During Brezhnev's â€œEra of Stagnation,â€ the Soviet Union became politically, economically, and socially backward, and the need for reforms grew increasingly acute. JOINT LEADERSHIP Many high-level communists believed that the Khrushchev Thaw had gone too far and that his politics needed to be reversed. Stagnation became visible in all levels of society: in the economy, in politics, and in culture. FOREIGN POLICY In 1968, Czechoslovakia was going through the Prague Spring. The Brezhnev era, which had begun with high growth, began to stagnate some time in the early-1970s. Kosygin's "radical" reform attempts were halted in 1971 and his second reform was more modest. The nature of Soviet politics and society during Leonid Brezhnev's tenure as General Secretary of the CPSU from 1964 to 1982 has until recently remained a comparatively unexplored scholarly topic. 1 Useful accounts of everyday life in the Brezhnev era can be found in Caroline Humphrey KarlMarx Collective: Economy, Society, andReligion in a Siberian Collective Farm (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983); Victor Zaslavsky The Neo-Stalinist State: Class, Ethnicity and Consensus in Soviet Society (Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 1982); and John Bushnell, Moscow Graffiti
The nature of Soviet politics and society during Leonid Brezhnev’s tenure as General Secretary of the CPSU from 1964 to 1982 has until recently remained a comparatively unexplored scholarly topic. 1 Useful accounts of everyday life in the Brezhnev era can be found in Caroline Humphrey Karl Marx Collective: Economy, Society, and Religion in a Siberian Collective Farm (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983); Victor Zaslavsky The Neo-Stalinist State: Class, Ethnicity and Consensus in Soviet Society (Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 1982); and John Bushnell, Moscow Graffiti Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, who ruled the Soviet Union for 18 years from 1964 to 1982, died 30 years ago, on November 10, 1982. Russia has had its share of tyrants and bloody dictators, but the last â€œclassical-styleâ€ leader of the Soviet times evokes feelings of condescension with a touch of warmth and nostalgia. Timofeyev named â€œnon-dynamic employment policy, the stagnation in the workforce and the lack of changes in the eliteâ€ as doubtless negative phenomena of Brezhnevâ€™s rule. A more dynamic work environment is needed and that is one of the main lessons that should be drawn from Brezhnevâ€™s epoch, he believes.