

Soviet Union

- 25 million died in WWII
- Stalin
- Occupied Eastern Europe
- Agriculture production, down 50%
- Industrial production, down 60%

- Khrushchev 1953-1964
- Level of openness
- Secret Speech
- 1956 Hungarian uprising
- US-USSR relations

The Hungarian Uprising

- Soviet troops occupy Budapest - 1956
- Oct.-Nov. 1956
- Attempt by Hungary to break away from Soviet orbit
- Begins w\ students demanding freedom
- Hungarian government is unsure of what to do
- Government collapses

- 3,000 Hungarian killed
- 22,000 Arrested
- 13,000 prison
- Approx. 2,000 executed

Berlin

- Berlin divided
- West Germany built a strong economy
- Worker's revolt crushed in 1953

Unrest in East Germany

- 1949-1961
- 3.5 million East Germans leave
- Flight of skilled labor
- Berlin Wall, 1961
- Aug. 13 Fence goes up
- In East German territory

Leonid Brezhnev (1964-1982)

- Pressure for change from within the system
- Stability over reform
- Revival of Stalin's reputation, "de-Khrushchevization"

- Feb. 1956 – Secret Speech
- “On the Personality Cult and its Consequences”
- Denounces Stalin and Stalinism
- Rehabilitation begins

Eastern Europe

- “Little Stalins”
- Eliminate all non-Communist parties and silencing dissidents
- “People’s democracies”

Cultural freedom varied from country to country

- In Poland access to Western publications and greater freedom to travel to the West
- Hungarian and Yugoslav Communists tolerated a certain level of intellectual activity
- After 1968, Czech Communists pursued strict cultural control

The Prague Spring, 1968

- Reform crushed by the Warsaw Pact
- Brezhnev Doctrine, cooperation to maintain socialism

Soviet Communism

- Transition from peasant societies to industrialized economies
- Desire to create classless society
- Never achieved
- Emergence of a new privileged class
- Women
 - Not equal
 - Make up half the workforce
 - Traditional roles in the home remained

A Controlled Society

- Restrictive policy against Soviet critics
 - Andrei Sakharov and Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- New constitution, 1977
 - “State of all the people”
 - Communist party the “predominant force” in Soviet society
 - Article 49
 - “Persecution for criticism shall be prohibited”
 - Article 62
 - Citizens “shall be obligated to safeguard the interests of the Soviet state and to contribute to the strength of its might and prestige”
- Free expression restricted
 - *Pravda* (Truth) and *Izvestia* (News)
- Demand for conformity

- Human rights the foreign policy goals of President Jimmy Carter
- Renewed tensions in the “Third World”
 - U.S. concerned about Soviet involvement in Africa (Somalia, South Yemen, and Ethiopia)
 - Cuban troops in Angola
- Soviet Union the main supplier of military equipment
- Continued pursuit of peaceful coexistence with the West
- Détente, reduction in tensions between U.S. and U.S.S.R.
 - Intercontinental ballistic missiles with MIRVs
 - SALT I that limited antiballistic missile systems, 1972
- U.S. policy of “equivalence” (balance of power)
 - President Nixon pursues a policy of “linkages” through trade and cultural contacts
- Soviet troops to Afghanistan, 1979
- Soviet fears of spread of Islamic activism to its Muslim population in Central Asia
- Carter Doctrine that the U.S. would use military power to safeguard Western access to Middle East oil reserves
 - Soviet concern about Islamic activism spreading to its republics in Central Asia
 - “Vietnam syndrome”
- U.S. fear that the U.S.S.R. seeking strategic nuclear superiority
 - Failure of U.S. congress to approve SALT II

Reagan Doctrine

- Reagan believes in Cold War
- Reagan calls Soviet Union an “evil empire”

Reagan renounces SALT I and II

- Reagan begins major military buildup
- Reagan introduces Strategic Defense Initiative
- Stagnant industrial and agricultural economy
- Increased capital investment
- Raising food prices
- No revision of the collective system
- Return to central ministries
- Industrial reforms
- Factory managers given more authority
- Reforms resisted by the bureaucracy

Failure to revitalize the national economy

- Under Brezhnev industrial growth declined - less than 4% annually in the early 1970s
- Less than 3% between 1975 and 1980
- Grain production stagnated after 1970s
- Absence of incentives
- Constitution guaranteed opportunity to work to all citizens
- Athletic achievement prized
- Senior officials get perks
- Average citizen had no incentive to produce beyond what was acceptable

- No incentives for management
- Consumer goods not available
- “On the left” (black market) and moonlighting
 - Perhaps one-third the economy outside the legal system
- Inadequate technology
- Military received most resources from the government

Poland

- Protests of high food prices in early 1980s led
- Independent labor movement, Solidarity
- Movement for change and threat to the government’s monopoly on power
 - Outlawed, 1981, and martial law
- Free national elections, 1988
 - Election of Walesa as president, December 1990
 - Moscow takes no action

Party leaders surrounding Brezhnev were elderly

- Paralyzed by fear of instability and change
- Yuri Andropov (1982-1984)
 - Brezhnev died in November 1982
 - Head of the secret services
- Konstantin Chernenko (1984-1985)
 - A mediocre party politician

Mikhail Gorbachev

- New head of Soviet Union (1985-1991)
- Wants *perestroika* (economic restructuring)
- Wants *glasnost* (new openness)

Gorbachev Era

- Perestroika (restructuring)
 - Limited free enterprise and some private property
- Glasnost (openness)
 - Discuss openly the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Union
- Political reforms

- Call for a new Soviet parliament, 1988
- Congress of People's Deputies elected 1989
- Political parties authorized, 1990

1988-1990 nationalist movements erupt

- Ethnic tensions -- 92 nationalities and 112 recognized languages in the Soviet Union
- Army cannot control violence
- Intervention into Afghanistan, 1979
- Nationalist movements in all 15 republics
- Lithuania declares independence, March 1990; rejected by Soviet Congress
- Gorbachev arrested, August 19, 1991; coup fails
- Ukraine votes for independence, December 1991, others follow
- December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigns and turns power over to Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia