

End of the USSR

- Brezhnev 1964 – 1982, similar to Stalin, refused to reform, system became corrupt, beginnings of Soviet disintegration
- Andropov 1982 – 1984, old, reform = economic growth, progress towards controlling Politburo, tried to continue detente with Reagan, Soviets shot down Korean Airlines Flight 007, killed 269, had veered over Soviet missile sites, Americans threatened nuclear retaliation, died in 1984
- Cherenko 1984 – 1985, very ill, traditional
- Successes – 1917 – 1985 1) transformed from being a backwards country to being a superpower, 2) lives of people made better, 3) became a developed nation
- Failures – 1917 – 1985 1) economic growth was stagnant (less than 5% for most decades), 2) black market flourished, 3) couldn't provide enough food for 285 million people, even with lots of good land, 4) consumer goods and services of poor quality, 5) environmental problems
- Spent 15 – 20% of their GNP on military (US 5 – 7%)
- Gorbachev became leader in 1985
 - Bring communism closer to the ideals of Karl Marx
 - “developed socialism” = end corruption, increase agriculture and industrial production
- Chernobyl, April 1986, USSR did not notify – large radioactive cloud spread across world (1.7 million were directly exposed) 10 X deadlier than Hiroshima, 600,000 workers cleaned up, 200,000 were not evacuated from the city for 36 hours, many in Ukraine and Belarussia ate contaminated food.

- Glasnost = Openness, encouraged open discussions about problems in the Soviet Union
 - Reduced censorship in papers, books and films were no longer banned, freed political dissidents, denounced Stalin, socialism had not yet arrived (democratizing communism), also gave voice to nationalist movements
- Perestroika = restructuring, rebuilding
 - Political and economic systems, praised Lenin's NEP, rebuild detente, accelerating change, democratize Communist party, reforms to be led by elected not appointed officials
 - 1987 told satellite states that they were on their own to find reforms to benefit their countries
 - Problems –
 - Anti-alcohol program, lost 100 billion roubles, no plan to find income elsewhere (hurt the Vodka industry)
 - Deficit grew every year
 - Chose high-ranking officials based on loyalty
 - War in Afghanistan went until 1988, too long and costly
 - Reforms not done at lower levels, because local officials would only implement if they did not hurt them
- Arms Race
 - 1977, USSR led US 3 to 2 in mega tonnage, but lagged in missile accuracy
 - 1981, Reagan proposed START II to reduce #'s of ballistic missiles, require USSR to destroy 2/3 to the US ½ - no progress made (favoured US)

- Regan launched Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI – Star Wars), satellite and ground based weapons to destroy incoming Soviet missiles with lasers – knew Soviets did not have the funds to keep up with this technology, try to force an end to the arms race
- 2nd Term more keen on detente and Gorbachev needed to spend less on military so reforms would work – drive for international peace
- 1986 Gorbachev proposed Zero Option; reduced strategic arms by 50%, remove all tactical missiles from both sides from Europe and limit Star Wars (Reagan rejected because of this) = new friendliness (arms reduction, more human rights)