

# Regional political elite and perestroika in the USSR: a missed opportunity or a transformation into something new?

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*The article deals with the origins of the regional political elite of the USSR in the 1980s and 1990s. We analyse various approaches to the evolution of the ruling regional elite and the role it played in political reforms of the society. We reveal the reasons for the crisis the regional elites underwent during the perestroika times in the USSR and its consequences, along with their transition to a new state.*

**Keywords:** regional elite, nomenklatura (Soviet ruling class), perestroika, glasnost (increased government transparency), elections, party, members of parliament

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