

The Caucasus Under Soviet Rule

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The results of this study indicate that the use of a 100% *in vitro* diet in the diet of the *Wistar* rat is not a good model for the study of the effects of dietary fiber on the intestinal microflora.

They also occurred, however, against a broader general backdrop of growing social tension, generated by an intensified Soviet political campaign to confiscate land and agricultural equipment from large landholders, close down mosques and *madrasas*, and extract bread from the countryside by tougher administrative measures – during the harvest campaign of 1928 alone, some 232 settlements in Kabardino-Balkaria were subjected to such requisitioning expeditions.³⁰

Taking into account these difficulties, and anticipating further resistance in the 1930 spring and summer harvest season to collectivization in Chechnia and Ingushetia, Belov in February that year presented Voroshilov, by now head of the Soviet Defence Ministry, with a shopping list of requirements for his 28th Rifle Division – now rapidly becoming an unofficial mountain warfare unit – to furnish them with, amongst other items, a mountain-gun battery, 135 mortars and 3,000 mortar shells, suitable carts and transport wagons, 20 heliograph stations, and 100 Thompson sub-machine guns.⁵¹ Such material reinforcement appeared doubly necessary in Belov's eyes in view of the wider social engineering project that he knew was now about to be undertaken by the OGPU – namely, the 'dekulakization' of the North Caucasus and Dagestan, a process which would reach its height during the 'Kuban affair' of 1932.

During June–December 1929 alone, meanwhile, the number of collectivized properties in the ten grain-producing regions of the *krai* also reportedly rose from just over 105,000 (or 7.3 per cent of the total number) to 446,700 (35.1 per cent of the whole), increases again only achieved through extensive pressure, the too-thin dispersal of available technological resources, and statistical falsification.⁵²