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# The political elite of the USSR regions and the restructuring of the administrative mechanism: Trends, controversies, results

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*The article examines the restructuring of the administrative mechanism and the role which the political elite of the USSR regions played in this process in the 1980s and 1990s. We analyze the key socio-economic challenges and the contradictions that arose in the course of their overcoming. The causes for many failures of the state socio-economic initiatives, the responsibility of the regional political elite as well as the socio-political results of these processes are revealed.*

**Keywords:** regional elite, perestroika, glasnost, economic accounting and self-sufficiency, cooperatives, anti-alcohol campaign, unearned income

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