

# Moscow News DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Russia's oldest English-language newspaper





***Founded with utopian zeal and aimed at expatriates, the pages of Moscow News (pub. 1930-2014) reflect the shifting ideological, political, social and economic currents that swept through the Soviet Union and Russia for the better part of a century.***

Moscow News was an important Soviet propaganda outlet striving to familiarize foreigners with the Soviet way of life, in the process becoming USSR's English-language periodical of record. Initially committed to news reportage, *Moscow News* ultimately abandoned the format adopting a more formal Communist Party ideological worldview and language, operating under the auspices of the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Despite striving to stay within the boundaries of Soviet guidelines, the newspaper's founding editors and staff found themselves in the crosshairs. Starting in the late 1930s, multiple staff members were arrested and the newspaper's status became tenuous. *Moscow News* was ultimately shut down by the Politburo in 1949.

***Moscow News* offers a window in English toward a better understanding of the political and social upheavals in the Soviet and post-Soviet eras, providing a unique record of how the media adapted to the tumult that shook the USSR and the Russian Federation, from Stalin to Putin.**

With the Khrushchev Thaw, *Moscow News* was rehabilitated in 1956, with editions of the newspaper appearing soon after in French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Hungarian, Finnish and Esperanto, among others.



# Important Research from Moscow News

The onset of Gorbachev-era *perestroika* and *glasnost* reforms occasioned a slew of changes in newspaper's editorial direction. Strict ideological commitments of the previous decades were abandoned in favor of more reformist and even independent views, with traditionally taboo subjects no longer being off limits. As a result of these changes *Moscow News* would soon become one of the most outstanding and most important Russian periodicals of the era.

Like many newspapers, *Moscow News* faced financial challenges after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was forced to cease all foreign-language editions, leaving just the English and Russian (which ceased in 2008), and underwent several changes of ownership, including, for a time, the outspoken oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Throughout these transitions, the newspaper worked to maintain its reputation as an influential voice for critical, independent reporting.

Ultimately, it was forced to cease publication in early 2014 when its owner, state-funded news agency RIA Novosti, was shut down by President Vladimir Putin.

## Moscow News Covers Historic Events

Its own tumultuous history makes *Moscow News* an essential resource for understanding the various political and social shifts that occurred during the Soviet and post-Soviet eras, and provides a unique record of how the media adapted to these changing times. Historical insights for faculty and students in the pages of *Moscow News* include:

- Extensive reporting of economic growth during the Soviet policy: "Socialism in One Country"
- Dissident movements during the Brezhnev era
- During the Gorbachev era, Letters to the Editor were uncensored, exposing the challenges people faced under *perestroika*
- A forum for discussing traditionally taboo subjects, such as the repressions and show trials of the 1930s, the Katyn massacre of Polish officers by Soviets (not Germans), and more.
- Reporting on the famine in Ukraine in the 1930s. during *glasnost*, and after, once the USSR fell
- During the August coup in 1991, the *Moscow News* offices were surrounded by the armed tanks, where they reported from the front lines of the crisis
- An interview with Boris Yeltsin after his dramatic removal from the Soviet Communist Party leadership was a particularly notable coup

For more research topics, download East View's *Moscow News* Curriculum Guide: [www.eastview.com/MoscowNewsC-G.pdf](http://www.eastview.com/MoscowNewsC-G.pdf)



## East View Delivers Moscow News in Full Image with Searchable Text

The *Moscow News* digital archive contains all obtainable published issues (1930-2014, approx. 60,000 pages), including issues of the newspaper's short-lived sister publication *Moscow Daily News* (1932-1938). The *Moscow News* digital archive offers scholars the most comprehensive collection available for this title, and features full page-level digitization, complete original graphics, and searchable text, and is cross-searchable with numerous other East View digital resources.

The *Moscow News* digital archive is a part of the East View Global Press Archive®, which is the result of a landmark initiative of Stanford Libraries and the Hoover Institution Library & Archives to digitally preserve and make more accessible thousands of original print newspaper publications collected by the Hoover Institution and now housed by Stanford Libraries. Read more about the Global Press Archive here: [www.eastview.com/gpa](http://www.eastview.com/gpa).

**MOSCOW NEWS DIGITAL ARCHIVE**

Founded in 1930 with the help of American journalist and political activist Ann Louise Strong and a small cadre of Western "friends and promoters," *Moscow News* was the first English-language Soviet newspaper. Quoting Strong's remarks made at the launch party of the newspaper, *Moscow News* articulated its original mission as "to serve the English-speaking specialists working in the Soviet Union, and incidentally also tourists, Russian students of English and interested persons living abroad." Although the initial several issues were more or less devoid of the bombast of the Communist Party propaganda that had characterized flagship Soviet newspapers such as *Pravda* and *Izvestia*, *Moscow News* would soon resort to just that. Nevertheless, over the following years and decades *Moscow News* grew to become one of the most important Soviet propaganda outlets striving to familiarize foreigners with the Soviet way of life, in the process becoming USSR's English-language periodical of the record. Despite its emphasis on text-based content, the newspaper soon began featuring illustrations and photographs emulating its popular Western counterparts. Initially committed to news reportage, *Moscow News* ultimately abandoned the format adopting a more formal Communist Party ideological worldview and language.

The onset of Gorbachev-era *perestroika* and *glasnost* reforms occasioned a slew of changes in newspaper's editorial direction. Under the editorship of Yegor Yakovlev, the strict ideological commitments of the previous decades were abandoned in favor of more reformist and even independent views, with traditionally taboo subjects no longer being off limits. As a result of these changes *Moscow News* would soon become one of the most outstanding and most important Russian periodicals of the era.

An invaluable resource, the *Moscow News* Digital Archive allows researchers to trace the shifting ideological and cultural expressions in play in the Soviet Union and in post-Soviet Russia. It contains all obtainable published issues (1930-2014, approx. 60,000 pages), including issues of the newspaper's short-lived sister publication *Moscow Daily News* (1932-1938). The *Moscow News* Digital Archive offers scholars the most comprehensive collection available for this title, and features full page-level digitization, complete original graphics, and searchable text, and is cross-searchable with numerous other East View digital resources.

East View Information Services has acquired issues to complete this archive from a variety of sources in the USA and Russia, and represents the best-known copy available. However, some select issues are still missing.

East View is still searching for missing issues. If your library has these issues and is willing to make them available, please contact [online@eastview.com](mailto:online@eastview.com). More...

Persistent URL: <https://dlib.eastview.com/browse/udb/2990>

Title	Country	City	Freq.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moscow Daily News	USSR	Moscow	Daily
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moscow News Digital Archive	Russian Federation	Moscow	Week

**MOSCOW DAILY NEWS**

*Moscow Daily News* (1932-1938) was the daily sister publication of *Moscow News*. It was created as a way to merge content from *Moscow News* and the similar title *Workers News* (1931-1932), an existing five-day weekly for English-speaking workers in the Soviet Union.

Language	English
Frequency	Daily (301 per year)
City	Moscow
Country	USSR
Publisher	United Magazines and Newspapers
Date format	PDF, page-based
Archive from	May, 22, 1932
Total page count	5744
Persistent URL	<a href="https://dlib.eastview.com/browse/publication/81385">https://dlib.eastview.com/browse/publication/81385</a>

**LATEST ISSUE**  
No. 42; February 21, 1938

**MOSCOW NEWS DIGITAL ARCHIVE, 1938, NO. 51**

1 of 23

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**Moscow News**

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Published Daily, Excepting Sundays & Holidays 1930-1938, Issue No. 51

December 19, 1938

**Soviet People Mourn Great Flyer, Hero of Soviet Union Valeri Chkalov**

**DAUNTLESS PILOT BLAZED TRAILS FOR SCIENCE**

**GOVERNMENT STATEMENT**

Condolences of Council of People's Commissars of USSR and Central Committee of CPSU

Source: Moscow News, No. 51, December 19, 1938

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