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**All-Russian Exhibition Centre**

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For anyone with an interest in the Soviet Union, the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in the north of Moscow is a must. The centre was officially opened in 1939 as the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition, but after the Second World War this was reconstructed and in 1959 the whole centre was reopened as the Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR. The centre was envisaged as a showcase for the achievements of the Soviet Union in various spheres and for this purpose many extravagant exhibit halls were built each dedicated to a different branch of science or technology, or to a different area or republic of the USSR.  In 1992 the exhibition centre was renamed the All-Russia Exhibition Centre. Throughout the 1990s it appeared that the exhibition centre was destined to turn into a market and a tacky fairground, although since 2009 there have been plans to redevelop the centre which will hopefully preserve this unique place and keep this time capsule of the Soviet Union and Stalinist architecture intact.  The Main Entrance to the exhibition centre is formed by a massive 32-metre arched gate. It was built in 1954 and is topped with a statue of a two agricultural workers holding a bale of hay above them and it also features several reliefs.

**Vocabulary**

the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition — Всесоюзная Сельскохозяйственная выставка

the Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR — Выставка Достижений Народного Хозяйства

to envisage — рассматривать, предусматривать

showcase — демонстрация, витрина

exhibit halls — выставочные залы

to dedicate — посвящать, предназначать

branch - отрасль

to rename - переименовывать

throughout — во все отношениях, совершенно

to appear — случаться, появляться

to destine — назначать, предназначать

tacky fairground — обшарпанная (ветхая) ярмарочная площадь

though - хотя

to redevelop - восстанавливать

to preserve — сохранять, оберегать

time capsule — капсула времени

intact - нетронутый

arched gate — арочные ворота

to top — венчать, покрывать сверху

a bale of hay — сноп сена

to feature — изображать, отображать