an opera critic. A compound from |*tikhiy*, "calm," and *mir*, "world, peace."

|*Zhukov*, a marshal who took part in the capture of Berlin, 1945. From *zhuk*, "black beetle," (*Scarabeus*).

|*Zolov*, the Vice-Premier of Byelorussia. From *zo|la*, "ashes."

3. Names in -*ich*

Igna|tovich, an artist. From *I|gnat*, "Ignatius."

Kaga|novich, an old Bolshevik of Jewish descent and a Russian industrial specialist, now exiled. From the Hebrew word *cohen*, "a high priest" and the Slavic suffix -*ovich*, meaning "son of." Many Jews in America who came from Slavic countries have the same type of names, *e.g.*: *Ber|kovitz*, *Lej|bowicz*, which means son of |*Berko* and |*Lejba*, etc.

Mats|kevich, the Minister of Agriculture. From Ukrain. *mats'|ko*, "indecisive man, one who gropes along"; cf. *matsku|vaty*, "to grope."

Shosta|kovich, the great composer. From Russian *she|stak*, or Ukrainian *sho|stak*, "the sixth male child," or "one who has six fingers."

Stanyu|kovich, a leading physicist. From Byeloruss. *Sta|nyuk*, "son of Stanley."

4. Names in -*oy*

Guse|voy, a literary critic. Gusevoy, a descendant of a |*Gusev*; both adjectives from *gus'*, "goose."

Pole|voy (*Pole|voi*), the journalist and author of many books, including *We Are Soviet People*. From the adj. *polev|oy*, "field-."

5. Names in -*sky/-tsky*

The suffixes -*sky/-tsky*, feminine -*skaya/-tskaya*, are common in Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Byelorussian, Czech, and other Slavic. Such names are usually derived from place names (landowners, nobles; in Polish, from the father's first name as well), and are grammatical adjectives.

Dzer|zhinsky, the first commissar of the GPU (*Gosu|darstvennoye Poli|ticheskoye Uprav|leniye*, "State Political Department"). From the Polish verb, *dzierżyć*, "to hold, keep, retain," and means "a landlord of *Dzierżyńsk*."

Fa|vorsky, a painter. From *Fa|vorsk*, the meaning of which is uncertain, perhaps from *Fa|vor* < Greek-Hebrew Θαβώρ, "Thabor," a mountain in Palestine.

Kra|sovsky, a cosmic scientist and radiation expert. From *Kra|so-vo* < *kra|sa*, "beauty."

Krug|lyansky, a leading college educator. From *Krug|lyansk*, which, in turn, comes from the adjective |*kruglyi*, "round."

Malin|ovsky, the marshal and Defense Minister. From the name of a place called *Ma|li|novo* in Russ., and in Ukrain. or Pol. *ma|lina*, "raspberry."

Manu|il'sky, a Russian Bolshevik of Jewish descent and the first United Nations representative from the Ukraine. From the name of a place called *Manu|il'sk*, (or *Manu|ilovo*, a village near Tomsk), which, in turn, comes from *Manu|il*, "Emmanuel."

Po|lyansky, the Premier of the Russian Republic. From *po|lyana*, "glade."

Roko|sovsky, a Soviet marshal of Polish descent. From *Roko|sowo*, dialectal for *Rokoszowo* signifying "field, place of mutiny," from Polish *rokosz*, "mutiny," Slovenian *rákoš*, "noise"; cf. Hungarian *Rákos*, a field near Budapest, where in 14th—16th centuries, Hungarians held their congresses. (Vasmer, Russisches etymolog. Wörterb. 2. 533.)

Rozh|dest|vensky, a reporter. From the adjectiv *rozh|destvenskyi*, "Christmas-, born on Christmas day."

Soko|lovsky, a marshal. From a place, *Soko|lovo*, which, in turn, comes from |*sokol*, "falcon." Cf. *Sokolov* (above).

Troya|novsky, the top Soviet English-Russian interpreter. From a place name *Troya|novo*, possibly from Ukrain. *tro|yan*, "father of triplets," or "three-horse carriage"; cf. Russ. |*troyka* (|*troika*), "three-horse carriage."

Tsiol|kovsky, the Russian pioneer scientist in rocket propulsion, author of *Exploration of Space by Rocket Devices*, 1903, who predicted, "Mankind will not remain tied to the earth forever." Possibly from a place *Tsi|olkov(o)*; cf. Byeloruss. *tsi|olka*, Russ. *ti|olka*, "heifer," and Pol. *ciołek*, "calf, a young ox."

Vasi|levsky, a marshal. From a place name, *Vasi|levo*, which, in turn, comes from *Va|sili*, "Basil," < Greek Βασίλειος, "Basil."

Vysh|insky, a late United Nations representative. From a place name *Vy|shinsk*, which is derived from *vyshin|a*, "height, hill."

Tukha|chevsky, a marshal who was shot to death by Stalin. From a place name, *Tukha|chevo*, of uncertain origin; perhaps from |*tukha*, "blizzard."

Za|voisky, a physicist, the discoverer of paramagnetic electronic resonance. From a place name, *Za|voysk* (verb *zavi|vat'*, "to wave").

6. Names in *-ik*

Malik, the ambassador to London. From *mal-*, "small," and suff. *-ik*.

|*Shvernik*, the head of the Party Control Committee. From |*shvyrnut'*, "to cast, to throw."

7. Other Suffixes

Be|ria, the executed Security Minister. From Georgian *be|ri*, "clergyman, monk."

Budy|onny, a marshal. From the adj. *bu|dënnyi*, which, in turn, comes from |*buden'*, "week-day."

Ehren|burg, a leading journalist and Stalin prize-winning author of many anti-Western books, including *I Returned from the USA*, a malicious account of life in America. A Jewish name from Germ. *Ehre*, "honor," and *Burg*, "castle."

Fish, a journalist. A Jewish name from Germ. *Fisch*, "fish."

|*Freedlyand*, a journalist. A Jewish name from Germ. *Friede*, "peace," and *Land*, "land."

|*Grechko*, a marshal and commander-in-chief of the ground forces. From |*grechka*, Ukrain. |*hrechka*, "buckwheat."

Gro|myko, the Foreign Minister. From *grom*, "thunder"; born in |*Starye Gro|myki*, "Old Gromyki," which was possibly founded by some of his ancestors.

|*Laika*, the first animal space traveler. From |*layka*, "Eskimo dog"; cf. |*layat'*, "to bark."

Mikoy|an, the first Vice-Premier and expert on foreign trade. The name is of Armenian origin; meaning unknown.

Ne|pomnyashchy, an outstanding journalist. The name is a form of the pres. act. participle of *ne|pomnit*, "not to remember."

Paster|nak, the poet and Nobel prize winner for his novel, |*Doctor Zhiv|ago*,* which is the first courageous criticism of communism

---

* *Zhi'vago* is a gen. sing. form (with the old ending *-ago*, now *-ogo*) of the adj. *zhiv*, "vivid, lively."

from behind the Iron Curtain. From Russ. or Ukrain. *paster|nak*, "parsnip," although the author himself is of Jewish descent.

Pod|gorny, see *Pid|hirnyi* (Ukrainian names).

|Sternfeld, an outstanding astronomer and researcher in the rocket field. A Jewish name from Germ. *Stern*, "star," and *Feld*, "field."

II. UKRAINIAN NAMES

Bara|novskyi, the United Nations representative from the U-kraine, From *Ba|ranovo*, derived from *ba|ran*, "ram, a fool."

Di|brova, a general, the military commander of East Berlin. From *di |brova*, "oak-grove."

Gou|zenko, the Soviet escapee and author of *Fall of the Titan*. From *guz*, "button."

|Kalchenko, the Premier of the Ukrainian Republic. From *kaln|yi*, "dirty," cf. *kal*, "dirt."

|Kapitza, the head of Russian nuclear research. From Ukrain. *ka|pytsya*, "hood, gable"; Polish *ka|pica*, "hood, cowl"; possibly both from Germ. *Kapuze*, "hood, cowl."

Kiri|chenko, a recently demoted member of the party Presidium. From the Christian name, *Ki|rik* < Greek Κυριάκος, "belonging to the Lord (Christ)."

Kondra|tyuk, a Ukrainian pioneer in rocketry, who in 1929 supplemented Tsiolkovsky's studies. From *Kon|drat*, "Conrad."

Korniy|chuk, the outstanding Soviet Ukrainian writer, politician, and recently winner of the International Lenin Peace Prize (together with the Cleveland industrialist, Cyrus Eaton). From *Kor-|niy*, "Cornel."

Ko|rotchenko, President of the Ukrainian Republic. From *ko-|rotkyi*, "short."

Krasno|yurchenko, the Soviet general and head of the space program research. A compound meaning "son of red George," from *|krasnyi*, "red," and *|Yurchyk*, which is dimin. of *|Yuriy*, "George."

|Krav|chenko, the Soviet escapee and author of *I Chose Freedom*. From *kra|vets'*, "tailor."

Ly|senko, a controversial biologist. From *|lysyi*, "bald-headed."

Palamar|chuk, the Foreign Minister and United Nations representative of the Soviet Ukraine. From *pala|mar* < Greek παραμονά-ρι(ο)ς, "sacristan."

Pid|hirnyi, the first Secretary of the Communist party. From *Pid|hirnyi*, "one who lives *pid ho|royu*, at the foot of a mountain."

Sud|ets, a general and the chief of Soviet H-bomb research (born in Dneprotrovsk, Ukraine). From *sud|ets'*, "judge."

Timo|shenko, a marshal. From *Ti|mosh*, "Timotheus."

III. POLISH NAMES

Barański, the Minister of Health. From *baran*, "ram, fool."

Cyrankiewicz, the Premier of Communist Poland. From *cyranka*, "teal *(Nettion crecca)*."

Dąb-Kocioł, the Minister of Forestry. From *dąb*, "oak," and *kocioł*, "kettle."

Dietrich, the Minister of Finance. From Germ. *Dietrich*, "descendant of Theodoric."

Gomułka, the first Secretary of the Communist party. From *go-mółka*, "head of cheese."

Jaroszewicz, the Vice-Premier. From the Christian name, *Jarosz*, "vegetarian"; cf. the adjective *jary*, "fresh, of this year."

Jędrychowski, the chairman of the Planning Commission. From the place name, *Jędrychowo* < *Jędrych*, an augmentative form of *Andrzej*, "Andrew"; cf. Greek 'Ανδρέας "Andrew."

Katz, the United Nations representative. From Germ. *Katze*, "cat."

Lange, the Vice-President, economist and diplomat. From Germ. *lange*, "long, tall."

Mitręga, the Minister of Mining. From *mitręga*, "delayer."

Moskwa, the Minister of Communications. From *Moskwa*, "Moscow."

Nowak, the second Vice-Premier. From *nowak*, "novice."

Ochab, the Minister of Agriculture. Possibly a Pol. dial. word from the Ukrain. lingual border *okhab* (the same in Ukrainian), "worthless, rotten log, puddle."

Pietrusiewicz, the Minister of Building. Descendant of *Pietruś* or *Piotruś*, "little Peter."

Podedworny, the second Vice-President. A compound adj. *podedworny,* from *pode dworem,* "near an estate."

Rapacki, the Foreign Minister. From the place name, *Rapack*; meaning unknown.

Rybicki, the Minister of Justice. "One from *Rybice,*" from *ryba,* "fish."

Spychalski, the National Defense Minister. From *spychać,* "to push down."

Sroka, the Minister of Communal Economy. From *sroka,* "magpie."

Strzelecki, the Minister of Transport. Descendant of a *strzelec,* "hunter."

Wicha, the Minister of Internal Affairs. From *wicha* or *wiecha,* "stake-setter."

Zawadzki, the President of Poland (the new formal title is the "Chairman of the State Council"). From the place name, *Zawada,* "hindrance, obstacle."

IV. CZECH NAMES

Cerny, the Minister of Mines. From adj. *černý,* "black."

David, the Foreign Minister. From Hebrew *David,* "David" (beloved).

Dolansky, the Vice-Premier. From the place name, *Dolany* > *dol,* "valley."

Gottwald, the Communist party leader. From Germ. *Gott,* "God," and *Wald,* "forest."

Krosnar, the Minister of State Control. "One who makes *krosna,* "weaver's looms."

Lomsky, the Minister of National Defense. "One from *Lomy,*" from *lomiti,* "to break."

Neuman, the Minister of Communication. From Germ. *Neumann,* "a new man."

Novotny, the President of Czechoslovakia. From *novotný,* "modern."

Pospisil, the Minister of Power. From *pospišil,* "one who hurried."

Siroky, the Premier. From *široký,* "broad, wide."

Slansky, the executed Secretary of the Communist party. From a place name *Slane*, "salty."

Uher, the Minister of Food Industry. From *uher*, "a Hungarian."

Zapotocky, the former President. A compound of *za* "beyond," and *potok* "brook," *i.e.*, "one who lives beyond a brook."

V. BULGARIAN NAMES

Di|mitroff, the Minister of Transport. From *Di|mitar*, "Demetrius," → Δημήτριος "belonging to Δημήτηρ [Greek goddess of agriculture, in Latin *Ceres*]."

|*Ganev*, the President of the National Assembly ("*Sŭ|branie*"-parliament). Meaning unknown.

Ge|orgieff, the head of the Construction Committee. From *Ge|orgi*, "George," Greek Γεώργιος "George," this deriv. of γεωργός, "tiller of the earth, farmer."

|*Hristosoff*, the head of the State Planning. From |*Hristos* < Gr. Χρῖστος (from Χριστόφορος).

|*Lazaroff*, the Finance Minister. From |*Lazar*, "Lazarus."

|*Lukanoff*, the Foreign Minister. From |*Lukan*, "Lucanus."

Mi|khailoff, the Vice-President, general and Defense Minister. From |*Mikhail*, "Michael."

|*Naidenoff*, the Minister of Justice. From the past participle, |*naiden*, "found," (a foundling).

|*Stefanoff*, the head of State Control. From |*Stefan*, "Stephen."

|*Tshervenkoff*, the Vice-Premier. From adj. |*tsherven*, "red, ruddy," *i.e.*, "one who looks healthy, ruddy."

|*Yugoff*, the Premier. From *yug*, "south."

|*Zhivkoff*, the Secretary of the Communist party. From adj. *zhiv*, "alive, lively, brisk." It is a custom among the common people of Bulgaria to give the name |*Zhivko* (life) to a second-born boy, and |*Zhivka* to a second-born girl born after the death of a first child. This is supposed to insure the life of the second child (magic of the word).

VI. YUGOSLAVIAN NAMES

Yugo|slavia, which means "South-Slavia," is the country of the Serbs, Croatians, Slovenians, and Macedonian Slavs. The most typical Yugoslav names end in *-ich, -ovich, -evich, -ac*; less typical

are names that end in *-ka, -lo, -na*, etc. Due to the changing history and different cultural influences, many Yugoslavian names are not Slavic.

|*Babich*, the Minister of Foreign Trade. From *b|aba*, "grandmother."

|*Bakarich*, the President of Croatia. From *b|akar*, "copper smith."

|*Djilas*, the former theoretician of Yugoslav Communism (Montenegran), who was sentenced to hard labor for making derogatory remarks about Communist exploitation of the people, and for writing the book *The New Class*. The meaning of the name is uncertain; possibly it comes from Turkish *djilas*, which used to be a tribal title.

|*Goshnjak*, the Minister of Defense. From |*Goshe*, dimin. of |*Gorgija*, "George."

Jo|vanovich, the President of Montenegro. From |*Yovan*, (cf. Russian *Ivan*), "John."

|*Kardelj*, the Vice-President (Slovene). Meaning unknown.

Koli|shevski, the President of Macedonia. From the place name *Koli|shevo* < *klàti*, "to stab"; cf. Russian *ko|lot'*, "to stab."

|*Ma|rinko*, the President of Slovenia. From *Ma|rinko*, "Marian."

|*Popovich*, the Foreign Minister. From *pop*, "priest."

|*Pucar*, the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Meaning unknown.

|*Rankovich*, the Vice-President. From |*ranko*, "early."

|*Stambolich*, the President of the People's Assembly. From *stambòlija*, this in turn from Turk. *Istanbollü* < |*Stambol*, "Istanbul."*

Ste|fanovich, the Minister of Interior. From *Stefan*, "Stephen."

|*Tito-Broz*, the President of Communist Yugoslavia (Croat). The first part, |*Tito*, "Titus," is a pseudonym used by him during the Spanish Civil War; the second, *Broz*, means "brave" in Serbian.

To|dorovich, the Vice-President. From |*Todor*, "Theodore."

Ve|selinov, the President of Serbia. From |*vesel*, "happy."

Vuk|manovich, the former Vice-President and economist. The first part of the name is *vuk*, "wolf"; the rest is uncertain.

★　★　★

* See D. J. Georgacas, "The Names of Constantinople," *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 78 (1948), p. 367.

This article was read at the annual meeting of the American Name Society in Chicago, December 28, 1955. In the interval between that date and the present, some of the dignitaries mentioned here were purged and are celebrities no more. I have included all changes in office occurring before May 6, 1960. Initially, I had planned to include only Soviet Russian surnames, but later I decided to add a few of the most prominent Communist celebrities of other Slavic countries. I could not treat them extensively, because of the lack of proper dictionaries.

Russian and other Slavic names are so simple in their meanings that the Russian or Slavic speaking person has full understanding of the meaning of these names, without having to refer to any dictionaries. Therefore, I, as a Russian-born Slavicist, found it necessary in only a few instances to consult *Russisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, 3 vols., by M. Vasmer (Heidelberg, 1958), *Tolkovyi slovar' zhivogo velikorusskogo yazyka*, 4 vols., by V. Dal', (Moscow, 1956), and *Slovar' ukrayins'koyi movy*, 4 vols., by B. D. Hrinchenko, (Kiev, 1907).

The names explained here were collected from the American press, and the *USSR Illustrated Monthly* (Washington, D.C.). To ascertain the present position of the Communist celebrities, I consulted *Whitaker's Almanac* (London, 1960). A few names of internationally known non-Communist Russians are included in the introduction where Russian suffixes are explained.

The reader will find some place names mentioned in the article in *Atlas mira, Ukazatel' geograficheskikh nazvaniy* (Moscow, 1954). However, this is not a complete register of all place names, but only of those which refer to villages of at least one thousand population. Some place names are very popular among the Slavs. In the above mentioned *Ukazatel'* on page 87, one can find 73 place names derived from the name *Va|siliy*, "Basil"; on page 416, 52 derivations from the word |*sokol*, "falcon"; on page 264, 17 derivations from *ma|lina*, "raspberry", etc. All place names are not listed there, so I mentioned some hypothetical place names, because the surnames with the suffix -*sky* leave no doubt that such place names have existed or exist at present. I could not refer to "village," or "town" either, because without knowing the historical background of the surname, it is impossible to determine from which particular place such a

name is derived. Therefore, I had no choice but to use the relatively vague term "place name," which in 99 % of the cases is or was a village or estate. Eastern Europe, unlike Western Europe or America, has always been the arena of devastating wars and invasions, so there are very few families who know their genealogical family trees, especially among the common, working people. Then too, Soviet surnames are mostly of proletarian origin; therefore, many of them are merely nicknames. There are some place names mentioned in the chronicles that no longer exist on the map. In the "Lithuanian" (which were actually Byelorussian or Ukrainian) chronicles, for instance, it is mentioned that a boyar, Daniel Ivanovich Irtishevich, from whom the family of the great author Feodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevsky descended, received several villages on October 6, 1506, from the prince of Pinsk. One of the villages was *Dosto|yevo*. Thus, descendants of Irtishevich somehow dropped their previous surname and adopted a new one from the new residence. (Cf. *"Firebrand," The Life of Dostoevsky*, by Henry Troyat, Roy Publishers, New York, 1946, p. 12). However, one cannot find *Dosto|yevo* in the *Ukazatel'* or on the current maps.

The name of Soviet Marshal Rokosovsky (of Polish descent) could easily be derived from the place name, *Roko|sowo*, in the *Poznan'* (German *Posen*) district, recorded as early as 1310, but I am not in a position to check whether his family actually descends from there, or if that place still exists. It is not mentioned on the current maps, in the *Ukazatel'*, or any other sources. All of these difficulties prevented me from being specific on the points indicated.

I wish to express my gratitude to Elsdon C. Smith, one of the founders of the *ANS*, who encouraged me to write this article, and to extend my thanks to Dr. J. B. Rudnyćkyj, and to the editors of *Names*, Dr. Demetrius J. Georgacas, Dr. E. Wallace McMullen, and Dr. Audrey Duckert for their many valuable suggestions, which are incorporated in this article.

University of Cincinnati