Books shed light on fast changes in Russia

Like almost everybody, I've spent a great deal of time lately watching lelevision. Frankly, I have been concerned that, if I dare to look away, some new, earth-changing event will occur and I will have missed seeing it at the very moment it took place. It's gotten to the point that if I happen to wake up in the middle of the night, I immediately start groping for the TV switch. Who knows what new country may have been formed as I slept, what longstanding ideology declared noil and void, what leader outed, what visible or lavisible walls sent tumbling down? I wish it knew more about the Sovi-

invisible waits sent tumbling down? I wish I knew more about the Soviet Union. Toward this end, I plan to go there some time, and not just to visit Moscow and Leningrad, but also to see places like Taganrog, the birthplace of Chekvo or Vasnaya Polyana, where Tolstoi was born.

IN THE meantime, here's a sam-

IN THE meantime, here's a sampling of recent fiction and non-fiction that can provide a closer look at that vast, mysterious place and its people:

"The Turn: From the Cold War to a New Era: The United States and the Soviet Union, 1983-1990" by Don Oherdorfer (Poseidon).

Oberdorfer (Poseidon).

Washington Post correspondent
Oberdorfer was present at all the
USA-USSR summit meetings during

the last decade, covering the events and interviewing the participants. His up-cine observations and conclusions go to make up this beity volume. Gerbachev receives bigh darks as does former Secretary of State George Shultz.

— "Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy" by Dmilri Volkogenow, edited and translated by Harold Shukman (Grove Weldenfeld).

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy aspects of this no-holds-barred biography of Stalin is that it comer to make the control of the

irom a Soviet source, Voltogonov in Russia's parliament. Also noteworthy: Voltogonov's father was a casualty of one of Stain's many purges. Soviet Artists in a Time of Gianort' by Andrew Solomon (Knoph). This focuses on avant garde artists from enclaves in Moscow and Leningrad who, a decade ago, were forbidden to exhibit their works in public Solomon is a Britlah journalist who covered Sotheby's historic auction of their paintings in Moscow in 1983.

"The New Russians" by Hedrick Smith (Avon-paperback), Comprehensive study of the Soviet Union today, even as it changalism: The Best of the Soviet Weekly Ogonyok' edited by Vitaly Korotich,

book break Victoria Diaz

translated by Cathy Porter (Beaconpaperback).
Ogonyok, a progressive Soviet
journal, published these 32 articles
in 1988 and 1989. The pieces explore
such matters as the chronic-Sovietfood shortages, and-semilism in
Leningrad, organized crime in the
Soviet Union, contraception and
abortion in Moscow. Photos complement the collection. Korotlch edits
Oronyk.

• "Gorbachev: Heretic in the
Kremilin" by Dusko Doder and
Louise Branson (Penguin-paperback).

back).
Thought-provoking commentary of the provided and the Corporatory rest, written by 'two world-class Journalists wise in the ways of the 'Every Hunter Wants To Know: A Lenigrad Life.' by Mikhail Jossel (Norton).
A collection of 16 thest standard.

A collection of 10 short stories, many of which are set in Iossel's na-

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tive Leningrad (he now lives in the United States). A taste of pre-and-

post-glasnost.

• "Catalyst" by Philip Cornford

e "Catalyst" by Philip Cormous (Bantam).

Espionage thriller by Austrian journalist Comford features KGB and CIA operatives, and the fictional Vigilantes for Peace, who apparently aim to stop at nothing in order to attain their goal of total nuclear disarmament. Not surprisingly, the

• "Aysa" by Michael Ignatleff

(Knoph). Some special special

"Rostnikov's Vacation" by Stu-art M. Kaminsky (Scribners).

In this whodunit, the good guy, In-spector Portifiry Rostnikov, goes against the bad guys in the KGB, MVD and GRU, who appear to be

planning the assassination of Gorbs-chev. In the meantime, Rostnikov is ordered to Islae a vacation and, while at Yatta, becomes involved in track-ing down the killer of a fellow inves-tigator. This is the seventh in a so-ries that includes the 1938 Edgar winner, "A Cold Red Sunrise."

e 'The Americans Are Coming''
by Alex Beam (St. Martin's).
In this and the Soviet Union (Arprod Schwarzeneger is president of
the U.S. Gorbachev bas retired to
the U.S. Gorbachev bas retired to
Miscow). Foisting such-

LAST WORDS: The 1991/92 season of Borders Book Shop Visiting Writers Series, sponsored in conjunction with the University of Michigan, will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17. Nicholas Delbanco will read Fröm a work-in-progress in the Rackham Amphitheatre, Ann Arbor. Delbanco, author of 15 books, direct the Hopwood Awards Program and the MFA Program in Writing at the University of Michigan. For further details on the event, call 764-5298.

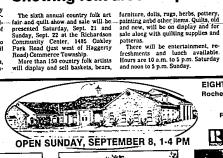


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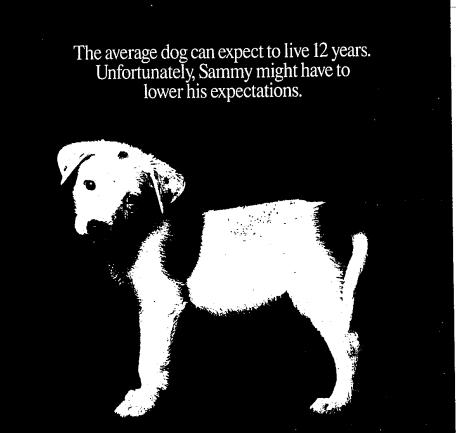


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