

From the text of

500 DAYS

Transition to the Market

This program could happen only in the era of *perestroika* which began in 1985. It is a natural outgrowth of that policy. M.S. Gorbachev and B.N. Yeltsin initiated the program and it can be realized only if they unite their efforts in its support....Our society has developed an extreme experience of economic reforms, which people have come to associate only with changes for the worse in their lives. Life, unfortunately, has taught them to believe more easily in bad than in good things. The realization of the suggested program is expected to combat this sentiment.

Its basic difference from all previous attempts lies in the fact that it relies upon a fundamentally new concept. It plans to move toward a market-oriented economy at the expense of the state, but not at the expense of the people.

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500 DAYS

TRANSITION TO THE MARKET

G. Yavlinsky, B. Fedorov,
S. Shatalin

St. Martin's
Press

**The Historic Blueprint
for Change in the
Soviet Union**

500 DAYS

Transition to the Market

G. YAVLINSKY, B. FEDOROV, S. SHATALIN,
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English translation edited by David Kushner

In the Soviet Union today, radical change is occurring in every phase of government and social life. No change is greater, though, than the proposal to convert from a centrally planned, socialist economy to one based on a free market system (originally slated for completion within "500 days").

500 Days is the original document, written by a Working Group jointly appointed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, that outlines this historic transition. It examines every aspect of the Soviet economy, directly engaging the most fundamental problems and providing a radical solution. It is a document of immense historical importance that will remain the standard against which Gorbachev's program of perestroika will be judged.

History has afforded us few opportunities to observe the processes of change in such startling detail. *500 Days* can be compared with *The Federalist Papers* in its potential impact on the Soviet Union. It is a book that all political scientists, economists and students of society will read and study for years to come.

For a note on the authors, please see the back flap.

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A. Mikhailov, E. Yasin

**A Working Group formed by a joint decision of
M. S. Gorbachev and B. N. Yeltsin**

The Concept and Program of *500 DAYS (Transition to the Market)* were drawn up between August 2 and 31 by a working group composed of the following:

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Academician S. S. Shatalin xi

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MAN, FREEDOM, AND MARKET

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