

Re: Koporye Fortress near St.Pete

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Padraig Breathnach wrote...

> *Is it not "Petrograd" to Russians? Except when it was "Leningrad"?*

No. As the name St.Petersburg isn't particularly poetical, Russian poets (Derzhavin, Pushkin, etc) invented Greeko-Slavic names for the capital: Petropol(is), Petrograd, Nevograd, etc. When the WWI started 90 years ago, there was a discussion if the name should be changed to Petrograd or to Nevograd. The former version proved more popular in official circles, because it was first used by Pushkin in "The Bronze Horseman". The popular nickname has always been Peter.

> *I spoke last night with a family member who has just come
> back from a visit there. She tells me that it is very impressive,
> but many of the fine buildings are in a worrying state of
> dilapidation and, unless something is done, they might be ruins
> in forty years.*

Overcentralization of the Russian state resulted in the fact that the capital accumulates 90% of the national finance. After the capital was moved to Moscow in 1918, the older city rapidly overtook Leningrad in population and well-being. Even now, in financial terms Petersburg is little more than an average oblast centre. It is sometimes compared to Venice, for having lost his power, its imperial edifices are slowly succumbing to indifference and decay.

Best wishes