Soviet and Russian Perspectives: Ball-Bearings-for-Paper-Mills Engineers is offered during fall 2005 free of charge and explores the dramatic transformations in the engineering profession in the Soviet Union. This short course examines the role of engineers in late Tsarist Russia by following the interesting life and work of activist engineer Petr Palchinsky. During the 1920s, a political party of engineers unsuccessfully challenged the Communist Party for leadership of the Soviet Union. Palchinsky was executed. Josef Stalin made engineering highly popular by expanding its availability but also reduced its influence by defining disciplines in terms of specific tasks. By the 1960s, one could become a Ball-Bearings-for-Paper-Mills engineer. Following this unique story, you will come to appreciate how engineering work always has political dimensions and be better prepared to work with people who define problems differently than you do!

who should participate
• Engineers planning to work in another country
• Engineers working on international projects
• Engineers working with colleagues in other countries
• Anyone interested in international travel who wants to learn more about diverse cultures

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Register on-line at www.conted.vt.edu/ecs/. For more information about the course content, contact Gary Downey at downey@vt.edu or call 540/231-4761. For further information about registration, contact Ann Brown at browna@vt.edu or call 540/231-7966.