

The people of Magadan have carefully preserved the memory of both the heroic and tragic pages from the past. And the jubilee celebrations bear witness to this. The slogan for the celebrations is "today we remember the past".

In my personal opinion, this memory has become rather too one-sided at times. For example, there is still no memorial in Magadan to the innocent victims of Stalinism, but on the square in front of the City Executive Committee building they have put up a bust of E. Berzin, founder of the "Dalstroi" Trust - an arm of the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) - and founder of USVITLA (Administration of Northeastern Corrective Labor Camps). Frankly, I find this haste rather odd.

Nevertheless, today's celebrations are full of optimism. When construction of the city had only just begun, the "New York Times" predicted that it would meet the same fate as the Canadian city of Dawson, which sprang up on the crest of "gold fever" and then quickly faded away. Magadan has not faded. Today, it is not only the capital of the country's "hard currency shop" but also a hub of productive scientific and creative forces. The average age of its residents is 28 years, and this does a lot to explain the energy with which Magadan is taking on "perestroika". Here, self-supporting ('khozraschet') attitudes are being confidently written into the economy, and this may be the first place in the country to loudly call for State cooperative enterprises. Economic, cultural and friendly ties with the American State of Alaska are being successfully developed here.

...Magadan is looking festive today. The colorfulness of the freshly painted buildings, the