Inspector Rex's History Snippet #45

Soviet secret-police organisations

Petrograd

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· January 15

Here is the timeline of Soviet secret-police organizations:

Cheka: 1917–1922 (dissolved)

GPU: 1922–1923 (transferred from being a branch of the NKVD, which had primarily been responsible for general policing to the Council of People's Commissars and becomes a secret police organization)

OGPU: 1923–1934 (dissolved and re-incorporated as new NKVD)

NKVD (new): 1934–1943 (state-security functions split off into "NKGB", a separate entity)

NKGB (1943–1946) (dissolved and reconstituted as MGB — Ministry for State Security; the remaining remnant of NKVD is dissolved and reconstituted as MVD — Ministry of Internal Affairs)

MGB (1946–1953) (dissolved as part of post-Beria restructuring of the security apparatus)

KGB (1954–1991)

Ayn Rand, who left Russia in 1925, would have lived through Cheka, GPU and OGPU. There is considerable continuity between these agencies, and constantly mentioning all three is unwieldy, so I mostly referred to GPU and occasionally Cheka. Russian literature of that time period refers to GPU to mean GPU or OGPU.

Much more detailed information can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology_of_Soviet_secret_police_agencies

On 3 December 1991, the KGB was officially dissolved. It was later succeeded in Russia by the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) and what would later become the Federal Security Service (FSB).