

Commentary: The Health Crisis in the USSR: reflections on the Nicholas Eberstadt 1981 review of *Rising Infant Mortality in the USSR in the 1970s*.

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# Commentary: The Health Crisis in the USSR: reflections on the Nicholas Eberstadt 1981 review of *Rising Infant Mortality in the USSR in the 1970s* FREE

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Nicholas Eberstadt's 1981 article, 'The Health Crisis in the USSR', in the New York Review of Books<sup>1</sup> played an important role in publicizing the growing health problems in the USSR and provided an insightful preliminary analysis of their causes. His article started with a balanced review of the 1980 US Bureau of the Census technical report on 'Rising Infant Mortality in the USSR in the 1970s'<sup>2</sup> that I co-authored with Murray Feshbach, a distinguished demographer, but then widened its scope to evaluate the political, economic, social, and medical factors that could explain the growing difficulties in the Soviet health sector.

...

The article by Nicholas and our report challenged three prevailing conceptions. First, that the socialist countries were continuing to improve the health of their populations, measured by reductions in...

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