The End of the Cold War and Communism
FYI

• **Tomorrow** – LAB 1556!! Bring packets
• **Thursday** – open notes test
• **FRIDAY AND EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK** – AP study hall
Soviet Union Under Khrushchev

- Nikita Khrushchev takes power after Stalin dies of a stroke in 1953
Soviet Union Under Khrushchev

- **Khrushchev** wanted to keep the dominance of the Communist Party
- But does reform some of Stalin’s policies
Soviet Union Under Khrushchev

• **The Secret Speech of 1956**
  – Khrushchev denounces Stalin’s policies and purges and removes Stalin supporters from the government without executing them

• **“De-Stalinization” or “the Thaw”**
  – Released prisoners from gulags
  – More freedom in media/culture
  – Name changing (Stalingrad becomes Volgograd)
More Cold War Confrontations

• **The Berlin Wall (1961)** – tired of refugees leaving East Germany for free West Berlin, the East Germans and Soviets build a wall separating the two parts of the city – the United States protests, but does little else
More Cold War Confrontations

- **The Cuban Missile Crisis** (1962)
  - **Fidel Castro** topples dictatorship in Cuba and becomes Communist leader
  - Soviet Union plants missiles in Cuba
  - In response **President John Kennedy** blockades Cuba and demands the removal of the missiles
  - Seemingly at the brink of nuclear war, Khrushchev backs down and the Soviets pull out
More Cold War Confrontations

- Soviet Union and United States sign nuclear test ban treaty in 1963
Soviet Union Under Brezhnev

• Khrushchev starts to become unpopular
• “Retires” (ousted)
• Brezhnev comes to power
Soviet Union Under Brezhnev

- Détente - President Nixon and Brezhnev conclude agreements on trade and reduction of nuclear arms (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks or SALT)
Soviet Union Under Brezhnev

- The United States under President Ford, along with the Soviet Union and other European nations, sign Helsinki Accords, recognizing the Soviet sphere of Eastern Europe as long as human rights are protected.
Soviet Union Under Brezhnev

• **Brezhnev Doctrine** – Soviet Union had the right to intervene in any country where communism was threatened (opposite of Truman Doctrine?)

• Justified the **Invasion of Czechoslovakia** – in 1968, after the “Prague Spring” (revolts for liberal reform)
Soviet Union Under Brezhnev

- **Invasion of Afghanistan** - The Soviet Union, wanted more of a presence in the Middle East
- **Puts an end to détente**, chills relations between US and Soviet Union
- Invasion fails, weakening and demoralizing Soviets
President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Relations

- Reagan, in his first term, intensifies Cold War rhetoric, increases military spending, slows arms limitations, and plans to deploy a **Strategic Defense Initiative**

- Russians, in response, *increase military spending even though they couldn’t afford to*, eventually bringing the country to economic collapse
Soviet Union Under Gorbachev

- Brezhnev dies in 1982
- A couple of successors before Gorbachev
- Gorbachev takes power in 1985
Soviet Union Under Gorbachev

- Economic *perestroika* – “restructuring” which reduced size and importance of the centralized economic ministries
  - Advocated private ownership of property and the steering of the economy toward a free market system
  - Economic policies fail as economy remains stagnant
Soviet Union Under Gorbachev

- **Glasnost** or openness – Gorbachev allows criticism of the government, **less censorship**, **free expression** encouraged, and dissidents released from prison.

- Despite the reforms, Gorbachev is unable to address the complaints of ethnic minorities which split the country.
1989:
Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

• **Poland** – Communist government, unable to control Solidarity this time, calls for free elections in which communist leader Jaruzelski is roundly defeated and a non-communist prime minister is appointed

• **Hungary** – Kadar stripped of his power as communist leader and Hungarian Communist Party is replaced by Socialist Party, which promises free elections
The Polish trade union “Solidarity” in 1989 successfully forced the Polish communist government to hold free elections.

In June of that year Solidarity, whose members here are collecting funds for their campaign, won overwhelmingly.
1989: Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

- **Germany** – old communists in power resign, East German government orders opening of Berlin Wall, and within days Germany is reunited under one leader, Helmut Kohl (unification recognized by world in early 1990)
1989:
Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

- **Czechoslovakia** – Vaclav Havel’s supporters, known as the Civic Forum, force communist leader **Gustav Husak** out of power and elect Havel as president

- **Romania** – the only violent revolution, where communist leader **Nicolae Ceausescu** fires on opposition crowds, but later is overthrown and, along with his wife, executed
1989:
Communism Collapses in Eastern Europe

• The mainly peaceful conclusions to these revolutions may have been a reaction to the **Tiananmen Square Massacre** in the People’s Republic of China, where the communists responded violently to protests
Soviet Response to Revolution

• **Gorbachev renounces Brezhnev Doctrine** and refuses to interfere on behalf of the communists in Eastern Europe

• Troops withdraw from E. Europe haphazardly
The Soviet Union Collapses

• 1989 – Gorbachev announces the Soviet Communist Party has abandoned its monopoly on power

• 1990 – three major political groups vie for power:
  – Conservatives – wanted to keep Communist Party and Soviet army
The Soviet Union Collapses

- 1990 – three major political groups vie for power:
  - Reformers – led by Gorbachev critic **Boris Yeltsin** (later elected president of Russian Republic) – wanted to move quickly to a market economy and democracy
1990 – three major political groups vie for power:

- Nationalists – some republics in the Soviet Union wanted independence; Gorbachev fails to make new constitutional arrangements with these republics, leading directly to the rapid collapse of the Soviet Union.
The Soviet Union Collapses

- 1991 – the **August 1991 Coup** – communists attempt to seize power and place Gorbachev under house arrest
  - Coup fails within two days because of Boris Yeltsin’s followers
  - Gorbachev returns to Moscow humiliated by his own followers
  - Yeltsin steadily takes control of government
The Soviet Union Collapses

- Soviet Union collapses in December, 1991 as Gorbachev leaves office and the **Commonwealth of Independent States** appears

- Soviet Union broken up into fifteen constituent republics, of which eleven are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States
In December 1991, the Soviet Union broke up into its fifteen constituent republics. Eleven of these were loosely joined in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Also shown is the autonomous region of Chechnya, which has waged two bloody wars with Russia in the last decade.
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

• Yugoslav leader **Tito** keeps the many different ethnic and national groups under control – his death eventually leads the country into chaos and civil war

• Nationalist leaders **Slobodan Milosevic** in Serbia and **Franjo Tudjman** in Croatia gain authority

• 1991 – Slovenia and Croatia declare independence from Yugoslavia
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

- Civil war erupts in 1992 between Serbs and Croatians
  - Serbia accuses Croatia of fascism, while Croatia accuses Serbia of being a Stalinist regime
  - Both forces attempt to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina
  - Muslims in Bosnia are caught in the middle and are subject to “ethnic cleansing” by the Serbs
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

• NATO, led by the United States, engages in strategic bombing of Serbia to remove the Serbs from Sarajevo

• 1995 – peace agreement signed in 1995 in Dayton, Ohio
Civil War and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

• Serbs again force NATO into action by attacking Albanians in Kosovo in 1999
  – An air campaign – the largest since World War II – is sent to protect the ethnic Albanians
  – 2000 – revolution overthrows Milosevic