

# SLAVONIC & EAST EUROPEAN REVIEW

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### Conceptualizing and Utilizing the Natural Environment: Critical Reflections from Imperial and Soviet Russia

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Viewed through the lens of Soviet collapse and associated discourses concerning the destruction of nature, it is tempting to conclude that Russia has little to teach us beyond serving as an example of the crude appropriation of natural resources and efforts to manipulate natural systems on a large scale, typically with limited concern about collateral environmental damage.

Nevertheless, a closer analysis suggests a more nuanced situation, characterized by efforts to regulate the utilization of available natural resources, attempts to inventorize the considerable riches of Russia's land, water and marine resources, and initiatives directed towards gaining a greater understanding of the inner workings of the natural world and associated processes.

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