

Preface

I have been assured that this monograph is in no sense unique in having a gestation period that far exceeded expectations. However, several persons are responsible for making the preparation of this study a process that was seldom tedious and often stimulating. More than a decade ago, I wrote a term paper for Abram Bergson on Soviet wage determination. He has since encouraged my interest in the subject. Through innumerable conversations and more drafts than I care to admit, his comments have been invaluable. John Dunlop's thoughtful reading and guidance on questions of labor economics and wage theory are also gratefully acknowledged. James Millar and Alexander Erlich, at an early stage in the preparation of this study, helped me to avoid several serious mistakes in my approach to the subject. Marshall Goldman, Leon Smolinski, and Yasushi Toda deserve a special kind of gratitude for years of continual criticism, encouragement, and comradeship. To keep this list from becoming inordinately long, I collectively thank both those Soviet economists who were exceedingly hospitable and helpful during two extended visits to the USSR and those economists who have provided a constant source of intellectual stimulation through their participation in numerous formal and informal seminars at Harvard's Russian Research Center.

I therefore happily share the credit for whatever may be valuable in this book. I alone am responsible for its defects and mistakes.

The Harvard University Russian Research Center has provided an ideal setting for my work. I am unable to imagine how the manuscript could have been completed without the Center's library and other facilities. Drafts were typed by Mary Towle and Rose di Benedetto, in whom the Center is truly blessed with two superb secretaries. The efficiency and accuracy of their work was commendable. The good humor with which they carried it out was astounding. Whatever lapses of acceptable English remain in the book would have been multiplied manyfold without the editorial assistance of Abbott Gleason, Judy Koivumaki, and Jacqueline Hartmann.

As to my system of citations, I identify sources with only the author's name (or shortened title), followed by the date of publication. Since I expect that the majority of readers will not know Russian, and most of my sources are from Soviet publications, my intent is to reduce the clutter of transliteration within footnotes. At the end of the study is a

complete bibliography of all cited sources alphabetized according to the shortened citations.

Finally, my wife, my mother, and my daughter deserve a gratitude that I find impossible to express in words. I hope they realize its depth.