

# THE PEOPLE'S SPORT

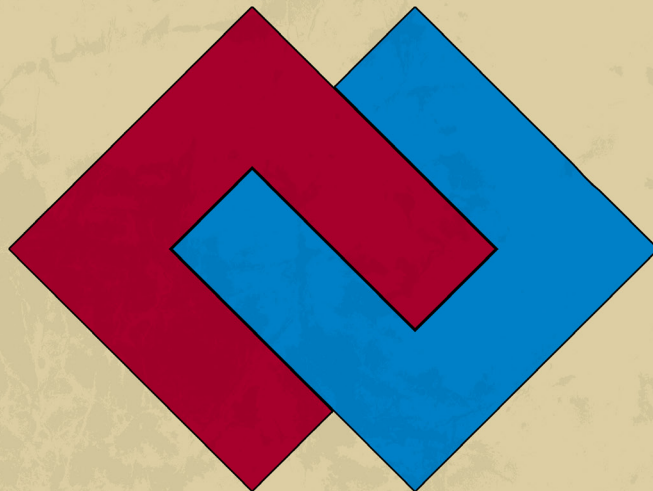


WRESTLING AS  
SOVIET SPECTACLE



PICTURED: Monument to Proletarian Wrestling Glory  
Kitay-gorod, ca. 1937

PRESENTED BY:



## MOSCOW CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

WRESTLING FOR THE  
GLORY OF THE  
SOVIET PEOPLE



Moscow Championship Wrestling (MCW) stands as the ultimate fusion of athletic competition and socialist spectacle, a testament to the strength, discipline, and unity of the Soviet people.

Through the artistry of the ring, we showcase the triumph of the collective spirit over the forces of individualism, greed, and corruption.

MCW is not mere entertainment—it is a demonstration of the unbreakable will of the workers and the might of the proletariat.

# STRENGTH DISCIPLINE UNITY



*PICTURED:* Konstantin Yaroshenko and Yuri Baryshnikov, aka The Soviet Juggernauts, the MCW's premiere tag team.

## THE MISSION OF MCW



Our wrestlers are not mere performers; they are warriors of the people, sculpted by the ideals of Soviet sportsmanship.

Each match is a battle of endurance, discipline, and skill, proving that the strength of the socialist athlete is unmatched by any opponent, foreign or domestic.

The ring becomes a stage where Soviet excellence is displayed, ensuring that the working class has heroes who reflect their toil, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve.

WRESTLING AS A CELEBRATION  
OF SOVIET STRENGTH

# TOIL SACRIFICE RESOLVE



**PICTURED:** Oleg Zhukov discusses strategy with trainer Vladislav Melnichenko before battling a decadent Western opponent in front of a sold-out crowd at the Cosmos Arena.



Every MCW contest is more than an athletic confrontation—it is a narrative of ideological struggle.

The righteous Soviet competitor, embodying the virtues of hard work, loyalty, and collective unity, faces adversaries who symbolize the moral decay of capitalism, imperialism, and individual greed.

Victory in the ring represents more than personal achievement—it is the triumph of the people, the Party, and the Motherland.

THE ART OF  
SOCIALIST STORYTELLING

# WORK LOYALTY IDEOLOGY



*PICTURED:* Grigory Tikhonov stares down his American opponent, Johnny Flash, as special guest referee and former Soviet Heavyweight title holder Leonid Rogozin looks on.



In MCW, no wrestler stands alone.

Each competitor is a product of rigorous state training, prepared through the collective efforts of coaches, comrades, and the broader Soviet sports apparatus.

No lone wolf shall rise above the many—the glory of MCW belongs to the people, and champions are not self-made, but forged in the fires of Soviet discipline and unity.

# NO WRESTLER STANDS ALONE



*PICTURED:* Just some of the many superstars working with the MCW for the glory of the Soviet people.

DISCIPLINE AND COLLECTIVISM  
IN THE RING



MCW is wrestling for the workers, by the workers.

Every show is crafted to inspire, educate, and uplift the spirit of the Soviet citizen.

Unlike the corrupt Western promotions, which celebrate vanity and self-interest, MCW tells stories of loyalty, perseverance, and the inevitable victory of the socialist cause.

Each event is a rallying cry for the strength of the USSR and a declaration that our ideology, like our champions, will never falter.

THE PEOPLE'S SPECTACLE

# OUR IDEOLOGY WILL NEVER FALTER



*PICTURED:* Roman "The Iron Curtain" Karpov surrounded by adoring fans, moments before uttering his now infamous catchphrase, "the weak must be purged from wrestling."



MCW is more than a wrestling promotion—it is a movement, a testament to the power of socialism in all aspects of life.

Through every suplex, every struggle, and every victory, we reinforce the ideals that make our nation great.

Let the world witness the supremacy of the Soviet athlete, and let our people stand tall, knowing that in the ring and in life, the collective shall always triumph over the individual!

LONG LIVE THE CHAMPIONS  
OF THE PEOPLE!

# LET OUR PEOPLE STAND TALL



*PICTURED:* A group of proud citizens gathered around the famous Monument to Soviet Squared Circle Strength, inspired by its message of solidarity and power.



# THE CHAMPIONS OF THE PEOPLE

MCW: WRESTLING FOR THE  
PROLETARIAT!

GLORY TO THE SOVIET  
CHAMPIONS!



We now present brief profiles of some of the greatest  
workers in MCW's long and illustrious history.



NICKNAME: The Hammer

BACKGROUND: A former Greco-Roman wrestling champion trained in the Soviet sports academies, Kravchenko was recruited by the state to showcase Soviet superiority in combat sports.

CAREER ARC: A dominant force in tag-team wrestling before transitioning to singles competition, he was known for his cold demeanor and iron will.

RIVALRIES: American powerhouse "Titan" Tom Harrington, who mocked Soviet wrestlers as "robots."



"In the ring, I do not break bones. I *shatter* them."

BORIS KRAVCHENKO



NICKNAME: Red Bear

BACKGROUND: Raised in the deep forests of Siberia, Mikhailov was a lumberjack before his immense strength caught the attention of MCW scouts.

CAREER ARC: Started as a silent enforcer but became a beloved anti-hero, refusing to follow strict Kremlin orders in later years.

RIVALRIES: Feuded with both Soviet loyalists and American brawlers like "The Patriot" Jack Walker.



"I was raised in the frozen forests. You think a man like you can survive against a *bear*?"

VICTOR IVANOVICH MIKHAILOV



NICKNAME: Iron Fist

BACKGROUND: A former Spetsnaz hand-to-hand combat instructor, Volkov used ruthless submission holds learned from military training.

CAREER ARC: Feared in the ring for his emotionless brutality, he briefly held the world title before being ousted by a coalition of American wrestlers.

RIVALRIES: John "All-American" Simmons, who sought to "break the Iron Curtain."

SERGEI VOLKOV



"Pain is weakness leaving the body. I make sure you have no weakness left."



NICKNAME: The Siberian Storm

BACKGROUND: A former Olympic gymnast, Petrov was the rare Soviet wrestler to utilize high-flying maneuvers, making her a unique threat.

CAREER ARC: Gained a cult following in Japan, where her agility set her apart from other wrestlers of the era.

RIVALRIES: Kazuko "The Dragon" Tanaka, whom she battled in legendary aerial encounters.

OLESIA PETROV



"Like the storm, I strike fast. Like the storm, you will not see me coming."



NICKNAME: The Kremlin Krusher

BACKGROUND: A state-sponsored wrestler who never spoke in public, only letting government officials speak on his behalf.

CAREER ARC: Pushed as an unstoppable juggernaut, he eventually turned against his own handlers.

RIVALRIES: His own former manager, Soviet official Yuri Grigorenko, who turned on him.

ANATOLY ZUBAREV



"The Kremlin has spoken. You are unworthy.  
I will end you now."



NICKNAME: The Moscow Mauler

BACKGROUND: A streetfighter from the back alleys of Moscow, Sokolov embodied Soviet grit and raw toughness.

CAREER ARC: Never a champion, but known for brutal, no-DQ fights.

RIVALRIES: "Mad Dog" Edie Malone, an Irish brawler who fought just as dirty.

ANYA SOKOLOV



"I was fighting in the streets before I stepped in this ring. Here, they at least give me rules...Not that I follow them."



NICKNAME: The Soviet Sledgehammer

BACKGROUND: Once a steel mill worker, his rise to wrestling was presented as proof of Soviet industry creating "perfect warriors."

CAREER ARC: Briefly aligned with pro-Soviet factions before turning on them, claiming he was fighting for himself, not the state.

RIVALRIES: His former tag-team partner, Konstantin Yaroshenko.

YEGOR KUZNETSOV



"I was forged in fire and steel. You were made for comfort. This will not end well for you."



NICKNAME: The Frozen Titan

BACKGROUND: A near-mythic figure from the Siberian tundra, rumored to have once fought a bear with his bare hands.

CAREER ARC: Dominated battle royals but never held a singles title.

RIVALRIES: Giant wrestlers like "Big Thunder" Bill Johnson and Andre the Giant.

VASILY ORLOV



"Cold does not feel. Cold does not stop. I am *cold*."



NICKNAME: Red Menace

BACKGROUND: A scheming villain who used underhanded tactics, claiming that "strategy, not brute force, is the Soviet way."

CAREER ARC: A master of alliances and betrayals, often escaping major fights without taking damage.

RIVALRIES: "Texas Outlaw" Buck Rogers, who despised cheaters.

MIKHAIL VASILIEV



"You call it cheating. I call it strategy. Either way, you lose."



NICKNAME: The Bolshevik Bruiser

BACKGROUND: A self-proclaimed revolutionary who claimed to fight for "the working man," whether Soviet or American.

CAREER ARC: Briefly popular with anti-establishment American fans before embracing full villainy.

RIVALRIES: "Wall Street Warrior" Richard Kensington, a wealthy businessman-wrestler.

IGOR ANTONOV



"I fight for the working man. And the working man wants me to break you!"



Moscow Championship Wrestling (MCW) was the USSR's premier professional wrestling promotion, operating from the 1930s until the collapse of the Soviet Union. Established under the auspices of the Soviet State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport, MCW was created as a blend of athletic competition and socialist spectacle, aiming to promote Soviet ideals of strength, discipline, and collectivism through scripted matches.

Initially modeled after traditional Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling, MCW developed its own distinct style, incorporating theatrical storytelling that emphasized Soviet heroism over capitalist villainy. Matches often pitted Soviet worker-athletes against caricatures of Western decadence, such as the arrogant American businessman or the cunning British aristocrat. The legendary battles of MCW's most famous stars against foreign challengers became key propaganda tools during the Cold War.

MCW's popularity peaked in the 1960s and 70s, with state-sponsored tours across the Eastern Bloc and even clandestine broadcasts that reached audiences in Western Europe, and this popularity is reflected in the tenor and energy of the volume that you hold in your hands.

However, as glasnost and perestroika took hold in the 1980s, public interest in state-controlled entertainment waned. The promotion finally folded in the early 1990s with the dissolution of the USSR, leaving behind a unique legacy in the history of professional wrestling.

Though largely forgotten today, MCW remains a fascinating chapter in the intersection of sports, entertainment, and politics during the Soviet era.

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At the United States Department of Wrestling, our mission is to maintain kayfabe throughout an increasingly complex world, defending reality wherever it is threatened. Preserving the memories and strategies of wrestling federations from throughout history is a vital part of this work, and it is with great pride that we present to you this fascinating historical document. Part of a trove of Soviet-era wrestling artifacts that were recently unearthed by DoW interns in the Central State Archive of the Russian SFSR in Moscow, the book has been painstakingly scanned and restored to the fullest extent possible; with the exception of the text on this page, this celebration of Soviet wrestling is presented to you exactly as it appeared when it was originally printed and distributed to the English-speaking wrestling audience of Eastern and Western Europe in 1981. We have endeavored to minimize physical imperfections from the original source material to the fullest extent possible.

We hope you find this document educational, inspiring, and informative. While there is a world of difference between the political and cultural contexts of the modern United States and the Soviet Union of forty years ago, there is much that we can learn about kayfabe and the power of professional wrestling within its pages.

To discover more treasures from the obscure corners of professional wrestling's history, please visit our web site: [departmentofwrestling.com](http://departmentofwrestling.com)

# A WORD FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF WRESTLING



*PICTURED:* Nikolai "The Ural Avalanche" Fedorov, the current MCW World Heavyweight Title holder.





IN THE RING AS IN LIFE,  
THE COLLECTIVE TRIUMPHS,  
DISCIPLINE PREVAILS, AND  
THE WORKER STANDS  
VICTORIOUS!