

ANTI-GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION DURING KHRUSHCHEV-BREZHNEV YEARS pdf

1: Soviet Union - HISTORY

During the Khrushchev years, Brezhnev had supported the leader's denunciations of Stalin's arbitrary rule, the rehabilitation of many of the victims of Stalin's purges, and the cautious liberalisation of Soviet intellectual and cultural policy.

During his tenure in power, the longest of any Soviet other than Joseph Stalin, Brezhnev helped to elevate the Soviet Union to unparalleled levels of prestige, power, and peace among the populace, through his superior negotiating skills on the world diplomatic stage. However, he was much maligned for his personal lifestyle of greed and vanity, flaunting a penchant for foreign cars and clothing. In addition, Brezhnev and a small inner group of Politburo advisers called for the fateful invasion of Afghanistan in to prop up a struggling, relatively new, and unpopular Communist government. Early on Brezhnev was born in Ukraine in December to a steelworking family. Like many of the youth of the era following the Russian Revolution, he was given a technical education, first in land management and then in metallurgy. He entered the iron and steel industries as an engineer in eastern Ukraine and joined the Komsomol, a youth branch of the Communist Party. He joined the main party in . When Brezhnev was drafted into the army, he was sent to a tank school and later took a position as a political commissar of a tank company. After brief stints at a metallurgical technical college and a regional center in Dnepropetrovsk, he became the party secretary in charge of the vital defense industries. As a staunch Stalinist, Brezhnev survived the Great Purge of and rose rapidly through the party ranks. When the Red Army regrouped and began a counterassault, Brezhnev served under the senior political commissar, Nikita Khrushchev. Following the end of World War II , Brezhnev worked on reconstruction projects in Ukraine until he was called into service as a deputy in the Supreme Soviet in . In , he was inducted into the Central Committee of the Communist Party and eventually into the Presidium, predecessor of the Politburo. By , Brezhnev was recalled to Moscow and was entrusted with control of the defense industry, heavy industry, capital construction, and the space program. This allowed him to travel abroad as a diplomat. At this time, Brezhnev acquired his taste for expensive western clothes and cars. Though still outwardly loyal to Khrushchev, it was agreed among senior advisors that their aging leader was losing his effectiveness and needed to retire. Brezhnev became the Secretary of the Central Committee and then, in October while Khrushchev was away on vacation, he usurped the top position of Party First Secretary. As Brezhnev took the title of General Secretary, he spoke positively of Stalin. In , the two sides exchanged gunfire across their common border along the Ussuri River. That year, Brezhnev avoided an assassination attempt by one of his own army officers, Viktor Ilyin. As Sino-American relations began to soften in , Brezhnev turned to the U. A meeting with President Richard M. The right of Soviet Jews to emigrate was the crux of the issue. In addition, staggering expenditures on the military and space programs, coupled with the need to import grain at premium market prices, left little capital to invest in modernization. State-supported health and education programs, and public housing quality, all suffered as a result. Domestic matters were left to such aides-de-camp as agriculture head Mikhail Gorbachev , who would later become General Secretary of the Communist Party. He suffered a stroke in March and died of a heart attack in November. Off-site search results for "Leonid Brezhnev"

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2: NPR Choice page

This book explores Soviet prosecution records to tell the hidden story of ordinary citizens who were arrested for expressing discontent during the Khrushchev and Brezhnev years.

The Soviet leadership gave its approval for this, as the Soviet Union could not afford to maintain its massive subsidy for the Eastern Bloc in the form of cheap oil and gas exports. By , two years after taking power, Brezhnev abolished the Regional Economic Councils , which were organized to manage the regional economies of the Soviet Union. Consumer goods such as watches, furniture and radios were produced in abundance. This did not happen. In , the process of catching up with the rest of the West came to an abrupt end, and was seen by some scholars as the start of the Era of Stagnation. The beginning of the stagnation coincided with a financial crisis in Western Europe and the U. Between and , the Soviet economy stood at roughly half the output per head of Western Europe and a little more than one third that of the U. Output quotas continued to be imposed centrally. In alone, 33 billion U. These improved results were not encouraging. In the Soviet Union the criterion for assessing agricultural output was the grain harvest. The import of cereal , which began under Khrushchev, had in fact become a normal phenomenon by Soviet standards. When Brezhnev had difficulties sealing commercial trade agreements with the United States, he went elsewhere, such as to Argentina. His argument was that the larger the work force, the less responsible they felt. Voronov was also unsuccessful; Brezhnev turned him down, and in he was removed from the Politburo. The cost of other resources had also climbed by the late s. These measures removed important obstacles for the expansion of agricultural output, but did not solve the problem. This was seen by some as proof that de-collectivisation was necessary to prevent Soviet agriculture from collapsing, but leading Soviet politicians shrank from supporting such drastic measures due to ideological and political interests. While Brezhnev, albeit "sporadically", [31] through Alexei Kosygin , attempted to reform the economy in the late s and s, he ultimately failed to produce any positive results. One of these reforms was the economic reform of , initiated by Kosygin, though its origins are often traced back to the Khrushchev Era. The reform was cancelled by the Central Committee , though the Committee admitted that economic problems did exist. Soviet agriculture could not feed the urban population, let alone provide for the rising standard of living, which the government promised as the fruits of "mature socialism", and on which industrial productivity depended. During the earlier Tenth Five-Year Plan , they had tried to meet the target of 6. Brezhnev was able to defer economic collapse by trading with Western Europe and the Arab World. This led to an increase, though a minor one, in public support. While some areas improved during the Brezhnev era, the majority of civilian services deteriorated and living conditions for Soviet citizens fell rapidly. Diseases were on the rise [67] because of the decaying healthcare system. The living space remained rather small by First World standards, with the average Soviet person living on Thousands of Moscow inhabitants became homeless, most of them living in shacks, doorways and parked trams. Nutrition ceased to improve in the late s, while rationing of staple food products returned to Sverdlovsk for instance. Soviet trade unions rewarded hard-working members and their families with beach vacations in Crimea and Georgia. During the Stalin era in the s and s, a common labourer could expect promotion to a white-collar job if he studied and obeyed Soviet authorities. Holders of attractive positions clung to them as long as possible; mere incompetence was not seen as a good reason to dismiss anyone. This did not differ much from the Khrushchev Thaw , a domestic and foreign policy relaxation started by Nikita Khrushchev. Despite some increased tension under Khrushchev, East-West relations had generally improved, as evidenced by the Partial Test Ban Treaty , and the installation of the red telephone line between the White House and the Kremlin. The first was that it was more comprehensive and wide-ranging in its aims, and included signing agreements on arms control, crisis prevention, East-West trade, European security and human rights. The second part of the policy was based on the importance of equalising the military strength of the United States and the Soviet Union. This did not happen, and the Soviet

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Union started funding the communist guerillas who fought actively against the U. The first SALT Treaty effectively established parity in nuclear weapons between the two superpowers, [76] the Helsinki Treaty legitimised Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe, [77] and the United States defeat in Vietnam and the Watergate scandal weakened the prestige of the United States. Brezhnev and Nixon also agreed to pass the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty , which banned both countries from designing systems that would intercept incoming missiles so that neither the U. Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev talking outside at Camp David Nikita Khrushchev had initially supported North Vietnam out of "fraternal solidarity", but as the war escalated he had urged the North Vietnamese leadership to give up the quest of liberating South Vietnam. He continued by rejecting an offer of assistance made by the North Vietnamese government, and instead told them to enter negotiations in the United Nations Security Council. In February , Kosygin travelled to Hanoi with a dozen Soviet air force generals and economic experts. During the Soviet visit, President Lyndon B. Johnson had authorised U. Brezhnev was interested in this offer initially, but after being told by Andrei Gromyko that the North Vietnamese government was not interested in a diplomatic solution to the war, Brezhnev rejected the offer. The Johnson administration responded to this rejection by expanding the American presence in Vietnam, but later invited the USSR to negotiate a treaty concerning arms control. The USSR simply did not respond, initially because Brezhnev and Kosygin were fighting over which of them had the right to represent the USSR abroad, but later because of the escalation of the "dirty war" in Vietnam. The North Vietnamese government failed to respond, and because of this, the U. The Brezhnev leadership concluded from this event that seeking diplomatic solutions to the ongoing war in Vietnam was hopeless. Later in , Johnson invited Kosygin to the United States to discuss ongoing problems in Vietnam and the arms race. The summit was marked by a friendly atmosphere, but there were no concrete breakthroughs by either side. While having been known for his anti-communist rhetoric, Nixon said in that the U.

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3: Opposition in Nazi Germany - History Learning Site

In contrast to the relative cultural freedom permitted during the early Khrushchev years, Brezhnev and his colleagues continued the more restrictive line of the later Khrushchev era.

He graduated from the Kamenskoye Metallurgical Technicum in [8] and became a metallurgical engineer in the iron and steel industries of eastern Ukraine. Brezhnev joined the Communist Party youth organisation, the Komsomol, in [9], and the Party itself in [10]. Later in [11], he became director of the Dniprodzerzhynsk Metallurgical Technicum technical college in Brezhnev hometown Kamenskoye was renamed to Dniprodzerzhynsk [9]. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union on 22 June [12], Brezhnev was, like most middle-ranking Party officials, immediately drafted. In April [13], he became head of the Political Department of the 18th Army. Later that year, the 18th Army became part of the 1st Ukrainian Front, as the Red Army regained the initiative and advanced westward through Ukraine. He had spent the entire war as a political commissar rather than a military commander. After working on reconstruction projects in Ukraine, he again became General Secretary in Dnipropetrovsk. Brezhnev sided with Khrushchev against Malenkov, but only for several years. On the surface, his brief was simple: In reality, Brezhnev became involved in the development of the Soviet missile and nuclear arms programs, including the Baykonur Cosmodrome. The initially successful Virgin Lands Campaign soon became unproductive and failed to solve the growing Soviet food crisis. Brezhnev was recalled to Moscow in [14]. The harvest in the years following the Virgin Lands Campaign was disappointing, which would have hurt his political career had he remained in Kazakhstan. Following the defeat of the Stalinists, Brezhnev became a full member of the Politburo. Brezhnev became Second Secretary of the Central Committee in [15], [13] and in May was promoted to the post of Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, [16] making him the nominal head of state, although the real power resided with Khrushchev as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party. Outwardly, Brezhnev remained loyal to Khrushchev, but became involved in a plot to remove the leader from power, possibly playing a leading role. Upon his return, his Presidium officers congratulated him for his work in office. Anastas Mikoyan visited Khrushchev, hinting that he should not be too complacent about his present situation. Vladimir Semichastny, head of the KGB, [19] was a crucial part of the conspiracy, as it was his duty to inform Khrushchev if anyone was plotting against his leadership. Nikolay Ignatov, who had been sacked by Khrushchev, discreetly requested the opinion of several Central Committee members. After some false starts, fellow conspirator Mikhail Suslov phoned Khrushchev on 12 October and requested that he return to Moscow to discuss the state of Soviet agriculture. Influenced by the Brezhnev allies, Politburo members voted on 14 October to remove Khrushchev from office. But Brezhnev, who had already been assured the office of the General Secretary, saw little reason to punish his old mentor further. Pravda, a newspaper in the Soviet Union, wrote of new enduring themes such as collective leadership, scientific planning, consultation with experts, organisational regularity and the ending of schemes. When Khrushchev left the public spotlight, there was no popular commotion, as most Soviet citizens, including the intelligentsia, anticipated a period of stabilisation, steady development of Soviet society and continuing economic growth in the years ahead.

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4: Russia - The Brezhnev Era

After Khrushchev came the triumvirate of Leonid I. Brezhnev, Aleksey N. Kosygin, and N.V. Podgorny. The first was the party leader, the second headed the government, and the third became chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, a ceremonial position.

Russia Table of Contents The end of the Stalin era brought immediate liberalization in several aspects of Soviet life. Party leader Nikita S. Party control of cultural activity became much less restrictive with the onset of the first "thaw" in the mids. Khrushchev attempted reforms in both domestic and foreign policy, with mixed results. During his tenure , world politics became much more complex as the insecurities of the Cold War persisted; Khrushchev ultimately was undone by a combination of failed policy innovations in agriculture, party politics, and industry. Collective Leadership and the Rise of Khrushchev Stalin died without naming an heir, and none of his associates had the power to make an immediate claim to supreme leadership. The first challenge to this arrangement occurred in , when the powerful Beria plotted a coup. However, Beria, who had made many enemies during his bloody term as security chief, was arrested and executed by order of the Presidium. After the elimination of Beria, the succession struggle became more subtle. Of peasant background, Khrushchev had served as head of the Ukrainian party organization during and after World War II, and he was a member of the Soviet political elite during the late Stalin period. After a poor showing by light industry and agriculture, Malenkov resigned as prime minister in February . Because the new prime minister, Nikolay Bulganin, had little influence or real power, the departure of Malenkov made Khrushchev the most important figure within the collective leadership. De-Stalinization encouraged many in artistic and intellectual circles to speak out against the abuses of the former regime. After the Twentieth Party Congress, Khrushchev continued to expand his influence, although he still faced opposition. His rivals in the Presidium, spurred by reversals in Soviet foreign policy in Eastern Europe in , potentially threatening economic reforms, and the de-Stalinization campaign, united to vote him out of office in June . Khrushchev, however, demanded that the matter be put to the Central Committee of the CPSU, where he enjoyed strong support. Khrushchev moved to consolidate his power further in the ensuing months. Khrushchev became prime minister in March when Bulganin resigned, thus formally confirming his predominant position in the state as well as in the party. Despite his rank, Khrushchev never exercised the dictatorial authority of Stalin, nor did he ever completely control the party, even at the peak of his power. His attacks on members of the "antiparty group" at the Twenty-First Party Congress in and the Twenty-Second Party Congress in suggest that his opponents retained support within the party. His desire to undermine opposition and mollify critics explained the nature of many of his domestic reforms and the vacillations in his foreign policy toward the West. Foreign Policy under Khrushchev Almost immediately after Stalin died, the collective leadership began altering the conduct of Soviet foreign policy to permit better relations with the West and new approaches to the nonaligned countries. Malenkov introduced a change in tone by speaking out against nuclear war as a threat to civilization. In , to ease tensions between East and West, Khrushchev recognized permanent neutrality for Austria. Meeting President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Geneva later that year, Khrushchev confirmed a Soviet commitment to "peaceful coexistence" with capitalism. Regarding the developing nations, Khrushchev tried to win the goodwill of their national leaders, instead of following the established Soviet policy of shunning the governments while supporting local communist parties. Soviet influence over the international alignments of India and Egypt, as well as of other Third World countries, began in the middle of the s. With the gains of the new diplomacy came reversals as well. In Poland, riots brought about a change in communist party leadership, which the Soviet Union reluctantly recognized in October . A popular uprising against Soviet control then broke out in Hungary, where the local communist leaders, headed by Imre Nagy, called for a multiparty political system and withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact see Glossary , the defensive alliance founded by the Soviet Union and its East European satellites in . The Soviet army crushed the revolt early in November ,

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causing numerous casualties. Although the Hungarian Revolution hurt Soviet standing in world opinion, it demonstrated that the Soviet Union would use force if necessary to maintain control over its satellite states in Eastern Europe. Chinese discontent with the new Soviet leadership stemmed from low levels of Soviet aid, feeble Soviet support for China in its disputes with Taiwan and India, and the new Soviet doctrine of peaceful coexistence with the West, which Mao viewed as a betrayal of Marxism-Leninism. The dispute between militant China and the more moderate Soviet Union escalated into a schism in the world communist movement after Albania left the Soviet camp and became an ally of China, Romania distanced itself from the Soviet Union in international affairs, and communist parties around the world split over whether they should be oriented toward Moscow or Beijing. The monolithic bloc of world communism had shattered. Soviet relations with the West, especially the United States, seesawed between moments of relative relaxation and periods of tension and crisis. For his part, Khrushchev wanted peaceful coexistence with the West, not only to avoid nuclear war but also to permit the Soviet Union to develop its economy. Yet Khrushchev also needed to demonstrate to Soviet conservatives and the militant Chinese that the Soviet Union was a firm defender of the socialist camp. Thus, in Khrushchev challenged the status of Berlin; when the West would not yield to his demands that the western sectors be incorporated into East Germany, he approved the erection of the Berlin Wall between the eastern and western sectors of the city in 1961. To maintain national prestige, Khrushchev canceled a summit meeting with Eisenhower in 1960 after Soviet air defense troops shot down a United States reconnaissance aircraft over Soviet territory. Finally, mistrust over military intentions clouded East-West relations during this time. To offset the United States military advantage and thereby improve the Soviet negotiating position, Khrushchev in 1962 tried to install nuclear missiles in Cuba, but he agreed to withdraw them after Kennedy ordered a blockade around the island nation. After coming close to war during the Cuban missile crisis, the Soviet Union and the United States took steps to reduce the nuclear threat. In 1963 the two countries established a "hot line" between Washington and Moscow to provide instant communication that would reduce the likelihood of accidental nuclear war. The state encouraged peasants to grow more on their private plots, increased payments for crops grown on collective farms, and invested more heavily in agriculture. In his dramatic Virgin Lands campaign in the mid-1950s, Khrushchev opened vast tracts of land to farming in the northern part of the Kazak Republic and neighboring areas of the Russian Republic. These new farmlands turned out to be susceptible to droughts, but in some years they produced excellent harvests. Later innovations by Khrushchev, however, proved counterproductive. His plans for growing corn and increasing meat and dairy production failed miserably, and his reorganization of collective farms into larger units produced confusion in the countryside. In a politically motivated move to weaken the central state bureaucracy, in 1957 Khrushchev did away with the industrial ministries in Moscow and replaced them with regional economic councils. Although he intended these economic councils to be more responsive to local needs, the decentralization of industry led to disruption and inefficiency. The resulting bifurcation of the party apparatus into industrial and agricultural sectors at the oblast province level and below contributed to the disarray and alienated many party officials at all levels. Industrial growth had slowed, while agriculture showed no new progress. Lastly, the party reorganization caused turmoil throughout the Soviet political chain of command. In October 1964, while Khrushchev was vacationing in Crimea, the Presidium voted him out of office and refused to permit him to take his case to the Central Committee. Khrushchev retired as a private citizen after his successors denounced him for his "hare-brained schemes, half-baked conclusions, and hasty decisions.

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5: Leonid Brezhnev

the eras of Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. In the early Khrushchev years a large proportion of the political protest and criticism that took place remained essentially.

Alexei Kosygin , a member of the collective leadership, with Lyndon B. Johnson , President of the United States , at the Glassboro Summit Conference After a prolonged power struggle, [1] Khrushchev was finally ousted from his post as First Secretary in October , charged with the failure of his reforms, his obsessive re-organizations of the Party and Government apparatus, his disregard for Party and Government institutions , and his one-man domineering leadership style. The Soviet leadership also believed that his individualistic leadership style ran contrary to the ideal collective leadership. Together they formed a functional collective leadership. The reason was simple: For much of the period, however, Brezhnev was unable to have Podgorny removed, because he could not count on enough votes in the Politburo, since the removal of Podgorny would have meant weakening of the power and the prestige of the collective leadership itself. Brezhnev strengthened his position considerably during the early to mids within the Party leadership and by a further weakening of the "Kosygin faction"; by he had enough support in the Politburo to oust Podgorny from office and active politics in general. Attempted assassination of Leonid Brezhnev Viktor Ilyin , a disenfranchised Soviet soldier , attempted to assassinate Brezhnev on 22 January by firing shots at a motorcade carrying Brezhnev through Moscow. Though Brezhnev was unhurt, the shots killed a driver and lightly injured several celebrated cosmonauts of the Soviet space programme who were also travelling in the motorcade. Ilyin was not given the death penalty because his desire to kill Brezhnev was considered so absurd that he was sent to the Kazan mental asylum instead for treatment. The Soviet Union achieved nuclear parity with the United States by the early s, after which the country consolidated itself as a superpower. Advisers have recounted how Brezhnev came into conflict with several top-level military industrialists, the most notable being Marshal Andrei Grechko , the Minister of Defense. Ustinov, although a close associate and friend of Brezhnev, hindered any attempt made by Brezhnev to reduce national military expenditure. In his later years, Brezhnev lacked the will to reduce defense expenditure, due to his declining health. Two days before his death, Brezhnev stated that any aggression against the Soviet Union "would result in a crushing retaliatory blow". This was a typical move for a Soviet leader trying to strengthen his power base. The removal and replacement of members of the Soviet leadership halted in late s. In his early days, Brezhnev asked for advice from provincial party secretaries, and spent hours each day on such conversations. Brezhnev believed, in contrast to Khrushchev, that rather than wholesale re-organization, the key to increasing agricultural output was making the existing system work more efficiently. He did not want to risk alienating lower-level officialdom. Members acted in optimism, and believed a policy of stabilization would prove to the world, according to Robert Service, the "superiority of communism". Along with Grigory Romanov he was, in contrast to the norm, one of the young members elected to top positions during the Brezhnev Era [31] After the reshuffling process of the Politburo ended in the mid-to-late , the Soviet leadership evolved into a gerontocracy , a form of rule in which the rulers are significantly older than most of the adult population. In the purge, Stalin ordered the execution or exile of nearly all Soviet bureaucrats over the age of 35, thereby opening up posts and offices for a younger generation of Soviets. The majority of these appointees were of either peasant or working class origin. A similar greying also took place in the Central Committee, the median age rising from 53 in to 62 in , with the proportion of members older than 65 increasing from 3 percent in to 39 percent in Of the member Central Committee in , were younger than 30 when Stalin died in For example, Kulakov, one of the youngest members in the Politburo, was ranked seventh in the prestige order voted by the Supreme Soviet , far behind such notables as Kosygin, Podgorny, Suslov, and Kirilenko. The Commission had 97 members, with Konstantin Chernenko among the more prominent. It described the Soviet Union, for example, as an "advanced industrial society ". They also wanted to include information on the status of the Soviet citizen , which had changed drastically in

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the post-Stalin years. The media extolled Brezhnev "as a dynamic leader and intellectual colossus". In both cases, Brezhnev was not the one pushing hardest for a possible armed intervention. Konstantin Chernenko , due to his close relationship with Brezhnev, had also acquired influence. On 10 November , Brezhnev died and was honored with major state funeral and buried 5 days later at the Kremlin Wall Necropolis.

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6: NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

The legacy of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will be remembered as twofold: During his tenure in power, the longest of any Soviet other than Joseph Stalin, Brezhnev helped to elevate the Soviet Union to unparalleled levels of prestige, power, and peace among the populace, through his superior negotiating skills on the world diplomatic stage.

Russia Table of Contents The regime that followed Khrushchev took a much more conservative approach to most problems. Stalinism did not return, but there was less latitude for individual expression. Foreign relations continued to roller-coaster, with the invasion of Afghanistan in constituting a major setback for relations with the West. The Rise of Brezhnev After removing Khrushchev from power, the leaders of the Politburo as the Presidium was renamed in by the Twenty-Third Party Congress and Secretariat again established a collective leadership. Kosygin accepted the position of prime minister, which he held until his retirement in Brezhnev, who took the post of first secretary, may have been viewed originally by his colleagues as an interim appointee. As his own power grew, Brezhnev built up a coterie of followers whom he, as first secretary, gradually maneuvered into powerful positions. At the same time, Brezhnev slowly demoted or isolated possible contenders for his office. For instance, in December he succeeded in elevating Podgornyy to the ceremonial position of chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest legislative organization in the government, thus eliminating him as a rival. After several more personnel changes, Brezhnev assumed the chairmanship of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in , confirming his primacy in both party and state. The years after Khrushchev were notable for the stability of the cadres, groups of activists in responsible and influential positions in the party and state apparatus. By introducing the slogan "Trust in Cadres" in , Brezhnev won the support of many bureaucrats wary of the constant reorganizations of the Khrushchev era and eager for security in established hierarchies. Indicative of the stability of the period is the fact that nearly half of the Central Committee members in were holdovers from fifteen years earlier. The corollary to this stability was the aging of Soviet leaders; the average age of Politburo members rose from fifty-five in to sixty-eight in The Soviet leadership or the "gerontocracy," as it was referred to in the West became increasingly conservative and ossified. Upon assuming power, the collective leadership not only reversed such Khrushchev policies as the bifurcation of the party, it also halted de-Stalinization. Indeed, favorable references to the dead dictator began to appear. The Soviet constitution of , although differing in certain respects from the Stalin document, retained the general thrust of the latter. In contrast to the relative cultural freedom permitted during the early Khrushchev years, Brezhnev and his colleagues continued the more restrictive line of the later Khrushchev era. The leadership was unwilling or unable to employ Stalinist means to control Soviet society; instead, it opted to use repressive tactics against political dissidents even after the Soviet Union signed the Helsinki Accords of , which bound signatory nations to higher standards of human rights observance. Dissidents persecuted during this time included writers and activists in outlawed religious, nationalist, and human rights movements. In the latter part of the Brezhnev era, the regime tolerated popular expressions of anti-Semitism. Under conditions of "developed socialism" the historical stage that the Soviet Union attained in , according to the CPSU , the precepts of Marxism-Leninism were taught and reinforced as a means to bolster the authority of the regime rather than as a tool for revolutionary action. The Sino-Soviet relationship reached a low point in when clashes broke out along the disputed Ussuri River boundary in the Far East. Later, the Chinese, intimidated by Soviet military strength, agreed not to patrol the border area claimed by the Soviet Union; but strained relations between the two countries continued into the early s. Under the collective leadership, the Soviet Union again used force in Eastern Europe, this time in Czechoslovakia. In reform-minded elements of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia rapidly began to liberalize their rule, loosen censorship, and strengthen Western ties. In response, Soviet and other Warsaw Pact troops entered Czechoslovakia and installed a new regime. Out of these events arose the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine see Glossary , which warned that the Soviet Union would act to maintain its hegemony in Eastern Europe see Central Europe, ch.

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Soviet suppression of the reform movement reduced blatant gestures of defiance on the part of Romania and served as a threatening example to the Polish Solidarity trade union movement in 1981. But it also helped disillusion communist parties in Western Europe to the extent that by most of the leading parties embraced Eurocommunism, a pragmatic approach to ideology that freed them to pursue political programs independent of Soviet dictates. Soviet influence in the developing world expanded somewhat during the 1970s. New communist or left-leaning governments having close relations with the Soviet Union took power in several countries, including Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Nicaragua. After the June War in the Middle East, the Soviet Union rebuilt the defeated Syrian and Egyptian armies, but it suffered a setback when Egypt expelled Soviet advisers from the country in 1972 and subsequently entered into a closer relationship with the United States. But Soviet prestige among moderate Muslim states suffered in the 1970s as a result of Soviet military activities in Afghanistan see *The Middle East*, ch. Attempting to shore up a communist government in that country, Brezhnev sent in Soviet armed forces in December 1979, but a large part of the Afghan population resisted both the occupiers and the Marxist Afghan regime. Soviet relations with the West first improved, then deteriorated in the years after Khrushchev. The gradual winding down of United States involvement in the war in Vietnam after 1973 opened the way for negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the subject of nuclear arms. Also in reaction to the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, the United States imposed a grain embargo on the Soviet Union and boycotted the Moscow Summer Olympics in 1980. Opposition from party conservatives and cautious managers, however, soon stalled the Liberman reforms, forcing the state to abandon them. In industry, plans stressed the heavy and defense-related branches, slighting the light consumer-goods branches see *The Postwar Growth Period*, ch. As a developed industrial country, the Soviet Union by the 1970s found it increasingly difficult to maintain the high rates of growth in the industrial sector that it had enjoyed in earlier years. Increasingly large investment and labor inputs were required for growth, but these inputs were becoming more difficult to obtain. Although the goals of the five-year plans of the 1970s had been scaled down from previous plans, the targets remained largely unmet. The industrial shortfalls were felt most sharply in the sphere of consumer goods, where the public steadily demanded improved quality and increased quantity. Agricultural development continued to lag in the Brezhnev years. Despite steadily higher investments in agriculture, growth under Brezhnev fell below that attained under Khrushchev. Droughts occurring intermittently throughout the 1970s forced the Soviet Union to import large quantities of grain from Western countries, including the United States. In the countryside, Brezhnev continued the trend toward converting collective farms into state farms and raised the incomes of all farmworkers. Despite the wage increases, peasants still devoted much time and effort to their private plots, which provided the Soviet Union with a disproportionate share of its agricultural goods see *Agriculture*, ch. The standard of living in the Soviet Union presented a problem to the Brezhnev leadership after the growth of the late 1950s stalled at a level well below that of most Western industrial and some East European countries. Although certain appliances and other goods became more accessible during the 1970s and 1980s, improvements in housing and food supply were slight. Shortages of consumer goods encouraged pilferage of government property and the growth of the black market. Vodka, however, remained readily available, and alcoholism was an important factor in both the declining life expectancy and the rising infant mortality rate that the Soviet Union experienced in the later Brezhnev years see *Health Conditions*, ch. Culture and the Arts in the 1970s and 1980s Progress in developing the education system was mixed during the Brezhnev years. In the 1970s and 1980s, the percentage of working-age people with at least a secondary education steadily increased. Yet at the same time, access to higher education grew more limited. By the 1980s the percentage of secondary-school graduates admitted to universities had dropped to only two-thirds of the figure. Students accepted into universities increasingly came from professional families rather than worker or peasant households. This trend toward the perpetuation of the educated elite was not only a function of the superior cultural background of elite families but also, in many cases, a result of their power to influence admissions procedures see *The Soviet Heritage*, ch. Progress in science also was variable under Brezhnev. In the most visible test of its advancement--the race with the United States to put a man on the moon--the Soviet

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Union failed, but through persistence the Soviet space program continued to make headway in other areas. In general, despite leads in such fields as metallurgy and thermonuclear fusion, Soviet science lagged behind that of the West, hampered in part by the slow development of computer technology. In literature and the arts, a greater variety of creative works became accessible to the public than had previously been available. As in earlier decades, the state continued to determine what could be legally published or performed, punishing persistent offenders with exile or prison. Nonetheless, greater experimentation in art forms became permissible in the s, with the result that more sophisticated and subtly critical work began to be produced. The regime loosened the strictures of socialist realism; thus, for instance, many protagonists of the novels of author Yuriy Trifonov concerned themselves with problems of daily life rather than with building socialism. In music, although the state continued to frown on such Western phenomena as jazz and rock, it began to permit Western musical ensembles specializing in these genres to make limited appearances. But the native balladeer Vladimir Vysotskiy, widely popular in the Soviet Union, was denied official recognition because of his iconoclastic lyrics see Literature and the Arts, ch. In the religious life of the Soviet Union, a resurgence in popular devotion to the major faiths became apparent in the late s despite continued de facto disapproval on the part of the authorities. This revival may have been connected with the generally growing interest of Soviet citizens in their respective national traditions see The Russian Orthodox Church, ch. The Death of Brezhnev Shortly after his cult of personality began to take root in the mids, Brezhnev began to experience periods of ill health. Then, after another bout of poor health in , Brezhnev delegated more of his responsibilities to Konstantin U. Chernenko, a longtime associate who soon began to be regarded as the heir apparent. His prospects of succeeding Brezhnev, however, were hurt by political problems plaguing the general secretary in the early s. Although he suffered another stroke in March , Brezhnev refused to relinquish his office. He died that November. The Soviet Union paid a high price for the stability of the Brezhnev years. By avoiding necessary political and economic change, the Brezhnev leadership ensured the economic and political decline that the country experienced during the s.

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7: Russia - The Khrushchev era (1953-1964) | www.enganchecubano.com

Russian leader who succeeded Lenin as head of the Communist Party and created a totalitarian state by purging all opposition () Nikita Khrushchev Succeeded Stalin as the head of the Soviet Communist Party and became the Soviet premier.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Khrushchev, who rose under Stalin as an agricultural specialist, was a Russian who had grown up in Ukraine. During his reign Ukrainians prospered in Moscow. He took it for granted that Russians had a natural right to instruct less-fortunate nationals. This was especially evident in the non-Slavic republics of the U. His nationality policies reversed the repressive policies of Stalin. He grasped the nettle of the deported nationalities and rehabilitated almost all of them; the accusations of disloyalty made against them by Stalin were declared to be false. This allowed many nationalities to return to their homelands within Russia, the Volga Germans being a notable exception. Their lands had been occupied by Russians who, fearing competition from the Germans, opposed their return. The Crimean Tatars were similarly not allowed to return to their home territory. Their situation was complicated by the fact that Russians and Ukrainians had replaced them in Crimea, and in Khrushchev made Ukraine a present of Crimea. Khrushchev abided by the nationality theory that suggested that all Soviet national groups would come closer together and eventually coalesce; the Russians, of course, would be the dominant group. The theory was profoundly wrong. Khrushchev, Nikita Nikita Khrushchev, His main opponent in the quest for power, Georgy M. Malenkov, was skilled in administration and headed the government. He chose to implement this policy on virgin land in the north Caucasus and west Siberia, lying in both Russia and northern Kazakhstan. The Kazakh party leadership was not enamoured of the idea, since they did not want more Russians in their republic. The Kazakh leadership was dismissed, and the new first secretary was a Malenkov appointee; he was soon replaced by Leonid I. Thousands of young communists descended on Kazakhstan to grow crops where none had been grown before. Through its denunciation of Stalin, it substantially destroyed the infallibility of the party. De-Stalinization had unexpected consequences, especially in eastern and southeastern Europe in 1956, where unrest became widespread. The Hungarian uprising in that year was brutally suppressed, with Yury V. The events in Hungary and elsewhere stoked up anti-Russian fires. Successes in space exploration under his regime brought great applause for Russia. Khrushchev improved relations with the West, establishing a policy of peaceful coexistence that eventually led to the signing of the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty of 1963. But he was at times eccentric and blunt, traits that sometimes negated his own diplomacy. On one occasion he appeared at the United Nations and, in his speech, emphasized his point by banging a shoe on his desk. Such conduct tended to reinforce certain Western prejudices about oafish, peasant behaviour by Soviet leaders and harmed the Russian image abroad. Hence, he turned out to be his own worst enemy, accelerating the arms race with the United States rather than decelerating it, which was his underlying objective. His alarmingly risky policy of installing nuclear weapons in Cuba for local Soviet commanders to use should they perceive that the Americans were attacking brought the world seemingly close to the brink of nuclear war. Khrushchev was a patriot who genuinely wanted to improve the lot of all Soviet citizens. Under his leadership there was a cultural thaw, and Russian writers who had been suppressed began to publish again. Western ideas about democracy began to penetrate universities and academies. These were to leave their mark on a whole generation of Russians, most notably Mikhail Gorbachev, who later became the last leader of the Soviet Union. Khrushchev had effectively led the Soviet Union away from the harsh Stalin period. Under his rule Russia continued to dominate the union but with considerably more concern for minorities. Economic problems, however, continued to plague the union. Khrushchev attempted to reform the industrial ministries and their subordinate enterprises but failed. He discovered that industrial and local political networks had developed, which made it very difficult for the central authority to impose its will. Under him there was a gradual dissipation of power from Moscow to the provinces. This strengthened the Russian regions. The

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agricultural policy, which was successful for a few years, eventually fell victim to lean drought years, causing widespread discontent. Kosygin, and N. The first was the party leader, the second headed the government, and the third became chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, a ceremonial position. By the late s Brezhnev was clearly the dominant leader. His strengths were in manipulating party and government cadres, but he was weak on policy ideas. Brezhnev ensured that there was an unprecedented stability of cadres within the Communist Party and the bureaucracy, thereby creating conditions for the rampant spread of corruption in the Soviet political and administrative structures. However, under Brezhnev the U. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, Three-fourths of the defense industries, the priority sector, were in Russia, and the republic accounted for about three-fourths of the Soviet gross national product. The middle class grew in size, as did its average salary, which more than doubled in two decades. Ownership of consumer goods, such as refrigerators and cars, became a realistic expectation for a growing part of the population. The availability of medical care, higher education, and decent accommodation reached levels unprecedented in the Soviet context. Kosygin recognized the seriousness of the problems facing the Soviet economic structure more than did Brezhnev and attempted to implement reforms in and, but the Brezhnev leadership stopped them. By the mids, growth in the non-natural resource sector of the economy had slowed greatly. The Soviet economy suffered from a lack of technological advances, poor-quality products unsatisfactory to both Soviet and foreign consumers, low worker productivity, and highly inefficient factories. At the same time, the agricultural sector of the economy was in crisis. The government was spending an increasing amount of its money trying to feed the country. Soviet agriculture suffered from myriad problems, the resolution of which required radical reforms. In sum, by the s, continued economic stagnation posed a serious threat to the world standing of the U. The state gradually lost its monopoly on information control. A counterculture influenced by Western pop music, especially rock, spread rapidly. Russian youth had become enamoured of Western pop stars, and the advent of the audiocassette made it easier to experience their music. The widespread teaching of foreign languages further facilitated access to outside ideas. By the end of the Brezhnev era, the Russian intelligentsia had rejected Communist Party values. These exiles then became the voice of Russian culture abroad. The academician Andrey Sakharov could not be imprisoned, for fear of Western scientists cutting off contact with the Soviet Union, but he was exiled to the closed city of Gorky now Nizhny Novgorod. Sakharov was released in and returned to Moscow.

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8: Vietnam War Protests - HISTORY

The history of the Soviet Union from to , referred to as the Brezhnev Era, covers the period of Leonid Brezhnev's rule of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

The History Learning Site, 9 Mar Opposition to Nazi rule within Germany did exist from to That opposition took place at civilian, church and military levels. None of this opposition to the Nazis was successful and it is difficult to know the true extent of it. However, the consequences for those caught opposing Hitler were dire. The most famous example of men who were willing to take on the Nazi regime was the famous July Bomb Plot of Many of these were in the military. Even Field Marshal Rommel was implicated in this plot but was allowed to commit suicide rather than face a very public and humiliating trial. According to statistics held by the Nazis, the most common form of opposition came from those ideologically opposed to the Nazis. The primary targets for the Gestapo in this case were communists and socialists. Of the 32, death sentences ordered for political reasons, 20, of the victims were communists. For December , for example, statistics held by the Central Office of the SS Reich Security Service show that people were arrested for being communist or Marxist. This compares with just 12 people arrested from the Protestant church who opposed the Nazi Regime. The same statistics also show that in just that one month December 7, people were arrested for refusing to work " a day. It is no coincidence that in the same month the first concentration camp was created at Dachau. Once labelled as such, arrest was inevitable. The development and expansion of various police units " both in uniform and un-uniformed " gave the internal security forces a massive level of power. The SD, in particular, was effective in rounding up opponents, imaginary or not. The SD cultivated a programme of informants with rewards for the best ones. It is almost certain that any community within Nazi Germany had its informants. His or her word could end with the arrest of someone. Children indoctrinated by a Nazi education programme were also encouraged to inform their teachers if their parents made disparaging comments about Hitler. Hitler had made it very clear as early as the Night of the Long Knives what opponents could expect. However, this did not discourage some, especially youths. Some students started protest movements against Hitler and his regime. These included the White Rose movement and the Edelweiss Pirates. All children had grown up with the Hitler Youth movement. To many it offered opportunities that had to be taken " especially the prospect of good employment once someone had left the movement because of their age. However, not everyone shared this enthusiasm. In , the Edelweiss Pirates Edelweisspiraten movement started in the Rhineland. Members of both groups were predominantly working class young male youths and they helped victims of the Nazi regime. They set up areas in towns where members of the Hitler Youth were not welcomed. Certain aspects of their life set them apart from what the Nazi regime required of the youth. They wore what might be described as bohemian clothing in direct contrast to the uniform of the Hitler Youth. Their basic approach was to take a stand against what Nazi Germany stood for. It leaders were Sophie and Hans Scholl. However, such was the extent of control in Nazi Germany that both were caught, put on trial and executed. Numerous Protestant church groups had existed before Nazi Germany. But these were absorbed into the Nazi Reich Church. Some individuals refused to recognise this new church and the Nazis naturally saw them as a threat. The Kreisau Circle was one of the most famous groups to oppose Hitler. It was made up of churchmen, scholars and politicians. However, the Gestapo found out about the organisation and rounded up its members who were duly executed.

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9: European court: Russia's arrests of Navalny were political

Which East European government, following anti-Soviet demonstrations in , chose a leader opposed by the U.S.S.R. ... Poland Soviet tanks and troops were sent to crush a democratic, anti-communist revolution in in.

The dictator ruled by terror with a series of brutal policies, which left millions of his own citizens dead. During his reign—which lasted until his death in — Stalin transformed the Soviet Union from an agrarian society to an industrial and military superpower. Stalin implemented a series of Five-Year Plans to spur economic growth and transformation in the Soviet Union. The first Five-Year Plan focused on collectivizing agriculture and rapid industrialization. Subsequent Five-Year Plans focused on the production of armaments and military build-up. Between and , Stalin enforced the collectivization of the agricultural sector. Rural peasants were forced to join collective farms. Those that owned land or livestock were stripped of their holdings. Hundreds of thousands of higher-income farmers, called kulaks, were rounded up and executed, their property confiscated. The Communists believed that consolidating individually owned farms into a series of large state-run collective farms would increase agricultural productivity. The opposite was true. The Great Purge Amid confusion and resistance to collectivization in the countryside, agricultural productivity dropped. This led to devastating food shortages. Millions died during the Great Famine of For many years the USSR denied the Great Famine, keeping secret the results of a census that would have revealed the extent of loss. Stalin eliminated all likely opposition to his leadership by terrorizing Communist Party officials and the public through his secret police. Millions more were deported, or imprisoned in forced labor camps known as Gulags. The Americans and British feared the spread of communism into Western Europe and worldwide. In , the U. The alliance between countries of the Western bloc was a political show of force against the USSR and its allies. The Cold War power struggle—waged on political, economic and propaganda fronts between the Eastern and Western blocs—would persist in various forms until the fall of the Soviet Union in He became Communist Party secretary in and premier in At home, however, Khrushchev initiated a series of political reforms that made Soviet society less repressive. During this period, later known as de-Stalinization, Khrushchev criticized Stalin for arresting and deporting opponents, took steps to raise living conditions, freed many political prisoners, loosened artistic censorship, and closed the Gulag labor camps. Members of his own political party removed Khrushchev from office in Many early projects were tied to the Soviet military and kept secret, but by the s, space would become another dramatic arena for competition between dueling world superpowers. The success of Sputnik made Americans fear that the U. He inherited a stagnant economy and a crumbling political system. He introduced two sets of policies he hoped would reform the political system and help the USSR become a more prosperous, productive nation. These policies were called glasnost and perestroika. It addressed personal restrictions of the Soviet people. Glasnost eliminated remaining traces of Stalinist repression, such as the banning of books and the much-loathed secret police. Newspapers could criticize the government, and parties other than the Communist Party could participate in elections. Under perestroika, the Soviet Union began to move toward a hybrid communist-capitalist system, much like modern China. The policy-making committee of the Communist Party, called the Politburo, would still control the direction of the economy. Yet the government would allow market forces to dictate some production and development decisions. Collapse of the Soviet Union During the s and s, the Communist Party elite rapidly gained wealth and power while millions of average Soviet citizens faced starvation. Bread lines were common throughout the s and s. Soviet citizens often did not have access to basic needs, such as clothing or shoes. The divide between the extreme wealth of the Politburo and the poverty of Soviet citizens created a backlash from younger people who refused to adopt Communist Party ideology as their parents had. In the s, the United States under President Ronald Reagan isolated the Soviet economy from the rest of the world and helped drive oil prices to their lowest levels in decades. A loosening of controls over the Soviet people emboldened independence movements in the Soviet satellites of Eastern Europe. Political revolution in Poland in sparked

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other, mostly peaceful revolutions across Eastern European states and led to the toppling of the Berlin Wall. By the end of , the USSR had come apart at the seams. The Soviet Union ceased to exist on December 31,

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