Soviet Russia (includes a shot of AR’s neighborhood in Leningrad)

Soviet Russia

Early Writings

After completing her studies at the University of Leningrad in 1924, Ayn Rand enrolled at the State Technicum for Screen Arts, a film school established by Lenin for the development of Soviet cinema. Her objective was to study screenwriting, and in preparation she also began writing film reviews and short essays on Hollywood, some of which were published. She briefly thought about becoming a Soviet screenwriter, subtly incorporating her individualist ethical and political ideas into her scripts. But this early experiment with literary misdirection failed. The collectivist nature of Russian politics and culture was monolithic. And she realized her prospects for survival in Soviet Russia were nonexistent: “I would have been probably dead within one year,” she later concluded.

**00:33 to 01:00**