

Snazzlefrag's Soviet Union DSST Study Notes

Contact: <http://www.degreeforum.net/members/snazzlefrag.html>

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1169: Kievan Rhos, Kiev largest city in Eastern Europe (11C) Trade Route East w/ Eur
Veche: Gov't of East Slav towns. Councils shared powr w/ assemblies of nobles/princes of Kievan Russia

1237-1240 Invaded by Mongols (Golden Horde) led by **Batu Khan/Genghis Khan**

14/15C Moscow: Center of society. Feared Tatars(Mongols)/South and Lithuanians/South East up to mid-15C

1462-1505 Ivan III (the Great): Re-unified Russia under Moscow's leadership, **independence from Tatars(1480)**

1547-1584 Ivan IV (the Terrible, grandson of III): Promoted himself to **First Tsar of Russia** (age 16)

16C Russian Expansion: Cossacks take west Siberia & NE states to become an **Empire**. Behind Eur Techno

1605-1613 Time of Troubles: Poland invades Russia. Boyars and Princes fight for power.

Romanov Dynasty 1613-1917 Tsar Michael Romanov...Imp Period 1689-expansion Baltic to Pacific by 1917

Russian Empire: Official name of Russia from 1721 - 1917 (Capital St. Petersburg/Petrograd after 1914)Pete-Nic

By end of 19C Russian Empire 1/6 of Earth (22.4m sq-km) 128.2m pop. 100 ethnic groups.

Ukraine, Crimea, Belarus, Moldova, Caucasus, Turkestan, (**Lith, Eston, Lat=Baltics**), Pol, Fin.

1689-1725 Peter I, the Great: Educated in Europe. Wanted to **Westernize** Russia. Russia's 1st "Emperor"

1735 Tsarina Anna creates Russian Imperial Academy (dance: Jean Baptiste Lande)
1736-1765 Michael **Lomonosov (Father of Natural Science)** Creates Russian vernacular/grammar.

1756 Tsarina Elizabeth: Allies with France. Wins Seven Year War against Prussia.
1755 University of Moscow

1762-1796 Catherine the Great: (wife of Peter III) Further enhanced Russia on par with Britain, France, Germany

1762(1yr) Tsar Peter III: Freed Nobles of oblig to serve State, thus began development of wealthy leisure class.

1783 Treaty of Georgia: Georgia (devastated by Persian & Turkish invasion) would receive Russian protection.

1800s: Autocracy promised social & political change but didn't. People still suffering. When **Alexander I** (1801-1825) died w/out heir (yng bro not old bro), triggers

Decembrist Uprising (fails).

Led by 3,000 Military (nobles), they wanted a 'Constitutional' Monarchy, programs for social change.

1825 Bolshoi Ballet opens.

Nicholas I (1825-1855): yngr bro of Alex I. Created **Third Section of Imper Chanc** (dreaded secret police)

Third Section created to counter the continuing threat of the Decembrists.

Nicholas I instituted strict Criminal & Censorship Code, and List of Beliefs for his people.

Reptile Press: Promoted Nic I's **Totalitarian** codes which listed many "political crimes".

20C "Silver Age" Anna

Akhmatova(Gorenko),Annensky,Bely,Blok,Bryusov,Chekhov,Esenin,Gumilyov,Kharms Khlebnikov,Mandelstam,Mayakovsky,Pasternak,Sologub,Marina Tsvetaeva,Voloshin.

19C "Golden Age": Secret police couldn't keep out western ideals (capitalism, art, education)

Pushkin(Greatest Poet), **Lermentov**(poet), **Gogol**(Ukranian humorist, Inspector General, Dead Souls)

Gorky (Father of Russian Lit, founder of Socialist Realism), **Chekov** (Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters)

Glinka(opera) **Dostoyevsky**(slavophile, Brothers Karamazov) **Repin**(painter)

Tolstoy(wr/pc, Ana Karen)

Belinsky,Batyushkov,Baratynsky,Fet,Goncharov,Griboedov,Herzen,Krylov,Leskov,Nekrasov,Ostrovsky

Prutkov (a collective pen name),**Saltykov-Shchedrin,Tyutchev,Turgenev(Fathers & Sons),Zhukovsky**

Architects:

Bazhenov,Kazakov,Zakharov,Starov,Perov,Vereshchagin,Repin,Vrubel,Bakst,Benois

Defectors:

Beckmann,Belenko,Egorov,Federov,Godunov,Gouzenko,Kazhdan,Korchnoi,Kravchenko,Kuznetsov

Mitrokhin,Melnychenko,Nuryev,Pacepa,Petrova,Polovchak,Puskas,Spasowski,Kamel,Suvorov,Vasiliev,Vitaliev

1853 Crimean War/Alex II: France/UK oppose Ru intervention with neighbors (**Ottoman**). Euro modern army won.

Defeat in Crimean War led to **Great Reforms** by **Alexander II** (his father died in Crimean War)

He realised Russia must modernize to keep up with Europe.

Freed the serfs (1861), created local rural self-gov't, reformed the legal system (independent judiciary)

Free serfs made econ flexible, promoted industrial & commercial development w/out gov't control

Small middle class developed because of Great Reforms.

1881 Alexander II was assassinated by The **People's Will** group. They also plotted to assassinate Alex III (Lenin's brother).

Alex III: Hard on dissenters (dad ass), restrict authority of local gov't/judiciary, undid Great Reforms

Policy of Russification of ethnic & relig minorities (Jews/Poles) so they joined revolutionary movement.

Urged on by **Pobyedonostzev** (procurator of the Holy Synod), pro-autocracy, ortho,

Russian Nationalism.

State Council: Created by Alex I. Advise Tsar, but he made all laws! Half appoint by Tsar, half by clergy etc.

After 1910, Tsar appointed all council members. (russian term for state council=**zemsky sobor**)

Marxism: "Society passes through stages from capitalism to socialism and then communism."

1883 Group for the Emancipation of Labour: First Russian Marxist group to form. Led by **Georgi Plekhanov**

Other groups soon founded (ie, Jewish BUND). **They all merged to form SDLP in 1898**

1891-1905 Trans-Siberian Railroad: Opened up much of Siberia to colonization.

1894 Tsar Nicholas II comes to power.

1896 Lenin is imprisoned for a year. **1897-1900** Lenin is **exiled to Siberia** (founds **Pravda**) GB/Swiss > OctRev

1898 Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party (Minsk): Marx/Engels, unite prolet! anti-SD/**Narodnik**(populist)

At the 2nd Party Congress (1903 London, Brussels), the party split into **Bolsh** and **Mensh** factions.

Bolsheviki ("majority") = Lenin, wanted small disciplined party of professional revolutionaries. (prolet revolt)

Mensheviki ("minority") = Martov, wanted loosely-org open mass party. (intermediary bourg then prol rule)

Mensh newspaper = **Iska**, Bolsh newspaper = **Vpered**

Early 1900s: Russia pop = peasant farmers, agricultural economy (some progress towards industrialization).

Try catch up with Euro by aggressive industrialization led by **Finance Minister Witte** (1892-1903)

Witte wanted to end poverty of common man. Railroad construction program, banking, education.

Serfs were free but still struggled, land tenure, loss of serf benefits, high taxes.

Nobles struggled w/out serf workers. Debt. Led to demise of many nobles.

1900: 3 million **Proletariat**. oppressive conditions, long hours. Students preached revolution & socialism.

Intelligentsia: Small # of Revolutionaries, influenced by Western ideas/educ. Wanted social change.

Socialist Revolutionaries Party: Peasant socialism(confiscate land), workers (famines), big in 1905-1917

Less radical than Bolsh, more rad than Mensh. Closest ally of Bolsh OctRev. Stal against (wonConstAss)

1902 Lenin publishes "What is to be Done?"

1900-1904 Party of the New Type: Created by Lenin. Social Revolt, beat political enemies to revolution.

Party operated on Democratic Centralism, but lacked Democracy. No party elections.

1904-5 Russo-Japanese War: Over control of Manchuria & Korea (Port Arthur & Laidong Peninsula)

Japs won. Roosevelt mediated peace, Ru ceded half of Sakhalin Island/Port Arthur. Roose - Nobel Prize.

Defeat led to "**Bloody Sunday**" massacre. **Father George Gapon** led peaceful protest. Cossacks openfire.

Ignited Revolution of 1905. **Soviet:** council of workers in St. Petersburg (Oct 20), led by **Mensheviks**.

Nic II forced to grant a constitution "**October Manifesto**" (October 30th, 1905), est **1st Duma** (SRs boycott)

Gov't soon became reactionary again, revolutionaries renewed, emperor Nic II countered w/ police terror.

Nic II attempted to channel discontent into anti-Sem (pogrom). **Stolypin** (PM 1906-11, executed dissenters)

1905: Constitutional Democrats (Kadets/Milyukov) and less militant/liberal **Octobrists** (negotiate w/ autoc)

At odds with Bolsheviks. Kadets supported by bourg & professional workers.

1905 Potemkin Mutiny: Starving sailors mutiny. Capt ordered ringleaders shot. Firing Squad refused. Killed Capt.

1905-1914: Despite concessions, workers still disaffected. Strikes, gulf between educ few & uneduc masses.

1914-1917 World War I: Battle of Tannenberg. Radio intercept..Germans won.

Neutralized Ru as a threat.

WWI overwhelmed Ru economically, milit, polit. Resentment for Autocracy (incompetent officials)

Nic II in battlefield 1915. Alexandra advised by **Rasputin (poor decisions)**. Ass by Nic II supporters 1916

1917 February Revolution(Petrograd): Ended Romanov Dynasty and Autocracy. **1st Phase of Russ Revol**

15 March 1915 **Nic II abdicated** to his brother Michael. Mike refused...**Romanov dynasty ended.**

Tsar was visiting troops on the front when February Revolution began. [**Stolypin** = Nic II's PM]

Began as **Women's Day March/Strikes/Petro Soviet(mensh)**, Army mutiny. "**Bread and Peace**"

Nic II ordered Duma dissolved but they refused and set up **Provisional Gov't** to manage the crisis

Cabinet: Miliukov(Foreign Min),Guchkov(Min of War),Kerensky(Min Justice),Struve(Min Trade)

Prov Gov abolished secret police, ended censorship, legalized parties, unions, right to strike, free press.

Those freedoms ended when the Bolshevik's came to power. **Lvov then Kerensky head of Prov Gov**

Prov Gov overthrown in 1917. Delayed Constit Assembly elections-people distrusted/question motive

Petrograd Soviet: workers/soldiers/intellig **shared power with Prov Gov't (Dual Power)**. Soviet stronger!

Order Number One: Removed Prov Gov's authority over army. Prevent use of army to crush revolution.

1917: Prov Gov't & Petro Soviet didn't meet every radical demand. So Bolshevik Party incited masses.

Lenin arrived in Petrograd 4/3/17 (aided by Germany) and exploited the discontent to ride his party to power.

Day after he arrived, Lenin gave "**April Theses**" (Pravda): No support for non-Bolsh or Prov Gov. Transfer of power to **Soviet of Workers Deputies**, confiscate land to benefit peasants, incite masses. Renamed **Communist Party**.

"**July Putsch**" Lenin > uprising of soldiers, quelled by Prov Gov't, arrest warrant for Lenin. **Bolsh Weakened**

Lenin fled to Finland, Trotsky and other Bolsh leaders thrown in jail.

PM of Prov Gov, **Kerensky**, appointed **Kornilov** as new Comm-in-chief of Russian Army. But Kornilov wanted to

suppress revolt with military dictatorship. Kerensky managed to defeat **Kornilov Affair**. Showed inept Prov Gov

To defeat Kornilov's troops, Kerensky got help from Bolsheviks who set up own militia, "**Red Guards**". Lvov plot?

Bolsh strengthened: Sept 1917 **Trotsky** became Pres of Petro Soviet. Earlier he had been a critic of Lenin.

Lenin wanted to seize power quickly. **Kamenev/Zinoviev** wanted delay. Decision to revolt made in October.

1917 October Revolution/Bolshevik Revolution: Central Committee. Revolt in Nov. **2nd Phase of Russ Revol**

Prov gov closed down Bolshevik papers just before October Revolution. **Junker/mil** cadets protect govt buildings

Kerensky declared state of emergency on Nov 5th. But Bolsh seized power after brief fight in capital.

Neither side wanted to open fire at Winter Palace, Bolsh negotiated for hours with junkers defending the palace

2nd Congress of the Soviets: Shortly after Nov Revol, issued two decrees: **Decree of Peace, Decree of Land**.

Est all-Bolshevik gov't "**Soviet of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom)**" - Until Constituent Ass elections - Nov

Sovnarkom = Lenin(chairman)Stalin(Nationalities)Trotsky(Foreign Minister)Rykov(Interior)Lunacharsky(edu)

Kamenev led Exec Comm (later executed by Stalin in Great Purges). **Kerensky** fled the country(Stanford)

After Revolution: Upper class ignored, Petrograd pop. indifferent ("won't last"). Moscow fight lasted a week.

1918 Constitution established Sovnarkom as administrative limb of the government. Mensh, Soviet Revolutionaries (SRs), Kadets wanted to share power. Lenin refused... Lenin suppressed the press, outlawed Kadets.

He created **Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counterrevolutions and**

Sabotage (Cheka)

Cheka = Secret Police to keep political foes in check. Headed by deadly **Dzerzhinsky (polish-born)**

Constituent Assembly elections went ahead as planned. SRs won 41%, Bolsheviks 24%.

Assembly convened but Bolsh Red Guards dispersed it. Lenin = dictatorship, democracy set aside.

Const Ass replaced with **3rd Congress of Soviets** (94% HAD to be Bolshevik and SR delegates) **Cap=Mosc**

Bolsh(Trotsky) got Ru out of WWI. **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** 3/3/18. Ru give up 1m/sq miles of land

Summer 1918 Civil War: SRs, Tsarists, anti-Bolsh began fighting Bolsh forces. Unhappy Bolsh not sharing pwr.

Bolsh lost support of workers/troops because repressive policies and economic disaster.

Dissolution of **Constit Assemb** and use of **Cheka** angered the workers. Mensh & SRs won local elections

May 1918: Lenin announced **Forced Labor** to generate food to be sold to the State.

Created Gulag

1st of many measures called "**War Communism**". To overcome Civil War crisis and achieve Marxism.

Other measures: class warfare v wealthy peasants (**kulaks**), confiscation of horses, carts, Conscriptio

June 1918: ALL industries were **Nationalized**. To control economy. **Refused to pay foreign debts.**

Nationalized industries managed by the **Vesenkha**: 40+ departments to manage/reorganize industry

July 16, 1918 Bolsheviks executed Romanovs: To prevent their liberation by anti-Bolsh troops.

Aug 30, 1918 SRs Attempt to Assassinate Lenin: But Cheka arrested & executed any suspect.

This marked the start of the **Red Terror:** Execute opposition until end of Civil War. 100,000's killed.

Civil War worsened by Allies: Frightened Bolshevism would spread to Europe.

Supported anti-Bolshevik forces

US/Fr/UK+anti-Bolshevik Forces = **White Army**. Everyone who opposed Bolsh (left, right, libs, socialists)

Whites not unified, poor discipline, incompetent, foreigners. **Red Army** had 'patriotic' advantage.

Greens: Peasant geurillas fought both Whites and Reds. Bandits and Anarchists, ravaged countryside

War=3yrs: And Revolution had lasted 4 years. People more miserable than ever.

1917-1921: Lenin held Bolsh together: Helped by **Trotsky, Sverdlov, Stalin.**

1919: Politburo and Orgburo (political/organizational). Politburo led by Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin..all policies.

1920: Forced Labor now "**socially useful work**": Roadwork, farmwork. Strikes banned.

Huge Bureaucracy bred bad management. Materials scarce. Workers starving. Cheka remained ruthless & merciless. By 1922 had 30,000 staff. Suppressed worker protests violently

1919-1921 Polish-Soviet War: Pol leader **Pilsudski**. **Kiev Offensive** (attempt to reclaim Polish land)

1920-1921: Russia signed treaties with Baltic States, Finland, Poland...to secure its European borders.

1921 Civil War Ends: War Communism also ends. But the mentality merged with the philosophy of the regime.

Despite end of War Communism, peasants/workers continue to protest Bolsh dictatorial regime.

Kronstadt Rebellion: Kronstadt Naval Base-Bolsh Stronghold. Sailors demanded free elect, polit freedom

and end of dictatorship of the Communist Party. Bolsheviks massacred many of the sailors.

10th Party Congress 1921: War Communism abolished, replaced with **New Economic Policy (NEP)**. 1921-29

NEP abolished forced food requisitions, rely on traditional marketplace incentives.

Market Socialism

Moderate tax on production. Farmers give specified amount of surplus to gov't, remaining sold for profit.

NEP introduced to create economic surplus needed to build industrial infrastructure. A goal of Marxism

Marx believed industrialization > capitalism > socialism > communism.

Agricultural Economy recovered rapidly but 5 million Russians died in **famine of 1921-1922.**

Lenin called NEP "**Strategic Retreat**": It created a **mixed economy**. State control & free enterprise.

NEPmen: Private Businesses that traded in surpluses. Hated by Bolsh. Taxed at 50%. Harrassed.

NEP controlled art/lit but **Meyerhold (director)**, allowed as long as carried propaganda message.

1921: Communist Party = 2 main groups: **Workers Opposition**, and **Democratic Centralists.**

Democratic Centralists: party intellectuals. Against centralization/undemocratic structure (**Bukharin**)

Workers/Left Opposition: well-supported/wanted Trade Unions/**Against NEP.** (led by **Trotsky**)

Political activity outside the Communist Party was prohibited. Internal factions were condemned.

Cheka abolished-1922, replaced with **State Political Administration (GPU)**, can arrest party members

Between 1921 and 1924, 25% of **700,000 Communist Party members were purged from the party.**

1922: Lenin's health was declining. Rising star was **Stalin**. Appointed **General**

Secretary in 1922.

As General Secretary, Stalin controlled Secretariat, and sat on Politburo and Orgburo. Communist Party declared Soviet state be **Renamed "USSR"**. Power/Control exercised centrally.

1922 Treaty of Rapallo: Europe wouldn't recognize USSR, so it began relations with Germany (outcast)

By 1924: Britain, France, Italy officially recognized USSR.

1924: Lenin Died of a Stroke (January). Was working on reducing bureauc but **Rabkrin Agency** failed.

1924 "Lenin Enrollment" and 1927 "October Enrollment": Membership grew to 1.7m by 1930.

Komsomol (Young Communist League): Aimed at 14 to 28yr olds. Indoctrinate, train, recruit.

Pioneers: Aimed at 10-16yr olds. Indoctrinate until can become **party members at age 30**

Made the young question and break ties with their religion. Lenin was Athiest. Kill religion gradually.

Created anti-religious publications, closed churches, denied jobs to religious, executed clergy

1943: Allowed Russian Orthodox Church. Stalin realised benefit of Church support in war.

1924 New Constitution: Based on federalism. Allowed for **4 Soviet Republics in the USSR**:

Russian, Ukranian, Belorussian, and Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republics.

Ukrainians had own culture & language, not Russians. Non-Russians = 50% of USSR pop.

Autonomy granted to non-Russian groups to spread Socialism in native tongues.

Lenin's book "Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism": Russ pave way in world Soclist Rev

1919 Bolsh promoted global proletarian revolution thru **ComIntern**. By 1924 - knew it wouldn't happen

Scissor Crisis: NEP caused imbalance in economy. Agri prices fell, indust prices rose. Indus Price Control to fix.

Trotsky and Stalin: Battled to be Lenin's successor from 1922-1929 vs. Trotsky's "Left Opposition". Stalin won.

Triumvirate (Troika): anti-Trotsky group. **Kamenev, Zinoviev, Stalin**. Worked to marginalize **Trotsky**

Stalin also allied with 3 Politburo members: **Bukharin, Rykov, Tomsky** > **wanted keep NEP policies**

Triumvirate crumbled: Zinoviev, Kamenev turned and allied with Trotsky. Left Opp now "United Opposition"

United Opposition was defeated. Stalin had Bukharin, Rykov, Tomsky removed from power, replace w/ allies

1927-1928 Urals-Siberian Method: **NEP abolished**, Stalin seized peasant grain

(ending mixed economy).

1928 First Five Year Plan (Piatiletka): 1700 page plan to stimulate **econ growth** and speed up **industrialization**.

2 Versions: "Minimum" and "Optimum". Minimum = realistic, Optimum = not realistically obtainable.

GOSPLAN (State General Planning Commission) to oversee economic growth/industrialization.

When 1st yr goals weren't met, Stalin raised the goals "at any cost". Party supported b/c USSR lagged Euro.

Free Primary Education and shift to Technical Educations. **Literacy** rates grew. **Indus output increased**.

History was rewritten, Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great were 'great heroes'.

Universal Health Care

Stakhanovite Movement: Mined 14x his quota of coal. Used as propaganda, heroic deeds, honor/rewards.

5yr Plan req 20% of peasantry be collectivized. But from **1929-1936 90%** peas forced into collective farms

Army swept through countryside rounding up peasants. 250,000 urban **Cadres** violently helped.

Stalin ordered atrocities but blamed on Cadres/local leaders. "**dizzy with success**".

Peasants resented collective farm. Destroyed crops, equipment, animals. Overall agri output fell by 20%

Quotas remained high despite low output. Many peasants began to starve. Ate cats, mice, tree bark.

Stalin did othing to stop the terror and famine. 1932-1935 7.5m died in Ukraine, 2m elsewhere.

Stalin called this "**war by starvation**". Grain produced by starving masses used to feed indus workforce.

After War by Starvation, peasants succumbed to collectivization. Massive State Farms called **Sovkhozy**

Also smaller, independently owned farms called **Kolkhozy**. Stalin controlled with party members as leaders.

Dekulakization: Wealthy peas (Kulaks) rounded up, prop seized, deport or left to die. 33% dead by 1931

Turnover Tax: Tax on products at every stage. Poorly paid, heavily taxed consumers charged high prices.

1929: Stalin defeated Bukharin and moderate allies after temp partnership. Also **expelled Trotsky from Party**.

Society no better off than in 1917. Dominated by backward peasant agriculture (80% of pop.)

Within 10 years all that would change b/c of intro of **Collectivization**: agri/indus devel. Collective farms

Head of Collectivization: Lazar Kaganovich.

1930's: Industry/modern military grew rapidly but basic necessities were ignored.

Products produced were poor quality because untrained workers had too high quotas and no incentives.

Stalin's **Russification Policy**: Ukrainians taught Russian (language & culture suppressed)

After 1933: Worker training improved, better management, administrative re-organization.

Made use of US technology and expertise: Ford, DuPont, American Engineers. Criminal sanctions if workers were 20+ minutes late or absent. To maximize industrialization process.

1934: Millions of men, women, children subjected to forced labor camps (**Gulag**) Polit prisoners, criminals

1934 - 1938 The Great Purges: Insecure Stalin tried to eliminate his own supporters to increase Absolute Power

Dec 1934: G.P. started when Stalin ordered **Kirov assassinated** (loyal member of Stalin's core team) Stal did it?

People panicked, feared anti-comms had killed Kirov, turned on each other, executions (Stal: 40K death warrants)

1936 - 1938: **4 Show Trials** of "Old Bolsheviks". **Trumped charges against Trotsky, Zinoviev, Kamenev** etc.

Military were critics of Stalin's purges. Stalin feared revolt > executed commanders, admirals, division heads

1934 USSR Admitted into League of Nations: With support of **France**. Aim was collective security after WWI.

1935: ComIntern called for "popular front" against common fascist menace.

USSR signed mutual assistance treaty with France. Would help Czech if France also helped.

French reneged on agreement in 1938 and Czechs lost some territory to Germans.

1936 - 1939 Spanish Civil War: USSR supported elected republican gov't vs. fascist Franco (Hitler, Mussolini)

1938 Munich Agreement: Britain & France try to appease Germany instead of going to war. **Stalin not invited**

Shortly after Munich Conference, **Germany annexed Czech**.

World War II - Great Patriotic War 1939-1945: USSR economy grew b/c it could sell modern arms/weapons.

Second Five Year Plan and Third Five Year Plan: (1932 & 1938) Raised production coal/steel for war.

Germany: Stalin supported German Communists against Social Dems. Backlash helped **Hitler** win election

1939 Stalin distrusted West b/c they gave away Czech. So formed **Nazi-Soviet Pact with Germany**.

Secret deal to give Baltic States, Finland, E. Poland to USSR, W. Poland, Lithuania to Germany.

By end of war, **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, parts of Poland & Finland** (Winter War) annexed by USSR.

Dec 14, 1939 **USSR expelled from League of Nations**. B/c of Winter War with Finland

Stalin Atrocities: Executed 415,000 **Polish** officers when claiming his share (**Katyn Forest**). NKVD

Pact w/ Germany allowed Stalin time to rebuild his military after purged in Great Terror. Many experienced officers, scientists, engineers had been executed or sent to Gulag in Great Purge.

1939: Hitler threatened Poland. Britain & France finally realized threat. "War if Germany invaded Poland."

WWII began when Germany invaded Poland. USSR and Germany had nonaggression treaty.

By 1941: Germany had conquered most of western Europe except Britain.

June 22, 1941: Germany invades USSR. Stalin had been loyal to Hitler b/c of pact.

Ignored **Sorge** (spy)

Stal met with **Molotov**(Foreign Affairs), **Timoshenko**(Defense), **Zhukov**(Red Army)

USSR joined with Britain, USA, other small nations in **Grand Alliance** to fight Germans.

1941 Japan: Signed **nonaggression treaty** with USSR. Allowed Stalin to recall (Manch) army to fight Nazis.

900-day **Siege of Leningrad**. 600,000 Russians starved, but saved the city from Nazis.

Stalingrad (turning point of war): Bled Germans dry. **Hero of USSR = General Zhukov (Red Army)**

1941-1945: Stalin deported entire national groups during war. Volga Germans, Chechens, Crimean Tatars

By June 1944: Red Army had repelled Germans, started exerting communist influence on East Europe

1944: Stalin secured concessions from Grand Alliance: influence in Romania, Bulgaria (deal w/ Churchill)

1945 Potsdam Conference: Germany officially surrendered. USSR, US, GB

1945 Yalta Conference: To determine future of Poland, Baltics, and denazify Germany.

USSR promised free elections in Poland (democracy)...but later reneged.

Gave Berlin...East Germany to USSR. 14m Germs pushed out. Russ, Ukra, Poles, Czech brought in.

After Yalta, Stalin extended Russian communism into Eastern Europe.

West returned 2m displaced USSR citizens between 1945-1947.

Sept 2, 1945 WWII ENDED: When Japan surrendered after Hiroshima (6 Aug), Nagasaki (8 Aug).

1947 Truman Doctrine: Assist anti-comm govts in Turkey, Iran, Greece, fight communism in others.

1948 Yugoslavia - Tito: Tito not a Stalin puppet. Split from Stalin and USSR.

1948: Stalin orchestrated communist coup in democratic **Czech**. This led to **US Marshall Plan**

AKA European Recovery Plan. Economically stable countries less likely to fall to Communism.

George Marshall (Secretary of State): 4yrs, \$13b aid. Stalin banned soviet countries from it.

To appease West, Stalin dissolved ComIntern in 1943. But created new ComInform in 1947.

1949 NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 12 nations to meet USSR threat.

1949 Belg, Can, Den, Fra, Brit, Ice, Ita, Lux, Neth, Norw, Portu, US

1952 Grce, Turk 1955 WGerm 1982 Spa 1990 Germ

1945-1949 Start of the Cold War:

1949: China became Communist after 3yr civil war. Led by Mao Zedung rebels. Stal horrified(not puppet)

1950 Korean War: North Korea=USSR Puppet Regime, on Stalin's orders, invaded South Korea.

US almost won, but China joined in (fearing US control close to home, China next target).

1952: Stalin abolished Politburo & Orgburo. Created Presidium. 36 members.

1955 Warsaw Pact: Every communist country except Tito's **Yugoslavia**. **Albania** left in 1961

USSR, Pol, Czech, Hung, Romania, Bulg, East Germany, (Albania) **Response to NATO**

After WWII: Stalin reversed lax wartime policies. Strict Quotas (Stal: starve before he reduce quotas)

People suffered under Totalitarian policies, but economy grew rapidly. USSR re-armed for Cold War.

Stalin convinced people infected by Western ideas. Launched **Zhdanovshchina Campaign.**

Named after Zhdanov (Stal's right hand man in Leningrad). Attacked writers, banned jazz. Antisem.

NKVD: Secret Police (Started with Cheka > OGPU > NKVD > MVD/Interior Min > KGB)

1953 Stalin's Death: Malenkov (youngest), **Beria** (secret police chief), **Nikita Khrushchev** (Ukrainian).

Died of Stroke. His Dr. couldn't treat him. Dr. had been arrested in the **Doctor's Plot.**

After Stalin: Triumvirate "collective leadership", **Malenkov**(PM), **Beria**(Interior/MVD), **Molotov**(deputy PM).

Molotov/Beria feared Malenkov too powerful. Replaced him with Khrushchev (thought he was no threat).

1953: Beria was arrested as a "capitalist agent" & executed (Dec) after a "trial". As head of Secret Police=feared.

Prices lowered(10%), taxes reduced to increase public support for new regime.

An amnesty freed 1.2m people from Gulag. Many sentenced for petty crimes, "leaving the workplace".

Censorship rules relaxed, literature & culture flourished under liberal **Minister of Culture: Alexandrov**

1953: Korean Armistice: Malenkov sought to diffuse tensions with West.

1954: Khrushchev launched Virgin Lands Campaign, farmed uncultivated land in Central Asia & West Siberia.

1955: Beria's demise led to showdown between Malenkov & Khrushchev.

Khrush=personable, skilled, popular

1955: Khrushchev visited Yugo & China in 1955 to ease tensions within Communist countries. Apologize to Tito

Austro-hungary: Split in 1918. Austria became democratic, Hungary became communist.

1955: Khrushchev announced **Destalinization: 4.5hr Secret Speech:** Stalin = cruel

dictator, murder, misery.

Agreed to coexist peacefully with Capitalist neighbors. Increase invest in agri & consumer goods again.

Secret Speech caused upheaval in **Poland**: Riots against old-style Stalinists. **Gomulka** won election.

1956: Prime Minister of **Hungary (Nagy)** demanded independence from USSR. Khrush sent troops killed 1000s

Unrest in Pol & Hung sparked **Antiparty** group: Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, Shepilov. Tried to oust Khrush

Khrushchev Popular: Raise standard of liv, abolish Stalinist laws, min wage, pensions, workweek, closed Gulag

Won support in Egypt, India, Africa.

1956-1957: Millions of prisoners freed when Khrush **closed Gulag**. They became strong supporters.

1958: China started "**Great leap Forward**": Challenged USSR for leadership of communist world. **They fell out!**

1959: **Cuba aligned with USSR** under **Fidel Castro**. Cuba = 90 miles from Florida...worried US.

1961: New round of destalinization: **Renamed Stalingrad (Volgograd)**, Re-buried Stalin in concrete.

August 13, 1961: **Berlin Wall** erected overnight under Walter Ulbricht (E. German leader). Stop flow of pop west.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis: Khrush wanted to protect Cuba after failed Bay of Pigs. Kennedy threat, Khrush blinked.

This hurt Khrushchev's credibility in USSR. He promised reform but econ bad & Bay of Pigs embarrassing

1962 Khrushchev split the Communist Party in Two.

1964 Khrushchev removed from power: by Presidium and Central Committee vote.

1964 Brezhnev: A moderate. Chosen by party colleagues. Central Committee since 1952, Presidium since 1957.

Leadership team = **Kosygin (PM)**, Podgorny, Suslov.

Dekhrushchevization: Khrushchev brought disorder to Soviet. So new controls on lit, re-unified Comm Party.

Brez sought to revive agri. Cancel debts of poor, reduced price of farm equipment so farmers could be efficient.

1965: Trial and arrest of two writers (Daniel & Sinyavsky) marked return to repressive cultural policy.

Intellectuals shocked. Public protests (totally unheard of in USSR). Brezhnev changed criminal code to ban.

Dissidents: Solzhenitsyn (Gulag Archipeligo), **Sakharov**: Wanted west-style democratic reform & free thought.

Sakharov - Nobel 1975, **Solz was exiled to west by USSR.**

Many dissidents were non-Russian (Ukraine, Baltic, Caucasus). USSR cracked down hard on Ukraine

Dissident Voices not heard by masses: apathetic, KGB suppressed news, social gap

too wide.

1966: Brez made collective farm peasants eligible for pensions, promised Minimum Wage...incentive to work hard.

Agricultural incentives had mixed results. Bad transport and facilities = food rotted before reached consumer.

Kosygin led industrial reforms to boost production/reduce waste. But reforms were insufficient.

Stagnation: As agriculture and industry declined, Soviet economy Stagnated. more agri spending=less on industry.

Decline in economy worsened by depletion of natural resources in the **Urals**. Other nat res were in Siberia.

1968 Brezhnev Doctrine: USSR would intervene wherever it felt socialism was threatened. It's interpretation of soc.

Justified **invasion of Czechoslovakia** (1968), Ducek was reforming communism. USSR stopped any reform.

1977: USSR adopted a **New Constituion:** "USSR=developed socialist state", all power belongs to people, Indiv Rights.

Supposed to be No Class Inequalities. But elite members enjoyed privilege. Called "**Nomenklatura**".

Detente: Period of reduced tension between US and USSR between 1960s and end of 1970s. Less economic strain.

Pace of Detente quickened in 1973 when USA left Vietnam. Eased relations.

Detente faded after USSR invaded **Afghanistan** in 1979 Guerillas v Marxists. USA boycotted **Moscow Olympics**.

Withdrawal of troops in 1989 led to embarrassment and lost credibility for USSR. (Afghan funded by US).

1972 and 1974: US and USSR signed Part I and II of the **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Treaty (SALT)**.

Foreign Policy: Weaken US influence in Middle East (Saudi, Kuw, UAE). Supported Arab regimes (PLO).

1982 Brezhnev Died: Succeeded by **Andropov (ex-KGB)**. Used KGB position to undermine opponents and won post.

Andropov wanted to promote efficiency, productivity, and eliminate corruption. Cleaned House! **Social Discipline!**

He replaced "old guard" with new Politburo members: **Ligachev & Gorbachev**.

1984 Andropov Died: Succeeded by **Chernenko** (age 72). Gorbachev couldn't get enough votes in Politburo.

Stagnation and inertia brought a host of problems for USSR. Old-guard unable to dela with them until new generation.

1985 Chernenko Died: After only 13 months as leader. This paved the way for a **new generation of leaders**.

1985 Gorbachev: Succeeded Chernenko. Became General Secretary.

Purged older officials in Politburo. Younger people: **Ligachev, Chebrikov, Ryzhkov** (economist/PM/Premier)

Perestroika: "Restructuring". Gorbachev realised economy needed overhaul to become

modern and efficient.

Glasnost: "Openness". Without openness, perestroika wouldn't work. Free info, expression, public debate.

Demokratizatsia: "Democratization". Not in western sense. Some choice, factory elections, or local gov't etc.

Novoe Myshlenie: "New Thinking". Refers to reforms in foreign policy. Soviet-west relations needed fixing.

Gorb had to divert funds from military to civilian economy. So good relation with West was necessary.

Green Snake: "alcoholism". Gorbachev closed 60% liq stores, cut hrs, reduced alc production, increased fines.

Not popular with people. Loss of revenue forced him to reverse policies within one year.

1986: 27th Party Congress. Gorb called for Radical Changes. Minor change first year, now wanted dramatic change.

Prime Minister (Premier) Ryzhkov(Ukrainian) ignored the call because he was a moderate reformer.

April 1986: Chernobyl. Gov't silent/slow on the accident. But recognized mistake and reported future disasters.

After Chernobyl, Gorb met with Reagan in **Reykjavik, Iceland to work out nuclear arms agreement.** 1986

Couldn't agree on **Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).** Space-based missile defense system.

Gorbachev wanted major limits imposed, Reagan refused. Gorb gave in at next summit Washington 1987.

1987: Launched comprehensive economic renewal program "**Market Socialism**"/"**Enterprise Law**".

Set to start in Jan 1988. Limited central planning, reduced power of economic ministries, required quality goods.

No price reform. Therefore, the reforms didn't instigate economic change.

1987: Gorbachev **sacked Yeltsin** from his post in Moscow and removed him from Politburo.

Yeltsin had criticized Gorb and Ligachev at a Central Committee meeting (reform to slow).

Gorb feared what the radical reformers might do, so allied himself with centrist conservatives.

1988: Gorb shocked the world at UN. Announced USSR would unilaterally cut 500,000 soldiers, 10,000 tanks.

End of 1980s - Failed Policies: Inconsistent, lacked guidance, opposed by conservs. Communism replaced by **criminality**. Private business brought extortion, protections rackets. National Crisis.

Baltic States desired **Independence** under Glasnost policy. Peaceful protests. Reverse nazi-soviet pact.

Also, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan wanted independence/nationalism.

1988: Supreme Soviet (**parliament**) **was abolished.** Replaced with **Congress of People's Deputies.**

CPD = 2250 members. Elections would include a choice of candidates. CPD elect

smaller Supreme Soviet.

Spring 1989: First multi-candidate elections for CPD. Not total democratic. Some seats were "reserved".

15% of 2250 seats were won by **non-party candidates**. Dissidents like **Sakharov** even won seats.

Yeltsin (fired in 1987), won a seat because he wanted radical reforms.

1989 Solidarnosc: Poland "solidarity" (1st Polish non-communist government). Orig. a Trade Union - non-violent change.

1989: Hungary abolished Communist Party and multi-party elections were held in 1990. UUSR agreed to withdraw troops.

1989: News of Hungary & Poland spread. On Nov 9th, 1989 the **Berlin Wall** came down. (Kohl=West Honecker=East)

1989: Czech followed suit. Elected dissident playwright **Vaclav Havel** as new head of government.

1989: Romania. Communist President **Ceausescu** quelled the revolt. Army sided with people, Ceausescu executed.

1990: CPD met for first time. Elected 542-seat Supreme Soviet, and elected Gorbachev to new post of **President**. Dec 1991

Supreme Soviet established the **Interregional Group, first political opposition** to Communist Party.

1990: Gorbachev agreed to plans for **re-unification of Germany** (Chancellor **Kohl**).

Gorb=**Nobel Prize (1990)**

Nov 21, 1990: Treaty of Paris formally ended the Cold War. Signed by US, Canada, USSR, Europe (except Albania).

USSR immediately benefited from end of Cold War. Received emergency aid, food, basic essentials.

500-days Plan: 16 months to move USSR to a market economy. Gorbachev retreated from reform and rejected it.

Gorb **returned to Conservative policies in 1990.** He was afraid of growing chaos, public unrest, military, conservatives.

Shevardnadze (Georgian): **Gorb's Foreign Minister.** Big reformer. When Gorb retreated from reform, Shevardnadze resigned.

By Dec 1990: All fifteen Soviet Republics (including Russia) had declared sovereignty. Kremlin's authority was sinking.

1991: Gorbachev began siding with reformers again, but it was too late. Aug 1991, **Coup attempt** to replace with **Yanayev**

The coup failed though. No arrest of opposition (ie Yeltsin), no support from KGB and military (refused to kill protestors)

Gorbachev survived the coup and was President of USSR again. But Yeltsin emerged as the hero of the moment.

1991 Communism in USSR Died: Top KGB & army dismissed, ministries closed, Komsomol disbursed

Baltic States gained independence. Russia, Ukraine, Belarus formed **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**

By Dec 21, 1991, 11 of the 15 republics agreed to be part of CIS. Georgia joined 3yrs later. **3 Baltics never joined.**

1991: Yeltsin = 1st freely elected leader of **Russia (not USSR)** (57% of the vote).

Dec 25, 1991: Gorbachev resigned as Pres. SIX days later, the **USSR formally ceased to exist!** Flag taken down from Kremlin.