

## Writing Assignment

In his historical biopic, *The Ghost of the Executed Engineer*, Loren Graham makes a case for seeing the life and fate of Peter Palchinsky as embodying lessons regarding the failure of the Soviet approach to technology and development. Your assignment is to write a short (4-5 pp.) *précis* (i.e. summary, or abstract) that accurately describes both the content and arguments present in Graham's book. In the course of summarizing Graham's book, your *précis* must be certain to answer the following general questions:

Who was Peter Palchinsky?

What was his view regarding the proper role of engineers in contributing to society?

Why did the Soviet state find Palchinsky and his views objectionable?

Why does Graham believe that the subsequent history of the USSR vindicated Palchinsky's vision of technology and its role in industrial development?

**Format:** Your *précis* must be typed (word-processed), double-spaced, employ an 11-12 pt. font (what you are currently reading) and contain margins *no larger than 1 ¼ inches*. It should be approximately four-five pages in length. The paper must be printed in *black* ink only. Your paper must be stapled together. Do *not* use paper clips, gum, spit, or attempt to fold the upper left hand corners together.

If you have any questions about the nature of this assignment, please ask.