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**The Making of the Soviet Bomb:
New Revelations, Old Myths, and Lingering Questions**

Until few years ago, histories of the Soviet atomic project had to rely mostly on censored publications, oral recollections, hearsay, and conspiracy theories. The situation changed dramatically with the recent publication of large amounts of previously classified archival documents. Using these newly available sources, the talk will discuss major interpretative problems regarding the Soviet quest for atomic weapons, both those that can now be answered with sufficient certainty, as well as some remaining murky issues. It is possible, in particular, to find out which aspects of the Soviet atomic effort closely followed the Manhattan project model, and which differed from it, and analyze the main strategic choices and managerial approaches employed by the Soviet politicians and scientists in developing atomic and thermonuclear weapons. The paper also discusses how the atomic bomb influenced Soviet internal and international policies and contributed to the emerging Cold War.