



Fall of the Soviet Union

Overview

- Dec. 1991 – The U.S.S.R. broke apart into _____ separate republics
- This event marked the definitive end of the _____ between The United States and the Soviet Union
- The United States remained the lone _____ in the world

Background

- 1917 - The Soviet State was created after the _____ revolution led by Lenin
- 1922 – Russia joined its other republics into the _____ of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 1940-1991 – The Soviet Union would be composed of 15 communist republics _____ controlled from Moscow
- The U.S.S.R. was supposed to be a society for true _____ for the people
- In truth it was ruled by a single party-system that demanded _____ from every Soviet citizen
- Russia dominated the Soviet Union but more than _____ of the population was non-Russian
- These non-Russian cultures resisted _____ by the single-state system

Mikhail Gorbachev

- March 1985 Gorbachev became _____ of the U.S.S.R.
- Gorbachev, at 54, was quite young compared to _____ Soviet leaders
- He was an idealist who believed in communism but that the current Communist Government needed significant _____

Reasons for Change

- The economy of the U.S.S.R. had _____ throughout the 1970's
- Could not _____ to keep up with the Americans in the arms race any longer
- Central planning was a bureaucratic nightmare that _____ the economy

Central Planning

- The vast majority of the manufacturing in the Soviet Union was planned by a central agency for heavy industry or for _____ purposes
- This cumbersome process was highly _____ and there were few consumer goods produced
- Citizens of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations had to stand in _____ to get food, clothes, and other necessities

Gorbachev's Reforms

Glasnost

- This was a policy of political _____
- Eliminated traces of Stalinist _____
- Gave new _____ to Soviet citizens
- The key aspect of glasnost is _____
- The idea is that Soviet citizens could criticize in order to make the State _____
- _____ prisoners were released
- Media could criticize the _____
- Non-communist _____ could participate in elections
- Gorbachev wanted the Soviet citizens to become more _____ in the Communist Government

Perestroika

- A policy of _____ restructuring
- Gorbachev believed the best way to _____ the Soviet economy was to loosen the grip of government
- Individuals and cooperatives could own _____ for the first time since the 1920s
- _____ investment was encouraged

Renunciation of the Brezhnev Doctrine

- Nov. 1968 - The Brezhnev Doctrine called for armed _____ where a communist government in the Soviet's sphere of influence (i.e. Eastern Europe, Central Asia) was in danger of falling
- Used to _____ the invasion of Czechoslovakia earlier that year and for the 1956 invasion of Hungary
- 1988 - Gorbachev announced the Soviet Union would _____ the Doctrine
- This allowed Poland to freely elect the non-communist party _____ in 1989

Gorbachev's Reforms

Communist Party Reforms

- Gorbachev worked to _____ the Communist Party itself
- Removed those members of the _____ who did not support his reforms
- Made attempts to reform the _____
- He had limited success with these reforms as many of those in positions of power _____ change

End of the Cold War

- Dec. 8, 1987 – Gorbachev and President Reagan sign the Intermediate-Range _____ Treaty
- The U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. would begin _____ some of their nuclear weapons
- Some historians point to this date as the _____ of the Cold War while others contend that the end was the dissolution of the Soviet Union

International Accolades

- 1987 – Time magazine selected Gorbachev as the man of the _____
- 1989 – Time magazine again selected Gorbachev this time as man of the _____
- 1989 – Gorbachev won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in bringing an end to the _____

Reforms Fail

- In the U.S.S.R Gorbachev was not as _____ as he was on the international stage
- His reforms were too slow for many who had initially been _____ of a brighter future
- Others, particular many in the party _____, thought the reforms were happening too quickly

Communism Falls in Eastern Europe

- June 1989 – Solidarity had come to power in Poland in free _____
- By September demonstrations swept across _____ Europe and Communist regimes fell with little violence
- Romania was an exception – the Communist dictator and his wife were _____ after weeks of violence in the streets bringing an end to communism in that country

Berlin Wall Falls

- November 9, 1989 – The Communist Party of East Germany – in an attempt to _____ the protests – stated it would no longer stop people from _____ between East and West Germany
- East and West Berliners poured into the streets and began _____ the Wall

Nationalism

- With the iron grip of Moscow relaxing, _____ movements increased in the Republics of the Soviet Union
- The nationalistic movements quickly became _____ movements

U.S.S.R. Coup 1991

- August 1991 – Soviet _____ placed Gorbachev under house arrest in an attempt to “save” the Soviet Union
- _____ protests by Russian citizens erupted across the country led by Russia’s president Boris Yeltsin
- Yeltsin had been a political opponent of Gorbachev believing the reforms had not moved _____ enough or far enough
- He certainly did not want to see the hardliners gain _____ and end what progress had been made
- Soldiers and tanks filled the streets of Moscow and _____ the protesters
- Many soldiers _____ and refused to shoot their fellow citizens
- After three days of protests and without the support of the military the leaders of the coup _____ and released Gorbachev

Results of the Coup

- Boris Yeltsin _____ as the victor of the failed coup attempt
- Yeltsin had appeared strong and _____ in the face of the Communist Party
- He would become the leader of a _____ reorganized Russian Federation

Commonwealth of Independent States

- Dec. 8, 1991 Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus broke away from the U.S.S.R. and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.) effectively rendering the Soviet Union _____
- Twelve of the other former Soviet Republics would _____ the Commonwealth
- This Commonwealth retained _____ ties but each republic would be a sovereign nation

End of the Soviet Union

- Gorbachev was the leader of a Union that had _____
- Dec. 25, 1991 – Gorbachev _____
- The Communist Party quickly collapsed and by January 1992 the Soviet Union ceased to _____

External Factors

Reagan's Role – Early Years

- Some American historians point to President Reagan's massive _____ buildup as a factor in the fall of the U.S.S.R.
- They contend that this new arms race – including the _____ program –exhausted the Soviet Union's economy and hastened its demise while his "Evil Empire" speech inspired people around the world to resist the Soviet Union

Reagan's Role – Later Years

- Once Gorbachev came to power, Reagan found a _____ with whom he could work
- Together the two leaders began to bring an end to the _____
- Many other historians believe that Reagan's role was _____ in the events that overtook Eastern Europe

Pope John Paul II

- Became pope in _____
- His messages made it clear that he _____ communism
- As an ethnic Pole, born in Poland, he served as an _____ to that Catholic country
- Would inspire the _____ movement as well as the ordinary citizens of Poland
- Poland was the _____ Eastern Bloc country to end communism

Conclusions

- The collapse of the Soviet Union _____ the world
- Political, economic, and military _____ were changed around the globe
- The Soviet Union never achieved the _____ society of equality that Lenin had imagined
- Soviet society had more in common with feudalism – a military elite that dominated and _____ the common people
- Gorbachev had recognized this and sought to _____ the Soviet Union into a freer more equitable society – what he believed communism should be
- He later stated "The old system fell apart even before the new system began to _____"
- The Russian economy _____ under Yeltsin in the 1990s
- A handful of connected Russians became multi-billionaires while the vast majority sank into _____
- 1999 – Vladimir Putin became Prime Minister under Yeltsin and succeeded to President in 2000 – he has _____ Russia ever since
- In an interview with *The Guardian* in 2011 Gorbachev pointed to one of his mistakes:
 - "The fact that I went on too long in trying to reform the Communist party." He should have _____ in April 1991, he said, and formed a _____ party of reform since the Communists were putting the brakes on all the necessary changes.