

1. Before its communist revolution, Russia was an agrarian superpower. Yet,  
 2. during the 20th century, it slipped from this position due to ( 26 ). Socialist  
 3. economists contended that large, communal, centrally planned farms would be  
 4. more efficient than small homesteads. Thus, from the 1920s, the Soviet state  
 5. began to forcibly collectivize all farms, making the land, machinery, livestock,  
 6. and crop seeds national property. The result was disastrous. Once-independent  
 7. farmers became salaried employees with no incentive to improve production  
 8. methods or increase output. The country went from being the world's largest  
 9. exporter of grain to being a net importer. The folly of the policy was emphasized  
 10. by the fact that the small plots set aside for private use—a tiny fraction of the  
 11. land under cultivation—ended up producing around one-quarter<sup>1/4の</sup> of Russia's  
 12. harvest.



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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| (26) 1 a misguided theory | 2 political infighting |
| 3 farm owners' mistakes   | 4 a failing economy    |

**Further Questions**

13. 1) Why did the Soviet state begin to forcibly collective all farms?  
 14. *Socialist economists contended that large, communal, centrally planned farms*  
 15. *would be more efficient than small homesteads.*  
 16. 2) Why did the farmers become less productive under the communist system?  
 17. *The farmers became salaried employees with no incentive to improve production.*  
 18. 3) What happened to Russia's grain production under this system?  
 19. *They went from being the world's largest exporter of grain to being a net importer.*

20. With the downfall of Soviet communism, one might have expected the collective  
 21. farms to go the way of socialist economics. This was certainly the intention of the  
 22. new government, which passed a series of laws making it possible for people to  
 23. run farms as family businesses again. Given the choice, most people opted to  
 24. ( 27 ). Experts have debated this unexpected setback; some ascribe it to the  
 25. farmers' apathy, while others maintain the changes did not go far enough—local  
 26. governments still controlled the supply of fuel and seeds too closely, and strict  
 27. limitations were imposed on the amount of land that could be privately owned.

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (27) 1 stay as they were       | 2 try for bigger profits |
| 3 side with the new government | 4 oppose communist ideas |

**Further Questions**

29. 4) What did the new government do after the downfall of Soviet communism?  
 30. *They passed a series of laws making it possible for people to run farms as family*  
 31. *businesses again.*  
 32. 5) Why do experts believe the laws did not have the expected result?

33. *Some ascribe it to the farmer's apathy, while others maintain the changes did not*  
34. *go far enough.*

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35. Now, another force has entered the scene: international agricultural  
36. conglomerates. Keen to profit from rising world food prices, these conglomerates  
37. are ( 28 ) the post-communist government. They are snapping up farms and  
38. combining them into huge, factory-style operations, rather than dividing them  
39. into the private plots that the government had imagined. In the process, they  
40. have increased agricultural efficiency; in one area that was previously farmed by  
41. 3,000 people, only 340 people now work, yet more food is produced. If these new  
42. conglomerates continue to grow, Russia could once more emerge as a major  
43. source of the world's food supply.

44. (28) 1 relying heavily on                                                  2 being taken over by  
          3 taking an alternate approach to                                        4 struggling to keep up with

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### **Further Questions**

45. 6) Why are the conglomerates snapping up farms and combining them into huge  
46. factory-style operations?

47. *They are keen to profit from rising world food prices.*

48. 7) What has been the positive result of the conglomerates creating large farms?

49. *They have increased agricultural efficiency.*

50. 8) Can you think of a negative effect of the efficiency of the conglomerates?

51. *Many people who used to be farmers now find themselves without a job and*

52. *might not be able to find a new job.*

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53. 解答: (26) 1 (27) 1 (28) 3



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