Yuri Glazov

Gorbachev is Gone, Yeltsin . . .?

For many years the collapse of the Soviet empire had been seen by several observers as almost inevitable. Nevertheless, the incredible events which took place in Eastern Europe over the last five or six years outpaced our most daring and seemingly irresponsible predictions. Who indeed could anticipate, with any certainty, even twenty or twenty-five months earlier that in the final month of the summer of 1991 the Soviet Communist Party, "the intelligence, honour and conscience of our epoch," would be declared outlawed, the immensely powerful Soviet Union would be shattered, and President Gorbachev would be ousted in disgrace from his office soon after the enigmatic coup of 1991, while its major agents and co-partners, including the former Soviet Prime Minister and the KGB chairman, would be thrown into the Matrosskaya Tishina jail pending the trial now awaited with avidity.

The huge empire has been intimidating the world for many decades with its "invincible" army and nuclear missiles. The Soviet ideological machine never stopped boasting about its superior philosophers and writers, ballerinas and chess masters, hockey players and mathematicians. Soviet spaceships could successfully compete with American ones, while attracting the world's delighted attention. At the same time many millions of Soviet citizens felt afraid even to murmur a word of criticism of or displeasure with their own authorities. Many thousands of people living beyond the Soviet borders, proud of the Soviet victories, never concealed their dissatisfaction with those scholars and students who risked underrating "the first socialist country's" achievements and unparalleled contribution to global civilization.