INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide a detailed list and description of the contents of all major Russian and Soviet population censuses since 1897, with an index to enable the researcher to locate these census materials by subject. To organize and inventory sets of data as extensive, heterogeneous, and complex as these censuses, it was necessary to make numerous procedural decisions concerning the structure of the index, the level of detail to be included, and the methods to be employed. Since the usefulness of the index depends to a large extent upon these determinations, we would like to make explicit at the outset the format and scope of this work.

Format and Use of the Index

This work consists of three interrelated sections, all of which should be employed by the user to obtain maximum benefit from the index.

Section I is a comprehensive, serialized list of all main census tables for each of the major Russian and Soviet enumerations. The individual table entries consist of a serial number, the table number as it appears in the printed census volume, the translated table title, and a table "descriptor." As is explained in more detail below, this format enables the user to determine the type of information and geographic coverage of data in each individual table.

Section II is a keyword index based on the table titles and descriptors in Section I. By selecting one of seventy keywords, the user can determine the census years, cross-tabulations, and geographic coverage available for each subject. The keyword entries refer directly to the table list in Section I.

Section III is a listing of the main geographic units for which data are given in each of the major Russian and Soviet censuses. This list is
useful not only for the purposes of this index but also as an aid to understanding the complex and changing political-administrative structure of the USSR.

Materials Included in the Index

This index covers all of the major population censuses of Russia and the USSR: 1897, 1926, 1959, 1970, and 1979. Data for the 1939 census were not published separately; they are indexed in this guide under the tables in which they appear in the 1959, 1970, and 1979 censuses. Minor censuses or incomplete enumerations conducted during this period are not included here. Of the published census materials, only the main data tables are incorporated into the index. Other potentially useful information, such as descriptions and analyses of the data, maps, and lists of occupational categories or place names, are not included in this index. Minor unnumbered introductory tables that summarize the main tables in the same volume are also not included. The user may want to consult the census volumes directly to ascertain the nature and usefulness of these materials for specific research purposes. In addition, several accessory volumes to the 1897 census are not included; these volumes are listed in the following section on the 1897 census. Aside from these few exceptions, the list of tables here represents a complete inventory of tables for all major population censuses since 1897; thus, it comprises virtually all such data extant.

1897 Census

*Volumes included.* The decision as to which volumes to include as part of the 1897 census is rather arbitrary. Aside from the eighty-nine main regional volumes, there are two major summary volumes, four volumes of data on occupations by age group (which present greater detail for Table 20 of the regional volumes), two volumes on workers, a series of eight short summary volumes, a list of the populations of all places of 500 or more population, and a list of cities and population in uezds with 2,000 or more population. All of these volumes are in this table list and index. But several brief accessory volumes, typically about forty to fifty pages in length, were not included. Some of those known to have additional census data that are not available in the main volumes are *Distribution of the Population by the Major Social Groups, Religions, Native Language, and Some Occupations* (1905) and *Distribution of Workers and Servants by Groups of Occupations and by Place of Birth* (1905). Other short summary volumes, which are apparently tabulations of census data
which are published in the main volumes, include *Distribution of the Population of the Empire by the Main Religions* (1901), *Distribution of Populated Places of the Russian Empire by Population Size* (1902), and *Number and Social Composition of Blind Persons in Russia* (1905).

**Format of regional and summary volumes.** The format of the tables in the eighty-nine regional (guberniya) volumes is sufficiently similar that only one entry is used in the index to represent the same table number in all eighty-nine volumes. The tables in the two main summary volumes have nearly the same format as those in the eighty-nine regional volumes, but there are significant differences between the introductory, unnumbered tables in the guberniya volumes and those in the summary volumes, including, of course, major differences in the level of geographic units. Therefore, a separate set of entries is given (Nos. 30–57) for the tables in these two summary volumes. In most cases, the entries in the summary volumes first indicate the level of units given (e.g., "by guberniya") and then provide a reference to the regional volume table of the same format.

Although these two summary volumes have the same basic table list as most of the regional volumes, eighteen of the regional volumes have a slightly different format from both the other regional volumes and the main summary volumes. After these eighteen had been published, the format of the census was changed slightly to eliminate unnecessary tables and to speed up the tabulation and publishing of the census. Therefore, six volumes were published in three *tetrady* (parts), while twelve others were published in two *tetrady*. The remaining seventy-one regions each have a single volume. All tables presented here have the format of those seventy-one volumes. The major difference between the earlier multiple-*tetrady* volumes and the final census format is that the multiple-*tetrady* volumes contain duplicates of some tables and more of the tables give data for both the permanent (de jure) and the enumerated (de facto) population. In addition, the multiple-*tetrady* volumes have a map of the guberniya at the end of the first *tetrady*, giving literacy and population density by uezd. The volumes that are published in three parts also have (in the second part) three extra tables on children younger than one year old ("Children Younger than One Year Old by Social Group of the Parents and by Monthly Age Groups," "Children Younger than One Year Old by Native Language of the Parents and by Monthly Age Groups," and "Children Younger than One Year Old by Religion and by Monthly Age Groups"). The unit list for the 1897 census included with this index shows the guberniyas that have two or three *tetrady*.

An appendix to the first main summary volume has forty-four tables...
(each with an accompanying map) that were not indexed here. Each table consists of a particular demographic characteristic, given in percent, for each guberniya. These relationships are presented by guberniya on a schematic map of the Russian Empire. Examples of these tables and maps include the number of women per 100 men, the city population as a percent of total population, and the percent literate of the male population. All of these data either are found in other census tables or can easily be calculated from them; nevertheless, they provide a very interesting spatial representation of the major demographic characteristics of the population of the empire.

**Other parts of the empire.** In most cases, regional data of the 1897 census cover only the eighty-nine guberniyas and do not include outlying parts of the empire such as Finland or some parts of Central Asia. Major exceptions to this pattern are noted in the individual entries, such as tables in which data are also given for the principalities of Finland. The two main summary volumes, however, often contain data for the following populations in addition to the eighty-nine guberniyas: the Russian population in Finland, military personnel abroad serving on warships, the Russian population in Bukhara, and the Russian population in Khiva. In most cases these data are aggregated into one group and thus are of little interest. Cases where each of the four is given separately are noted in the table descriptor.

**Urban and rural data.** The way in which these data are given in the 1897 census differs substantially from the way in which they are presented in the other censuses. Urban data usually consist of the population of the largest town or city in each uezd only; in some uezds with many settlements more than one town is listed. All remaining population in each uezd is classified as rural by the census. Usually the rural population is referred to as simply the population “in the uezd.” Most of the tables in the eighty-nine guberniya volumes give data by uezd for the population of the main town or towns and then for the remaining population. The entries give the specific urban and rural categories—rather than the category “urban-rural”—to minimize confusion. In the Keyword Index, however, these entries are indexed as urban-rural. Since the urban population is represented by individual settlements, the data for which are also given, these entries are coded in the index with a “c” for city (see the Keyword Index).
1926 Census

Limitations of the entries. This census is by far the most detailed and complex of all of the Russian or Soviet censuses. More than a third of the entries and more than half of the pages of descriptions in this index are devoted to 1926. In spite of this detail, however, the descriptors can give only an overview of the contents of some of these complex tables. Whereas in the recent censuses, and generally also in 1897, tables represent simple cross-tabulations of several categories, in 1926 a large number of tables contain ten or more different categories, not all of which are completely cross-tabulated. With minor exceptions, these discrepancies in the cross-tabulations are noted in the descriptors. In a few cases, it was necessary to simplify the descriptions; therefore, a few cross-tabulations that are implied in the descriptors may not be found in the actual tables.

Census sections 1–3. The heart of the 1926 census consists of the fifty-one volumes that make up the first three sections (otdely). Each section contains a series of tables on a particular subject or subjects; each series of tables is published separately in seventeen different regional and summary volumes. (See the unit list in this guide for the particular regions [rayons] that each volume contains.) One of the main reasons for the difficulty in describing fully the contents of each of the tables is the relative lack of uniformity among the regional tables. While the description given here may apply to most of the rayon tables, there are often significant discrepancies among them. Major systematic discrepancies are noted in the descriptors, but some rayon tables may not have the detail that is given in the entry. Usually, rayon data are most detailed in the rayons of the European USSR and least detailed in some ethnic units of the Urals, Siberia, or Central Asia. Age data are a notable example of this. Nationality data, however, are least detailed in the European RSFSR and sometimes are omitted entirely because of the uniformity of the population (Russians). Many rayon volumes contain special tables, (usually as supplements [dopolneniya] to the main tables) which often contain data for a major city or cities in the rayon; these extra tables are included in the index. Nearly all of the extra tables on cities include Moscow and Leningrad, but Moscow and Leningrad are not listed by name unless they are the only cities given. In the Russian Republic volumes, including the summary volume, lists of data by guberniya often include four cities: Moscow, Leningrad, Grozniy, and Vladikavkaz (now Ordzhonikidze). In these cases only Moscow and Leningrad are listed in the table entries here.

Supposedly, the summary volumes for the first three sections of the census, covering the RSFSR, Ukrainskaya SSR, and the entire USSR,
merely summarize data that are presented in the rayon volumes. The number of tables, their titles, their table numbers, and their formats, however, often are significantly different from each other and from those in the rayon volumes. Therefore, to avoid confusion and to simplify the amount of description that would have been required in each entry to explain the differences among these summary volumes, each of the three summary volumes for each of the first three otdely of the census was indexed, in addition to the rayon volumes. In many of the tables in these summary volumes, the table format is the same as that of the rayon volume, and in these cases there is a reference to the appropriate rayon table. In other cases, the tables for Ukrainskaya SSR or the USSR have the same format as the ones in the RSFSR summary volume; a reference to the appropriate Russian Republic table is indicated for these entries.

Census sections 4–7. The remaining main sections of the 1926 census, otdely 4–7, are not divided into regional volumes but consist of only one volume for each particular subject; one entry is therefore sufficient to describe each table. In section 7, Volume 56 is divided into three vypuska (parts), but these are combined here into one set of entries because they have the same table titles and formats. One part presents data for Moscow, one is for Leningrad, and one is for cities of the RSFSR. This third part consists of the results of a sample of 453 cities and urban-type settlements of different sizes and types, weighted to represent all of the cities of the republic. The sample does not include Moscow and Leningrad. The data are aggregates of all the sample cities, not results for any individual cities.

Short summaries. In addition to these fifty-six main volumes, the ten short summary (Kratkiye svodki) volumes are also a vital part of the census. These volumes are not all merely summaries or retabulations of data from the main volumes: some of the 1926 summary volumes contain data that were not published in the main census volumes. Each of these ten summaries is included in this index separately with the exception of Numbers 8 and 9 (Moscow and Leningrad), which were combined into one set of entries.

Occupational data and social groups. Another major difference between the 1926 census and the other censuses is the way in which occupational data are presented. Occupational data are usually divided into gainfully employed and nongainfully employed, and the gainfully employed are then divided into various positions in occupations, separate sectors of the economy in which they work, and, often, specific occupations. These occupation data by position are sometimes referred to in the census as
exactly that (polozheniye v zanyatii), but sometimes they are referred to as social groups (sotsial'nye gruppy) instead. In the other censuses, the term "social group" refers more to a social classification than to a work classification, so social group data from the 1926 census are not comparable with other censuses. In the table entries here, 1926 data are presented both as occupation data by position and as social group data, depending upon the original Russian wording used in the particular table in which they appear. Therefore, for 1926 it is necessary to look at both sets of entries to get a complete list of the tables that contain these kinds of data.

1959 Census

Volumes. This census contains one regional volume for each union republic and a summary volume for the entire USSR. The summary volume is sufficiently similar to the format of the republic volumes that it was not necessary to include a separate list of tables from the USSR summary volume alone. Differences between this volume and the republic volumes are noted in the entries where these differences apply. The USSR summary volume has a number of tables that do not appear in the individual republic volumes; these additional tables appear in the census as subparts a or b to the main tables in the summary volume and are listed in this index in the order in which they are given in the census. Therefore, a letter after a table number in the entries here means that the table is from the USSR summary volume only, except where noted otherwise.

As a guide to the geographic units that are included in the summary volume versus those given only in the individual republic volumes, it can usually be assumed that if data are given only by republic, the USSR volume contains data for the entire USSR only and each regional volume contains republic-level data only. When data are given by oblast, the summary volume usually contains data by republic and the republic volumes contain the oblast data (for those republics that are divided into oblasts). Not all of the republic volumes contain all of the tables that are listed here. Tables with oblast-level data are omitted for republics where there are no oblasts, provided that these data have already been given for that republic at the republic level. In some republics where there are no oblasts, the oblast table is used to present data for the capital city of that republic or for areas subject to republic-level administration. Republics that have oblasts, however, have these city data in addition to the oblast data. In some republics, such as Moldavia, either data for years before the region was incorporated into the USSR (notably 1939) are omitted or the entire table is omitted.
1970 Census

**Volumes.** The 1970 census consists of seven volumes, each on a particular topic or topics; it does not contain any regional or summary volumes. All of the entries here represent the tables exactly as they appear in the census, with one major exception. For many topics a separate table is given in the census for each republic or even for different administrative levels within the same republic. For example, one table might be given for the entire USSR, one for each republic, one for the oblasts of the RSFSR, one for the oblasts of Ukrainskaya SSR, and one for the minor ethnic units within the RSFSR. These tables always have similar titles, which mention the particular regional units shown in each table. These tables were combined into one entry, with brackets enclosing the particular regional units that are included. The brackets indicate that the wording for these units is paraphrased; therefore, the title is not exactly as it appears in the census.

1979 Census

**Sources.** At the time this index was prepared, results of the 1979 census had been published only in various issues of the journal *Vestnik statistiki* (between no. 2, 1980 and no. 12, 1983). Therefore, the table entries here are given in the order in which they appeared in that journal, with a citation to the corresponding issue number and year. Many of these tables are not numbered because there are no table numbers for those *Vestnik statistiki* tables.

In 1984 a census volume was finally published (Tsentr'al'noye Statisticheskoye Upravleniye SSSR, 1984. *Chislennost' i sostav naseleniya SSSR. Po dannym Vsesoyuznoy perepisi naseleniya 1979 goda.* Moscow: Finansy i Statistika). In the table entries here, this volume is referred to as TsSU SSSR, 1984. The data in this volume are essentially the same as those published in *Vestnik statistiki*, but some significant differences are worth noting. There is no correspondence in the number and order of tables between the two sources. In *Vestnik statistiki*, initial tables on a subject were typically followed in subsequent issues by more detailed tabulations as further results of the census became available. Therefore, the journal contains more tables, but with much duplication of data among them. Many tables in the book encompass the data from two or more tables in *Vestnik statistiki*. Some of the extra tables in *Vestnik statistiki*, however, contain data from earlier censuses which were not repeated in the corresponding book tables.

In a few cases, data from the 1979 census appear in only one of these sources. *Vestnik statistiki* has all-Union population data by sex by urban-rural (no. 704) as well as literacy data (no. 706). The book has
population data for cities of 50,000 or greater (vs. 100,000 in Vestnik statistiki, no. 703), de facto versus de jure population by republic for urban-rural and by sex (nos. 759–60), and all-Union education data for census years since 1939 (no. 761).

Following each entry from Vestnik statistiki in the table list, a note in parentheses gives the citation to the number of the corresponding table or tables from the book which contain the same data. Whenever a single table number is listed with no comment, it can be assumed that the book table is essentially identical in content to the Vestnik statistiki table. The table title, however, is not necessarily the same nor is the number of digits in the data (many initial Vestnik statistiki tables on a subject, most commonly at the all-Union level, are rounded to the nearest thousand).

In the numerous cases in which a table in the book contains data from more than one journal table, the number of the book table is followed by “contains these data.” Where a book table has data that were not given anywhere in Vestnik statistiki, or lacks data that were given in the journal, a note describes the differences.

With the exception of book tables 5–7, which were given separate entries in the table list here, all tables in the book are referenced under one or more Vestnik statistiki entries. In cases where these book tables include data that are not in the related journal table, these data are included in the cross-index under the Vestnik statistiki entry in which this difference is explained. Therefore, checking the cross-index by subject will lead the researcher to all data from the TsSU SSSR volume as well as to all data from Vestnik statistiki.

In addition to the data from Vestnik statistiki and TsSU SSSR, small amounts of data from the census which have been published in other sources are included here. These are data on population by sex by urban-rural residence compiled by Theodore Shabad from Soviet regional press reports (no. 755), urban nationality data (no. 756), data on bilingualism by nationality (no. 757), and education data by nationality (no. 758).