

5HD450 Chapters in History of the Cold War

13. The end of the Cold War.

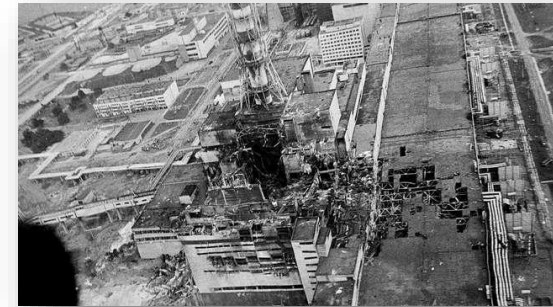


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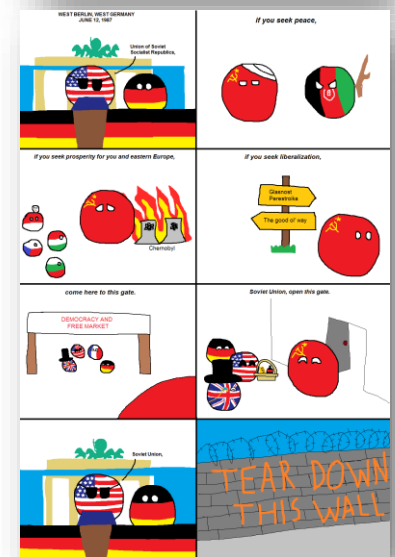
Preparation for a change

- **New determined leaders in the U.S. and USSR**
 - Ronald Reagan
 - Mikhail Gorbachev
- **Costly arms race + economic problems in the USSR**
- **Economic and political reforms in the USSR – perestroika and glasnost**
- **Critique of Communist regime in the USSR + public against Soviet–Afghan War + Chernobyl accident in Ukraine**
- **1986 Reykjavík talks** – fewer ballistic missiles arsenals in Europe, nuclear arms control, failed because of SDI
- 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul – USSR and U.S. both participated from 1976
- **1989 Malta talks** (Bush x Gorbachev)
Gorbachev: *“I assured the President of the United States that I will never start a hot war against the USA.”*



Time for revolution

- Less tight grip of the USSR on the Soviet Bloc countries
- Impossibility of central control without resorting to military force
- Tacit consent of Gorbachev in collapse of communist government
- 1987 “Tear Down This Wall!”
speech of Reagan
“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union, Central and South-East Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate; Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”



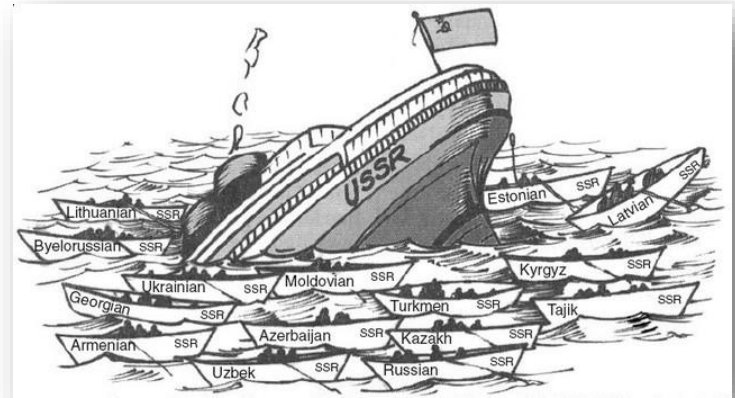
Time for freedom

- **1989 Polish anticommunist Solidarity gained among public** – Polish communist Party started discussion with Solidarity
– **elections with anti-communist Parties won by Solidarity** – spark for more revolutions
- **1990 first democratic president in Eastern bloc in Poland**
- 1989 the same in Hungary, in 1990 democratic elections
- **1989 massive calm protests** against communist parties in Czechoslovakia and East Germany – velvet revolutions
- violent protests in Bulgaria and Romania
- **November 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall**
– end of the Iron Curtain
- **October 1990 Germany reunified**



Collapse of the Russian Bear

- 1989 open debates in USSR media, first elections with more than one party
- **1990 communist party in USSR** announced the end of its monopoly of power
- 1991 Soviet republics independent – Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine
- June 1990 Boris Yeltsin as President of Russia
- **July 1991 Warsaw Pact ended**
- **1991 unsuccessful attempt at coup** overthrowing Gorbachev led by Vice-President and staunch communists, Boris Yeltzin against the coup
- **September 1991 COMECON ended**
- **November 1991 end of Communist party of the Soviet Union**
- **December 1991 USSR officially dissolved – Russian Federation began**
- **1991 Commonwealth of Independent States** – 9 out of 15 former Soviet republics + associate members (Ukraine, Turkmenistan)



Legacy

- **Economic transition of post-socialist countries**

(Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Baltic states)

- Denationalization, privatization
- Fight against hyperinflation
- Liberalization
- Neoliberalism
- Corruption

- **Fast integration of some into the EU (EC then), NATO, other “western” structures**

- **Chaotic transition to free-market + oligarchy system in other countries**

- Beyond the EU and NATO borders the countries more or less under military and economic dependency on Russia
- **Political transformation of former communist parties** into reformist social democratic parties and less reformist communist parties (Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine)
- Military spending + military sell-outs for needed cash
- U.S. – Russian continuing cooperation in space exploration
- Gorbachev: *“The end of the Cold War is our common victory.”*



Readings & videos

- Documentaries

BBC The Cold War – The Wall Comes Down, Conclusions

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAHhS43P2hE&list=PL3H6z037pboGWTxs3xGP7HRGrQ5dOQdGc&index=23>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xidgcMW-LpA&list=PL3H6z037pboGWTxs3xGP7HRGrQ5dOQdGc&index=24>

Cold War History Videos

- <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history/videos>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

- Specialized Resources / Collections / Cold War Files

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>
- <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collections>
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world_politics/cold_war/default.stm
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20080411004848/http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?thisunit=0&fuseaction=events.list>
- <http://www.avclub.com/special/cold-war/timeline>



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