

# CONSTITUTION

(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)

OF THE UNION  
OF SOVIET SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS



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(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)

## OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS



*(As amended by the Supreme Soviet  
of the U.S.S.R., on February 25, 1947,  
on the recommendations of the  
Drafting Commission)*



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**WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!**

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*Chapter I*

**THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE**





## ARTICLE 1

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a socialist state of workers and peasants.

## ARTICLE 2

The political foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, which grew and became strong as a result of the overthrow of the power of the landlords and capitalists and the conquest of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

### ARTICLE 3

All power in the U.S.S.R. belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

### ARTICLE 4

The economic foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production, firmly established as a result of the liquidation of the capitalist system of economy, the abolition of private ownership of the instruments and means of production, and the elimination of the exploitation of man by man.

### ARTICLE 5

Socialist property in the U.S.S.R. exists either in the form of state property (belonging to the whole people) or in the form of

cooperative and collective-farm property (property of collective farms, property of cooperative societies).

#### ARTICLE 6

The land, its mineral wealth, waters, forests, mills, factories, mines, rail, water and air transport, banks, communications, large state-organized agricultural enterprises (state farms, machine and tractor stations and the like), as well as municipal enterprises and the bulk of the dwelling houses in the cities and industrial localities, are state property, that is, belong to the whole people.

#### ARTICLE 7

The common enterprises of collective farms and cooperative organizations, with their livestock and implements, the products of the collective farms and cooperative organizations, as well as their common buildings, constitute

the common, socialist property of the collective farms and cooperative organizations.

Every household in a collective farm, in addition to its basic income from the common, collective-farm enterprise, has for its personal use a small plot of household land and, as its personal property, a subsidiary husbandry on the plot, a dwelling house, livestock, poultry and minor agricultural implements—in accordance with the rules of the agricultural artel.

#### ARTICLE 8

The land occupied by collective farms is secured to them for their use free of charge and for an unlimited time, that is, in perpetuity.

#### ARTICLE 9

Alongside the socialist system of economy, which is the predominant form of economy in the U.S.S.R., the law permits the small private

economy of individual peasants and handicraftsmen based on their own labour and precluding the exploitation of the labour of others.

#### ARTICLE 10

The personal property right of citizens in their incomes and savings from work, in their dwelling houses and subsidiary home enterprises, in articles of domestic economy and use and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of citizens to inherit personal property, is protected by law.

#### ARTICLE 11

The economic life of the U.S.S.R. is determined and directed by the state national-economic plan, with the aim of increasing the public wealth, of steadily raising the material and cultural standards of the working people,

of consolidating the independence of the U.S.S.R. and strengthening its defensive capacity.

## ARTICLE 12

Work in the U.S.S.R. is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat."

The principle applied in the U.S.S.R. is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."





## *Chapter II*

### THE STATE STRUCTURE

