

Scientific article

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2026-3-942-959

For citation

Pass, A. A., Dida, V. M. (2026). Archival Documents of the Chelyabinsk Regional Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks as a Source for Studying the Policy of Stimulating Cooperative Industry in 1946–1950, Herald of an Archivist, no. 3, pp. 942-959. DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2026-3-942-959

Pass, A. A., Dida, V. M., Chelyabinsk State University, Chelyabinsk, Russia

Archival Documents of the Chelyabinsk Regional Committee of the All-Union Communist Party

of Bolsheviks as a Source for Studying the Policy of Stimulating Cooperative Industry in 1946–1950

Abstract

The article explores the informative potential of sources from the party archives of the United State Archives of the Chelyabinsk Region (OGACHO) on the role of industrial cooperation in improving the living conditions of residents of a major industrial center in the second half of the 1940s. Contemporary social scholars believe that complex, contradictory, and even paradoxical societal systems are more effective in terms of national economic growth and population support. This requires a careful study of the transition of the Soviet mobilization economy to civilian production after Victory Day. Available archival materials suggest the emergence of quasi-market mechanisms for managing small collective enterprises during the postwar period. Their practical application revitalized local trade in goods and services and significantly improved living conditions. Despite the interest of social scientists in this period, a large body of documentary evidence, deposited in regional repositories and devoted to these issues, remains unused. The study utilized an institutional method, elements of source study heuristics, and comparative analysis. The documents identified in the OGACHO consist of previously unpublished decisions of conferences, plenary sessions, and bureaus of the regional committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, as well as notes and reports from its specialized department, which oversaw the work of regional industrial cooperatives. They cover issues such as monitoring cooperatives' compliance with resolutions of union, republican, and regional government bodies, the ongoing activities of cooperatives, and the search for an optimal operating mode. The authors concluded that the selected materials are highly objective, consistently reflecting the line of the government and regulatory authorities. They support the thesis of a search for new methods and approaches to managing the non-state sector of the national economy after the end of the Great Patriotic War. Primary source texts convincingly demonstrate that the measures implemented galvanized collective entrepreneurship and strengthened its utilitarian and pragmatic motivations. At the same time, they reduced the susceptibility of cooperative enterprises to direct administration and created conditions for testing shadow reproduction schemes, aimed not so much at strengthening the economic position of a particular artel, but at finding opportunities for personal enrichment.

Keywords

Historical sources, industrial and consumer cooperation, regional archives, party bodies, cooperative industry of the 1946–1950s, conversion, production of goods and services for the population, command management methods, monetary motivation.

Download the article: [pass](#) [dida](#) [doi](#)

References

Aksarin, V. V. (2020). The Directorate for Industrial and Consumer Cooperatives in 1946–1950, Interaction between Central and Local Authorities, using the Tyumen Region as an Example, *Scientific Dialogue*, no. 3, pp. 284–297.

Balakhonova, I. N. (2009). Implementation of Party-State Policy in Industrial Cooperation in the Gorky Region in 1917–1960, PhD Thesis (Hist.), Nizhny Novgorod, 295 pp.

Novozhilov, A. A., Fedchenko, M. N. (2018). Organizational Structure of Industrial Cooperation in the Kurgan Region, 1946–1960, *Liberal Arts in Russia*, vol. 7, no. 6, pp. 490–500.

Osipov, A. A. (2003). Private Economic Activity in the Soviet Economy, 1945–1960, Based on Materials from Western Siberia, Kemerovo, Kuzbass State University publ., 125 p.

Pechalov, A. K. (2016). The Importance of Industrial Cooperation in the Socioeconomic and Cultural Development of Stavropol, 1945–1960, PhD Thesis (Hist.), Stavropol, 200 p.

Pechalova, L. V. (2023). Industrial Cooperation and Cooperation of the Disabled in the Implementation of the Socioeconomic Policy of the Soviet State, 1920–1960, Based on Materials from the North Caucasus and the Don Region, Doctoral Dissertation (Hist.), Stavropol, 589 p.

Tverdyukova, E. D. (2011) State Regulation of Trade in the USSR, Late 1920s – Early 1950s, Historical and Legal Analysis, St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg State University publ., 328 p.

Chuvaev, N. A. (2009). Symbiosis and Competition, The Sole Private Artisan and Industrial Cooperation in the Post-War Economy of Altai (1945–1953). IN: Elert, A. Kh. (Ed.) (2009). *Historical Yearbook, 2009, Collection of Scientific Papers*, Novosibirsk, Ripel publ., pp. 191–202.

Chudnov, I. A., Osipov, V. A. (2013). Cooperation Minus Private Initiative Equals Socialism, The activities of the Main Directorate for Industrial and Consumer Cooperatives, Glavukoop, to displace private initiative from cooperation in the second half of the 1940s, *The Bulletin of Belgorod University of Cooperation, Economics and Law*, no. 3, pp. 175–184.

Sheikhetov, S. V. (2006). State policy towards private entrepreneurship, 1940s – mid-1950s. IN: Krasilnikov, S. A., Shadt, A. A. (Ed.) (2006). *Marginals in Soviet society, mechanisms and practice of status regulation in the 1930s–1950s*, Collection of scientific papers, Novosibirsk, Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences publ., pp. 190–210.

Edel, M. (2011). *Stalinist Society, 1928–1953*, Oxford, Oxford University publ., 367 p.

Hessler, J. (1998). A Postwar Perestroika? Toward a History of Private Enterprise in the USSR, *Slavic Review*, vol. 57, no. 3, pp. 516-542.

Hessler, J. (2001). Postwar Normalization and its Limits in USSR: the Case of Trade, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 445–471.

Hessler, J. (2004). *A Social History of Soviet Trade, Trade Policy, Retail Practices, and Consumption, 1917 – 1953*, Princeton, Oxford, Princeton University publ., 366 p.

Hooper, C. (2006). A Darker «Big Deal», Concealing Party Crimes in the Post-Second World War Era. IN: Furst, J. (Ed.). *Late Stalinist Russia, Society between Reconstruction and Reinvention*, London, New York, Routledge publ., pp. 142–163.

About authors

Pass Andrey Arkadyevich, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Chelyabinsk State University, Professor of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Chelyabinsk, Russia, 8-951-230-16-99, pass_andrey@mail.ru

Dida Vadim Markovich, Chelyabinsk State University, Faculty of History and Philology,

Department of Political Science and International Relations, postgraduate student, Chelyabinsk, Russian Federation, 8-919-115-79-52, dida_vadim@mail.ru

Grant information

The study was conducted with financial support from the Russian Science Foundation and the Government of the Chelyabinsk Region, No. 25-28-20066, <https://rscf.ru/project/25-28-20066/>

The article was received in the editorial office on 24.06.2025, recommended for publication on 20.06.2026

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .