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10 The Soviet state as viewed by nationalists
11 Imperial contiguity and Russia's 'stunted nationhood'; 12 Was the Soviet Union the 'last empire'?; Concluding discussion; Notes; Bibliography; Index

The Soviet Union is often characterised as nominally a federation, but really an empire, liable to break up when individual federal units, which were allegedly really subordinate colonial units, sought independence. This book questions this interpretation, revisiting the theory of federation, and discussing actual examples of federations such as the United States, arguing that many federal unions, including the United States, are really centralised polities. It also discusses the nature of empires, nations and how they relate to nation states and empires, and the right of secession, highlig