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Page 4/The Battalion/Friday, December 4, 1987

Visiting professor says war holds key to Soviet system

By Janet Goode Staff Writer

It was World War II that solidly established the Soviet political system that still persists today, a Texas A&M visiting professor told a group of about 60 people Thursday night.

"If Gorbechev wishes to mobilize, he must first de-Stalinize," said John Erickson, the director of defense studies at the University of Ediburgh, Scotland.

Erickson said he is the only Westerner ever to have been given access to the Soviet Military Archives.

In his lecture at the MSC, spon-sored by the Strategic Defense League, Erickson said that the history of the war must be studied so Gorbachev can see what united the people and the nation and why the system didn't collapse.

"Whatever Stalin did to the Russians — the Germans did much more," Erickson said.

Erickson said the Russians in the war knew they were in a race for sur-

"This is the key point," he said. "It began to dawn on them (Soviets) that

this wasn't a war. This was a race with time. If they didn't win, they were going to simply

He attributes much of the Soviet Union's survivability to what he calls the three S's: signals, steam and sup-

Erickson said that signals represent the Soviet Union's communications system. In spite of their crudity, he said, the Soviet communication systems actually worked.

Steam refers to the railways that were used for industrial evacuation in the war where there were vast traffic problems, he said.

Finally, he said that Soviet supplies, although disorganized, were usually obtainable because of the interlocking administrative nets that were in place. For example, he said, Stalin illegally made some state offices military, such as the postal serv-

"It was considered a defection from the war not to show up for work," he said.

The first examination that needs to be made in redesigning the Soviet political system concerns what kind of war World War II was, Erickson

"Their war, the Great Patriotic War, was both militarily and morally unique," he said.

It was the greatest land campaign in the history of the world and it was, for the first time in history, a genocidal war," he said. "It was a war of enslavement and extermination.

"It was the first time that children were killed systematically.'

"I think that the truth has got to be told about the war (World War II) from Gorbachev's side and the Soviet society with all the sadness and sorrow before he can succeed in evolving a current Soviet response in galvanizing his society in the direction he wants." - John Erickson, Texas

A&M visiting professor and director of defense studies at the University of Ediburgh, Scotland

The human loss on the Soviet side has been recorded in the West as be-

ing 20 million, Erickson said. In reality, there were 45 to 47 million lives lost and there are 27 million people still missing today, he

"Also, only 3 percent of people between the ages of 17 and 21 sur-vived in the Soviet Union during the war," he said. "This is a massive slice of society."

In a strange way, the war legiti-mized the Stalinist state, Erickson said, because it was a victorious state.

'Many people still say, 'Please don't tear it down, we spent too much blood, we had too little bread, we produced too much steel,'

Erickson said Stalin played a large part in forming this society.

"It is perfectly true that he ran it

all by naked personal authority," he

"It is perfectly true he ran it by personal control - he had his eyes and his ears everywhere," he said.

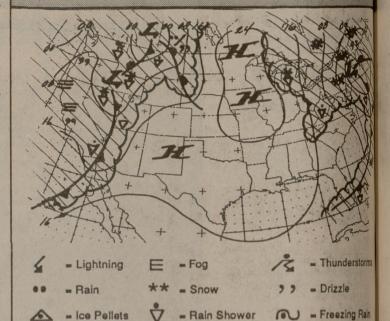
Another question Erickson said needs to be studied concerns what galvanized these people to act.

Besides survival, Erickson listed firm leadership, disciplined behavior and obedience and especially steadfastness.

Gorbechev wants to reproduce these qualities that united the nation, Erickson said, especially steadfastness and devotion.

"I think that the truth has got to be told about the war from Gorbachev's side and the Soviet society with all the sadness and sorrow before he can succeed in evolving a current Soviet response in galvanizing his society in the direction he wants," Erickson said.

Weather Watch



Sunset Today: 5:23 p.m.

Sunrise Saturday: 7:07 a.m.

Map Discussion: Amplification of high pressure systems in the east central Pacific and the central United States promises stormy weather along both coasts. Most areas of the West should have rain as the Pacific system pushes inland. In the East, the amplifying pattern will pump even more energy into the already-vigorous low pressure system. With its fairly slow movement and further deepening, expect snowfrom central Pennsylvania through New England.

Today: Fair to partly cloudy with a high of 76 degrees and northeasterly winds at 7 to 14 mph.

Tonight: Clear and cool with a low of 47 degrees and easterly winds of less than 5 mph.

Saturday: Increasing cloudiness and mild with a high of 73 degrees and a 10 percent chance of rain late in the day. Winds will be southerly at 10 mph, gusting to 18 mph. The probability of rain will increase to 20 percent for Sunday.

Weather Fact: Average weather conditions for the Dallas-Fort Worth area based solely on climatological data for New Year's Day are

- High temperature: 57 degrees. ·Low temperature: 36 degrees
- Relative humidity: 60 percent.
- · Winds: north at 10 mph.
- Cloud cover: mostly cloudy.
- · Rain: None. The D-FW area experiences seven rain days in January, one of which is a snow day.

Prepared by: Charlie Brent Staff Meteorolog A&M Department of Mete

New fire ordinance require Christmas trees be removed

reaucratic Grinch has taken the holiday cheer out of some public buildings that are being forced to remove fresh-cut, decorated Christmas trees because of a new fire ordinance.

The ordinance, in effect for the first time this holiday season, prohibits chopped trees from being laced indoors in most public establishments where more than 50 peo-

Bowling alleys, ballrooms, bars, tree."

dance halls, funeral parlors, ies, churches, museums and are among the buildings inch the new ordinance that took

Sept. 13. La Mansion del Rio hotel toss its 8-foot tree because of the dinance.

"It's sort of like the 'Grinch Stole Christmas,' "Valerie Ha front office manager for the "I'd prefer a real Christ

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