After the Cold War: Conflict and Development in Europe and Post-Soviet Countries

Berlin wall, summer 1990

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Berlin wall installation “the ghost” 2015
Lecture 1. THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOCIALIST CAMP: OVERVIEW AND IMPLICATIONS
Structure of the lecture:

Part 1
1. Overview of communism and nation building strategies in USSR
2. The Soviet system: between terror and modernization
3. Soviet Union and socialist bloc (Warsaw pact)

Part 2
1. The fall of Soviet Union: what exactly had happened?
2. “And now what?” Survival strategies and first steps of newly independent countries
Marxism sees the **nation**, or unity of the people as a product of **structural manipulation** originating in the exploitative nature of the capitalist economy, and aims to radically transform it.
Overview of communism and nation building strategies in USSR


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIzApgzlP3Q

The Great Terror (Purge) in numbers:

- Up till 1,2 mln executed between 1936 to 1938
- One-third of the Communist Party’s 3 million members were purged among of them 30 per cent of army officers and top commanders
- Around 17mln of Soviet people were imprisoned between 1937 to 1953
Soviet Modernization 1928-1972

1928 Stalin plan of Rapid Modernization

The goal

250 per cent increase in overall industrial development and a 330 per cent expansion in heavy industry

Bourke-White’s 1931 shot of the construction of the DneproDam
Figure 1. Real national income per head, Russia and USSR, from 1885 to 2008


Notes: All figures are measured in international dollars and 1990 prices.
Total institutions

Collectivization
1920-33

Growing PARTNOMENKLATURA
1953-85

GULAG
1930-53

Ethnic deportations and mass resettlement
1940-67
• Map of military personnel in Europe (1980)

- Warsaw pact
- NATO
Soviet Union and socialist bloc (Warsaw pact)

1955 - Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and USSR.

The break-up of the Warsaw Pact was shortly followed by the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991.
The fall of Soviet Union: what exactly had happened?
1985

Perestroika, Glasnost, Modernization
External factors of SU collapse

- Cold war
- Arm race
- Global market and weak Soviet economy
- “Crack” in the Eastern Block

Chart 1: Defense Spending

- Billions of constant $
Global market and weak Soviet economy

Figure 2. Real national income per head: selected countries and regions from 1950 to 2008, at 1990 prices and international dollars

Source: Data by Angus Maddison at www.ggdc.net/maddison.
At 1:23AM on **April 26, 1986**, the Unit 4 operators of the Chernobyl Power Plant conducted a safety test that sent a nuclear explosion through the roof of the power plant and started a fire that burned for almost 10 days.
August 19-21, 1991 Moscow coup d'etat
Dissolution of Soviet Union

On December 25, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation of the presidency of the Soviet Union in a televised address.

Few days prior Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was created.
“And now what?” Survival strategies and first steps of newly independent countries