The Soviet military R&D sector benefits from a wide range of material, administrative, and other priorities, which impose heavy opportunity costs, especially on civilian R&D. R&D is relatively more expensive in a command economy, so less of it should be used than in a market system. The Soviet use of much less R&D in its military sector is as rational as the American use of much more R&D where R&D is relatively less expensive. The relative efficiency of Soviet military output to military R&D is probably much lower than otherwise assumed because input costs are higher and output lower than usually estimated. The arms race is costlier to the Soviet Union than otherwise believed, both absolutely and as an alternative to economic development.

Addeddate. How did Soviet actors view themselves in relation to the outside world? In addition, increasingly the historians pay more attention to the questions of the interaction of the Soviet Union with the external states, actors, models, ideas etc. How does this broader, transnational view help us understand Soviet history better? How did the international environment influence the developments in the Soviet Union and vice versa? The course does not aim to provide a comprehensive view on the Soviet trans-border engagement or an analysis of all the dimensions of comparison with other cases. The goal is to help the Soviet Union could get some help from abroad in the form of investment, development, and trade agreements. In the early 1920s the Soviet Union adopted the policy that Josef Stalin later described with the slogan "socialism in one country." In other words, the Soviet Union was choosing to postpone an international communist revolution in favor of peaceful coexistence with the admittedly suspicious West. In 1917-1920, immediately after the Bolshevik Revolution, this policy would have seemed unlikely. In these years Russia seemed determined to spread the revolution. The Soviet Union was annoyed at what seemed to it to be a long delay by the allies in opening a second front of the Allied offensive against Germany. As the war in the east turned in favor of the Soviet Union, and despite the successful Allied landings in Normandy in 1944, the earlier friction intensified over irreconcilable differences about postwar aims within the anti-Axis coalition. Library of Congress officials, among others, have been authorized to research Russian archival materials on the subject in Moscow. Through such efforts and additional cooperation, the fate of those missing in the Cold War may become known as well. Soviet views of the United States changed once again after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in early 1985.