

Collapse of the Soviet Union / End of the Cold War / Fall of Communism

4 CAUSES



a

b

4 FIGURES



4 DETAILS



c

d

4 EFFECTS



The Cold War Ends

Using a blank piece of paper, make four boxes, each with four boxes inside of them. Label the boxes like this, follow along, and list 4 causes, 4 figures, 4 events & 4 effects.

4 CAUSES

1

2

3

4

4 FIGURES

1

2

3

4

4 DETAILS

1

2

3

4

4 EFFECTS

1

2

3

4

Collapse of the Soviet Union / End of the Cold War / Fall of Communism

4 CAUSES



a

1) Massive Spending

The Soviets spent tons and tons of **money fighting** to support the communist cause and put down revolts in places like Hungary and Afghanistan.



Enormous amounts of money was spent on the **Arms and Space Races** as the USSR worked to outdo the USA in both areas.

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a

2) Economic Recession

Beginning in 1986, the Soviet Union began significantly **cutting funding** to its satellite states. This move is usually discussed as the beginning of the end for the **Soviet Union, which was experiencing a recession** similar to the Great Depression in the United States in the 1930s.



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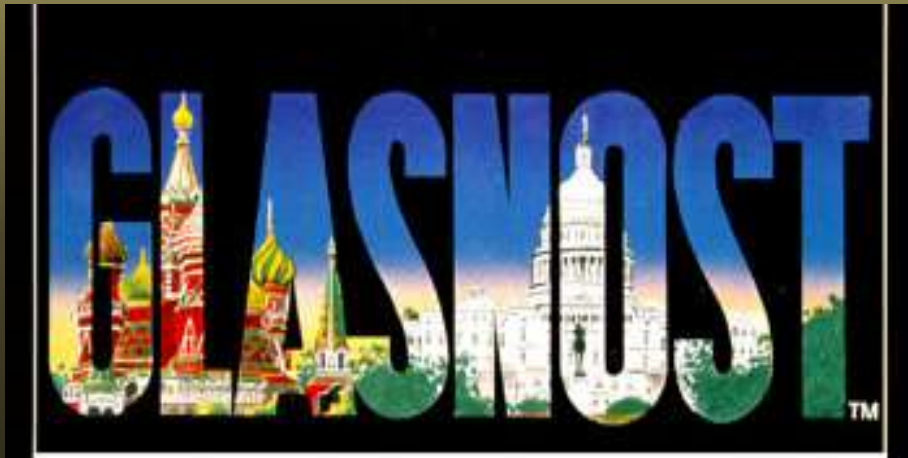
4 CAUSES



a

3) Glasnost

The Soviet Union struggled economically (\$) through the 1980s. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced two bold concepts called glasnost and perestroika. Glasnost, Russian for *publicity* or *openness*, was a call for greater transparency in the Soviet government, allowing more freedom of speech and freedom of the press.



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4) Perestroika

The Soviet Union struggled economically through the 1980s. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced two bold concepts called glasnost and perestroika.

Perestroika, Russian for *restructuring*, was a movement to reform the Soviet Union and allow for private ownership of some businesses. Within a few years, many of the countries under Soviet control broke away or underwent revolutions. The Soviet Union was completely dissolved by 1991.

PERESTROIKA

PERESTROIKA
(THE RESTRUCTURING)

PERESTROIKA
(THE RESTRUCTURING)

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4 FIGURES

b

1) Gorbachev



Mikhail **Gorbachev** was the **leader of the Soviet Union** from 1985 to 1991. In terms of the Cold War, he was known for beginning a period of liberalization in the USSR. He **promoted** the policies of **glasnost** and **perestroika**, which were seen as **steps toward democracy and capitalism**.

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4 FIGURES

b

2) Ronald Reagan



Ronald **Reagan** was the **president of the United States** from 1981 to 1989. In terms of the Cold War, he was known for working with Gorbachev to improve Cold War relations. He gave a famous speech in West Berlin in 1987 calling for the wall to come down. **Reagan is also credited with helping bring an end to the Cold War.**



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4 FIGURES

b

3) George H.W. Bush



George H.W. **Bush** was Reagan's vice president in the 1980s and became **president in 1990**. He was the president who continued **improving relations** with the Soviets as they transitioned to the **Russian Federation in 1991**.



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c

1) 74 years of the USSR

In the midst of World War One, Russia's longstanding monarchy was overthrown and **communism was established**. Since that year **(1917)**, the Soviet Union or "**USSR**" (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) **lasted almost 75 years** before coming apart in the late 1980s.



4 FIGURES

b

4) Boris Yeltsin

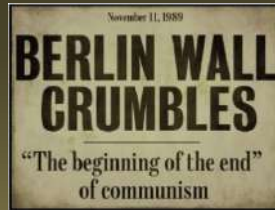


As the Soviet Union collapsed and broke apart, Boris Yeltsin became the first popularly elected president of the new country. His election marked the beginning of a new era in Russian history; the Russian Federation (1991).



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4 DETAILS



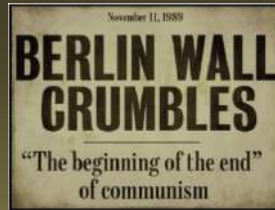
c

2) Reagan's Berlin Speech



In 1987, U.S. president Ronald Reagan visited West Berlin and gave a famous speech about the failures of communism. In this speech, he asked that Mr. Gorbachev would open the gate between East and West Berlin. Then he demanded, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

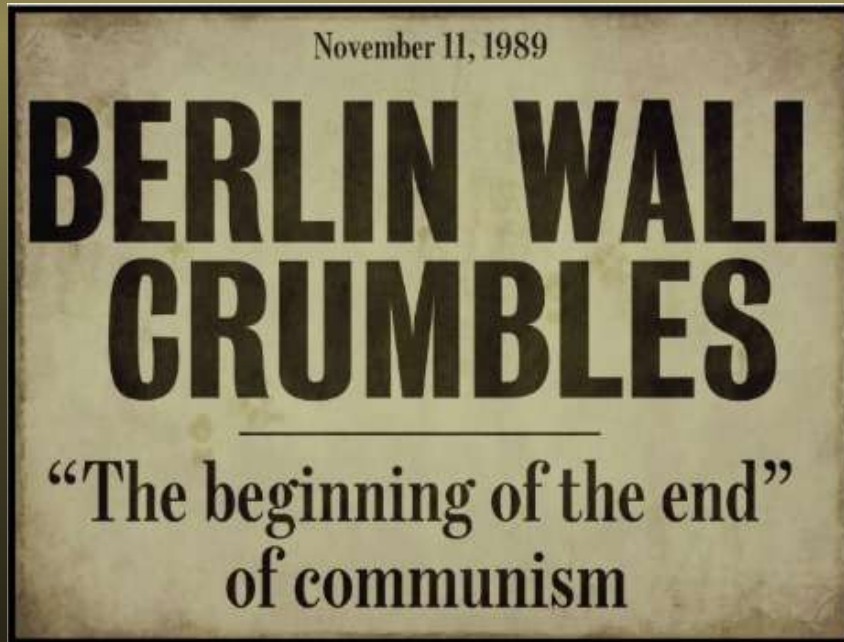
4 DETAILS



c

3) Fall of the Berlin Wall

In November of **1989**, the **Berlin Wall came down**. Many East German citizens were already **escaping the communist** world by going to Austria through Hungary (where the border fences were coming down). Thousands of East Berliners soon overwhelmed the guards and crossed into West Berlin. The wall came down for good weeks later.



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4) Revolutions of '89

The **Eastern Bloc** was the name given to the Eastern **European countries that answered to the Soviet Union.** All 6 of them fell in the fall of 1989. East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria **all overthrew their communist governments** relatively peacefully, while Romania's revolution was more violent.



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1) U.S.S.R. Dissolves

What used to be the **Soviet Union** eventually **split** into **15 separate nations**.

These nations included:

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Belarus

Estonia

Georgia

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Latvia

Lithuania

Moldova

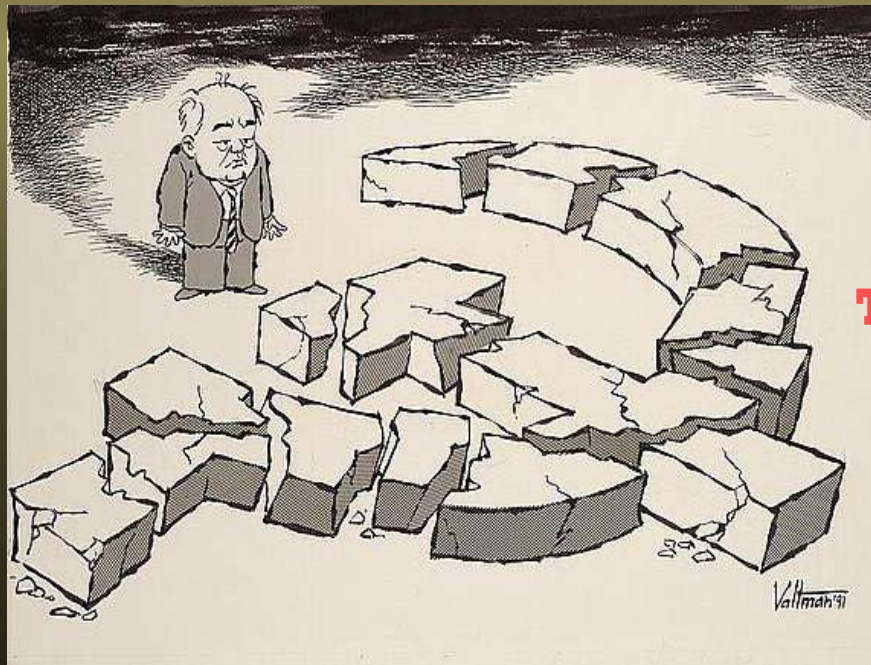
Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Ukraine

Russia



4 EFFECTS

c



2) Eastern Bloc Abandons Communism

All six eastern bloc nations **abandoned communism** via the 1989 revolutions. Romanian revolutionaries literally cut the hammer and sickle symbol out of the flag as if to “**cut the communism out of Romania.**” Other communist nations (but not Eastern Bloc) also left communism in the years to come (e.g. Yugoslavia and Albania).



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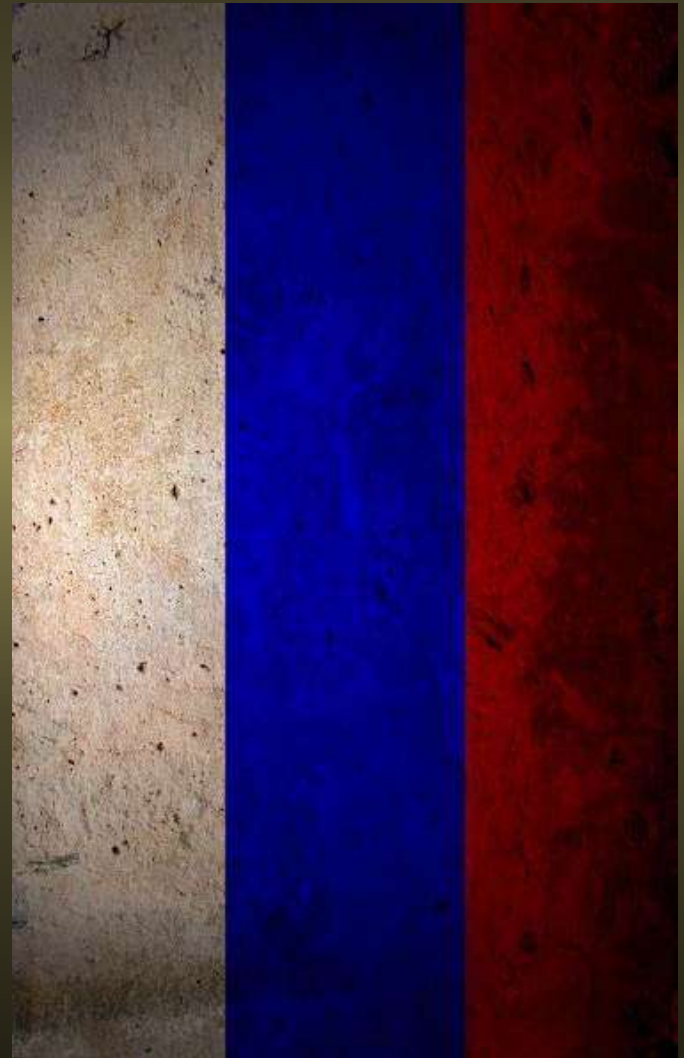
3) Democracy in Russia

4 EFFECTS

c



For the first time in **Russia's** history, the nation became a **democracy**. For centuries, Russia was ruled by czars. After the 1917 Revolution, the Soviet Union was a communist superpower. But after 1991, Russia rejoined the world community as a democracy.



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4) Only 5 communist nations remain

Technically, **no nation is purely communist** (since Karl Marx described communism as a classless, stateless society). But there are five who claim to be some form of leftist government (e.g. socialist, communist). They include: Laos, Cuba, China, Vietnam and North Korea.



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