The present work is a modest attempt to provide a perspective on the process of economic development in Russia/the Soviet Union. The literature on the subject is enormous and ever growing. The process of economic development in Russia/the Soviet Union has attracted some of the best brains in both the East and the West. It has been subjected to microscopic analysis by scholars all over the world. Yet there seems to be scope enough for a reinterpretation of the process in the light of factors that have escaped the attention of scholars. The existing literature omits to take into account several significant factors that strongly influenced the growth process in Russia/the Soviet Union. These factors include the natural endowment of the country in relation to its population trends and changes in techniques, the crucial role of the foreign trade sector, and the dynamic changes in the world economy. It is necessary to spell out the underlying postulates and to examine factors that have been assumed away by concepts like relative backwardness. The experiences of other developing countries can also shed light on the development process in Russia/the Soviet Union. Besides, the use of such tools of contemporary economic analysis as the concept of balanced growth to study the process of economic development in Russia/the Soviet Union can be highly rewarding.

To undertake to study the long process of economic development in Russia/the Soviet Union before and after the Revolution would be a Herculean task for anyone in the Third World. It would become almost an impossible task if one wished
to study such a challenging subject in the light of developments in economic theory in the East and the West. Even to keep track of the ever-growing literature on the subject would be to race against time. There is hardly any expertise in India on Russian/Soviet economic development. Also the library facilities on the subject are extremely meagre. Besides, there is total absence of primary source material. All these are serious limitations. And yet there is always the temptation to accept a challenging task. And in the case of a fascinating subject like the economic development of Russia/the Soviet Union it can be overwhelming.

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