

1: The Cold War, from Life in the USA: The Complete Guide for Immigrants and Americans

In today's era of glasnost, personal and business travel to the Soviet Union is at an all-time high. For those who want to visit the largest country in the world, and experienced tourists seeking information on site and cities off the familiar group-tour agendas, The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union is the only book they will need.

Back to the s Fall of the Soviet Union In December of , as the world watched in amazement, the Soviet Union disintegrated into fifteen separate countries. Its collapse was hailed by the west as a victory for freedom, a triumph of democracy over totalitarianism, and evidence of the superiority of capitalism over socialism. The United States rejoiced as its formidable enemy was brought to its knees, thereby ending the Cold War which had hovered over these two superpowers since the end of World War II. Indeed, the breakup of the Soviet Union transformed the entire world political situation, leading to a complete reformulation of political, economic and military alliances all over the globe. What led to this monumental historical event? In fact, the answer is a very complex one, and can only be arrived at with an understanding of the peculiar composition and history of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was built on approximately the same territory as the Russian Empire which it succeeded. After the Bolshevik Revolution of , the newly-formed government developed a philosophy of socialism with the eventual and gradual transition to Communism. The state which the Bolsheviks created was intended to overcome national differences, and rather to create one monolithic state based on a centralized economical and political system. This state, which was built on a Communist ideology, was eventually transformed into a totalitarian state, in which the Communist leadership had complete control over the country. However, this project of creating a unified, centralized socialist state proved problematic for several reasons. First, the Soviets underestimated the degree to which the non-Russian ethnic groups in the country which comprised more than fifty percent of the total population of the Soviet Union would resist assimilation into a Russianized State. Second, their economic planning failed to meet the needs of the State, which was caught up in a vicious arms race with the United States. This led to gradual economic decline, eventually necessitating the need for reform. Finally, the ideology of Communism, which the Soviet Government worked to instill in the hearts and minds of its population, never took firm root, and eventually lost whatever influence it had originally carried. Recognizing this, Gorbachev introduced a two-tiered policy of reform. On one level, he initiated a policy of glasnost, or freedom of speech. On the other level, he began a program of economic reform known as perestroika, or rebuilding. What Gorbachev did not realize was that by giving people complete freedom of expression, he was unwittingly unleashing emotions and political feelings that had been pent up for decades, and which proved to be extremely powerful when brought out into the open. Moreover, his policy of economic reform did not have the immediate results he had hoped for and had publicly predicted. The Soviet people consequently used their newly allotted freedom of speech to criticize Gorbachev for his failure to improve the economy. Back to Top The disintegration of the Soviet Union began on the peripheries, in the non-Russian areas. The first region to produce mass, organized dissent was the Baltic region, where, in , the government of Estonia demanded autonomy. This move was later followed by similar moves in Lithuania and Latvia, the other two Baltic republics. He did not want to crack down too severely on the participants in these movements, yet at the same time, it became increasingly evident that allowing them to run their course would spell disaster for the Soviet Union, which would completely collapse if all of the periphery republics were to demand independence. After the initiative from Estonia, similar movements sprang up all over the former Soviet Union. In the Transcaucasus region in the South of the Soviet Union , a movement developed inside the Armenian-populated autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabagh, in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Armenian population of this region demanded that they be granted the right to secede and join the Republic of Armenia, with whose population they were ethnically linked. Massive demonstrations were held in Armenia in solidarity with the secessionists in Nagorno-Karabagh. The Gorbachev government refused to allow the population of Nagorno-Karabagh to secede, and the situation developed into a violent territorial dispute, eventually degenerating into an all-out war which continues unabated until the present day. The power of the Central Government was considerably

weakened by these movements; they could no longer rely on the cooperation of Government figures in the republics. Finally, the situation came to a head in August of 1991. They kidnapped Gorbachev, and then, on August 19 of 1991, they announced on state television that Gorbachev was very ill and would no longer be able to govern. The country went into an uproar. Massive protests were staged in Moscow, Leningrad, and many of the other major cities of the Soviet Union. When the coup organizers tried to bring in the military to quell the protestors, the soldiers themselves rebelled, saying that they could not fire on their fellow countrymen. After three days of massive protest, the coup organizers surrendered, realizing that without the cooperation of the military, they did not have the power to overcome the power of the entire population of the country. Back to Top After the failed coup attempt, it was only a few months until the Soviet Union completely collapsed. Gorbachev conceded power, realizing that he could no longer contain the power of the population. On December 25, 1991, he resigned. By January of 1992, by popular demand, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. In its place, a new entity was formed. While the member countries had complete political independence, they were linked to other Commonwealth countries by economic, and, in some cases, military ties. Now that the Soviet Union, with its centralized political and economic system, has ceased to exist, the fifteen newly formed independent countries which emerged in its aftermath are faced with an overwhelming task. They must develop their economies, reorganize their political systems, and, in many cases, settle bitter territorial disputes. A number of wars have developed on the peripheries of the former Soviet Union. Additionally, the entire region is suffering a period of severe economic hardship. However, despite the many hardships facing the region, bold steps are being taken toward democratization, reorganization, and rebuilding in most of the countries of the former Soviet Union. For additional information click [here](#). Links to external sites will open in new browser windows and are not endorsed by The Cold War Museum. The Cold War Museum.

2: A Complete List of Leaders of the Soviet Union (USSR)

*Complete Guide to the Soviet Union [Victor E. Louis] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Gathers information on the history and culture of the Soviet Union, offers advice on sightseeing, and recommends hotels.*

Leonid Brezhnev had the second longest reign. The Soviet Union was a world superpower that helped to shape and define almost the whole 20th century. This article will analyze the lives, achievements, and criticisms of the nine men who led the Soviet Union. He founded the Communist Party in 1919, but he spent years leading up to the Russian Revolution in exile abroad before Germany arranged for him to go back to Russia to get them out of World War One. From there Lenin led the October Revolution to overthrow the provisional government that had overthrown the monarchy during the February Revolution. Lenin and the Communists then quickly consolidated power and eventually won the Russian Civil War. Lenin then spent the last few years of his life trying to shape the future of the Soviet Union. Like Lenin, Stalin was in exile leading up to the Russian Revolution. During this period Stalin clashed with Lenin and other Soviet Leaders over ideology, strategy, and his violent tendencies. Stalin then spent years leading up to World War Two pushing his economic policy of Collectivization and trying to industrialize the country. Stalin also spent this time purging, executing and deporting his enemies to Siberia. The Soviets and the Germans signed a non-aggression pact and agreed to split up Eastern Europe but then Hitler violated it and invaded the Soviet Union. Relations with the West deteriorated and the Cold War started in 1947. Stalin died a few years later in 1953. His advancement through the party was advanced by his family connections with Lenin and later under the watchful eye of Stalin. However, Malenkov had a reformist streak as he called for cuts in military spending and easing up on political repression. This fact led to his undoing as a few weeks later Nikita Khrushchev organized a coalition as he undermined all of his authority as leader. By 1959 Malenkov was no longer the leader of the Soviet Union. In 1957, he joined a failed coup attempt against Khrushchev and was expelled from the Communist Party. Malenkov was then sent to Kazakhstan to serve as manager of a hydroelectric plant to spend the rest of his life in disgrace. He died in 1988. Shortly after taking over the leadership of the Soviet Union from Malenkov, Khrushchev gave a speech where he denounced the excesses under Stalin. This speech was the start of his policy of de-Stalinization, which resulted in protests in Poland and Hungary that were put down. Khrushchev relaxed restrictions on free expression, released political prisoners and launched bold but ultimately unattainable agricultural goals. He largely tried to pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence with the West but at the same time started the Cuban Missile Crisis and started construction on the Berlin Wall. Poor economic growth, deteriorating relations with China and other issues eventually led to Khrushchev being ousted from power by "retiring" due to his health. Khrushchev spent his remaining years at his estate, dying in 1974. He joined the Komsomol political youth organization in 1926 and in 1927 became a full member of the Communist Party. Brezhnev fought in World War Two, reaching the rank of major general and in 1945 became a member of the Central Committee. Brezhnev took over as the leader for Khrushchev and ended his cultural reforms by clamping down on the cultural freedom and he gave the KGB back some of their former powers they had under Stalin. Andropov joined the Communist Party in 1937, and his superiors quickly noticed his abilities making him head of the Komsomol. After being transferred to Moscow in 1947, he was assigned to the Secretariat staff and then became ambassador to Hungary from 1953. After returning to Moscow from his ambassadorship he rose quickly through the party ranks and became head of the KGB in 1967. Andropov started positioning himself for succession as leader of the Soviet Union with Brezhnev in poor health. Andropov was declared his successor and quickly consolidated power. Andropov led an anti-corruption campaign and dismissed many party ministers and secretaries. Andropov also did reluctantly continue the Soviet war in Afghanistan. His rule was short however because by August of his ill health overtook him and he spent his last days in the hospital, dying in 1982. Chernenko joined the Komsomol in 1932 and became a full member of the Communist Party in 1934. Chernenko started working for the propaganda department in 1937 and rose through the ranks. The turning point in his career was a meeting with future Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1962. Brezhnev continued to help him rise through the ranks,

with Chernenko gaining full membership to the Central Committee in 1982. Chernenko replaced Andropov as leader despite his own ailing health. Chernenko supported a greater role for labor unions and reforming education and propaganda. Chernenko negotiated a trade pact with China but did little to de-escalate the Cold War, boycotted the Summer Olympics and did not end the war in Afghanistan. He joined and became very active in the Communist party while at Moscow State University and also graduated with a law degree. Gorbachev engaged in a race to amass nuclear weapons in space with the United States, which proved costly for the suffering Soviet economy. Gorbachev managed to end the costly Soviet war in Afghanistan in 1989. He worked to provide more freedoms and reforms to the Soviet people with his policies of glasnost and perestroika openness and restructure. In 1989 Gorbachev organized elections to require Communist Party members to run against non-members to make a more democratic electoral system. This fact was in spite of Gorbachev wanting to keep the Soviet Union together. By 1991 Gorbachev was grappling with different groups waging war and demanding independence, along with a sputtering Soviet economy. By the end of December of 1991, the Soviet Union had completely crumbled, and Gorbachev stepped down and gave Yeltsin complete power over Russia. He took formal leadership of the Gang of Eight and deposed Gorbachev during the August coup of 1991. The coup collapsed after three days due to the growing popularity of Boris Yeltsin, and Yanayev was arrested. He was pardoned in 1994 and spent the rest of his life working for the Russian tourism administration until his death in 2000. A reflection on the Soviet Union and its leaders The Soviet Union grew out of the revolution lead by men like Lenin and Stalin to eventually become a world superpower to challenge the United States for world dominance for the second half of the 20th century. You know how the various Soviet leaders rose to power and what they did in their time as leader. From their greatest achievements to their biggest failures, I hope that you now know more about the leaders of the Soviet Union.

3: Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

For those who want to visit the largest country in the world, and experienced tourists seeking information on site and cities off the familiar group-tour agendas, The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union is the only book they will need.

The Russian Revolution Late tsarist Russia Sometime in the middle of the 19th century, Russia entered a phase of internal crisis that in would culminate in revolution. Its causes were not so much economic or social as political and cultural. For the sake of stability, tsarism insisted on rigid autocracy that effectively shut out the population from participation in government. At the same time, to maintain its status as a great power, it promoted industrial development and higher education , which were inherently dynamic. The result was perpetual tension between government and society, especially its educated element, known as the intelligentsia. Potentially destabilizing also was the refusal of the mass of Russian peasantry , living in communes, to acknowledge the principle of private property in land. In the late 19th century the political conflict pitted three protagonists: The tsar was absolute and unlimited in his authority, which was subject to neither constitutional restraints nor parliamentary institutions. He ruled with the help of a bureaucratic caste, subject to no external controls and above the law, and the army, one of whose main tasks was maintaining internal order. Imperial Russia developed to a greater extent than any contemporary country a powerful and ubiquitous security police. It was a crime to question the existing system or to organize for any purpose whatsoever without government permission. The system, which contained seeds of future totalitarianism , was nevertheless not rigidly enforced and was limited by the institution of private property. The vast majority of Russian peasants lived in communes obshchiny , which held land in common and periodically redistributed it to member households to allow for changes in family size. The communal organization, composed of heads of households, exercised great control over members. Communal peasants did not own their land but merely cultivated it for a period of time determined by local custom. Under these conditions they had little opportunity to develop respect for private property or any of the other qualities necessary for citizenship. Politically they tended toward primitive anarchism. To some extent this also held true for industrial workers, some two million strong at the turn of the century, most of whom came from the village. The intelligentsia was partly liberal, partly radical, but in either case unalterably opposed to the status quo. Having met with no response, they adopted methods of terror, which culminated in in the assassination of Emperor Alexander II. The government reacted with repressive measures that kept the revolutionaries at bay for the next two decades. In the meantime the field was left to liberal intellectuals, who in January formed the Union of Liberation , a semilegal political body committed to the struggle for democracy. The oppositional groups received their chance in "05 when Russia became involved in a war with Japan. The Union of Liberation, moving into the open, presented a program of fundamental political reforms. On October 17 October 30, New Style , faced with a general strike , Emperor Nicholas II issued a manifesto that promised the country a legislative parliament. The October Manifesto in effect ended the autocratic system. The following year Russia was given a constitution. Elections took place to a representative body, the State Duma , which was empowered to initiate and veto legislative proposals. The population received guarantees of fundamental civil liberties. Between and Russia was administered by the greatest statesman of the late imperial era, Pyotr Stolypin. Stolypin both ruthlessly suppressed disorders and carried out extensive reforms. The most important of these were laws allowing peasants to withdraw from the commune and establish independent farmsteads. Stolypin hoped to create a self-reliant yeomanry to act as a stabilizing force in the countryside. He also had other social and political reforms in mind. These were frustrated by the hostility of the court as well as of the opposition parties. He was murdered by a revolutionary in The constitution of was frequently violated by both the government and the opposition. The former misused its emergency clauses to adjourn the Duma and rule by decree. The latter, especially the radical parties, sabotaged the legislative process. Even so, in its last decade Russia enjoyed greater freedom than ever before. It also enjoyed relative prosperity: Conditions in the countryside gradually improved, and in peasants owned or rented 90 percent of the arable land. The humiliating defeats that the Russian army suffered at the hands of the Germans, who expelled it from Poland,

lowered the prestige of the monarchy further. There were also unsubstantiated rumours that Empress Alexandra, a German by origin, betrayed military secrets to the enemy. The opposition, instead of rallying behind the crown, exploited its difficulties to wrest further powers so as to be in a position to take charge once the war was over. The government, for its part, clung jealously to all its prerogatives, from fear that involving public figures in the war effort would make it impossible to reassert strong tsarist authority once peace was reestablished. In no other belligerent country were political conflicts waged as intensely during the war as in Russia, preventing the effective mobilization of the rear. One result of this was disorganization of food supplies. Although Russia produced more than enough to feed itself, economic mismanagement combined with the breakdown of transportation led in the third year of the war to a sharp rise in prices and to food shortages in the cities. The final assault on the monarchy began in November, when the head of the liberal Constitutional Democratic Party, Pavel Milyukov, during a session of the Duma, implied the government was guilty of treason. During the exceptionally severe winter of 1917, food and fuel deliveries to the major cities, especially the capital, Petrograd the name given to St. Petersburg between 1914 and 1924, continued to decline. The revolt began with a mutiny of the Petrograd garrison, staffed by superannuated reservists; from them it spread to the industrial quarters. Nicholas II, persuaded by his generals that he and his wife were the main obstacle to victory, agreed to abdicate March 2 [March 15, New Style]. Authority was nominally assumed by a provisional government, issued from the Duma and headed by Prince Georgy Lvov. Similar soviets sprang up in other cities. It legislated on its own without bearing responsibility for the consequences. Its effect was to cause a breakdown of discipline in the armed forces. In May representatives of the Petrograd Soviet entered the government, but this action did not stop the slide to anarchy as peasants seized land, soldiers deserted, and ethnic minorities clamored for self-rule. An offensive that the minister of war, Aleksandr Kerensky, launched on June 16 June 29, New Style, in the hope of rallying patriotic spirits soon ran out of steam. Lenin and the Bolsheviks From the beginning of the 20th century there were three principal revolutionary parties in Russia. The Socialist Revolutionary Party, whose main base of support was the peasantry, was heavily influenced by anarchism and resorted to political terror. In the first decade of the century, members of this party assassinated thousands of government officials, hoping in this way to bring down the government. The party split in into two factions, which soon developed into separate parties. The Mensheviks, loyal to traditional Social Democratic teachings, concentrated on developing ties with labour and rejected as premature political revolution in agrarian, largely precapitalist Russia. The Bolsheviks, who in some respects were closer to the Socialist Revolutionaries, believed that Russia was ready for socialism. Their leader, Vladimir Ilich Lenin, was a fanatical revolutionary, who managed to organize a relatively small but totally devoted and highly disciplined party bent on seizing power. Convinced that workers by themselves could not progress beyond peaceful trade-unionism, he wanted the party to direct the working class on the revolutionary path. This attracted the attention of the Germans, who came to realize that they could not win the war unless they somehow succeeded in forcing Russia to sign a separate peace. To this end they generously supplied Lenin with the money necessary to organize his party and build up a press. He had to contend, however, with the majority of his followers who doubted it would succeed. The skeptics were vindicated in July when a putsch led by the Bolsheviks badly misfired. Abandoning his followers, Lenin sought refuge in Finland. After the abortive Bolshevik July rising the chairmanship of the provisional government passed to Kerensky. A Socialist Revolutionary lawyer and Duma deputy, Kerensky was the best-known radical in the country owing to his defense of political prisoners and fiery antigovernment rhetoric. A superb speaker, he lacked the political judgment to realize his political ambitions. Aware that such power as he had rested on the support of the All-Russian Soviet, Kerensky decided that the only threat Russian democracy faced came from the right. By this he meant conservative civilian and military elements, whose most visible symbol was General Lavr Kornilov, a patriotic officer whom he had appointed commander in chief but soon came to see as a rival. To win the support of the Soviet, still dominated by Socialists Revolutionaries and Mensheviks, Kerensky did not prosecute the Bolsheviks for the July putsch and allowed them to emerge unscathed from the debacle. The prime minister confidentially informed Kornilov that the Bolsheviks were planning another coup in Petrograd in early September which was not, in fact, true and requested him to send troops to suppress it. When Kornilov

did as ordered, Kerensky charged him with wanting to topple the government. Accused of high treason, Kornilov mutinied. The mutiny was easily crushed. It was a Pyrrhic victory for Kerensky. His action alienated the officer corps, whose support he needed in the looming conflict with the Bolsheviks. It also vindicated the Bolshevik claim that the provisional government was ineffective and that the soviets should assume full and undivided authority. In late September and October the Bolsheviks began to win majorities in the soviets: The Bolshevik coup The events of February merit the name of Revolution because they were essentially spontaneous. The Bolshevik Central Committee made the decision to seize power at a clandestine meeting held on the night of October 10 October 23, New Style. There were considerable disagreements over the timing: Lenin wanted the coup to be carried out immediately; Trotsky and most of the others preferred to convene a national Congress of Soviets, packed with Bolsheviks, and have it proclaim the overthrow of the provisional government. A compromise was struck: This decided, Lenin returned to his hideaway, leaving the direction of the coup in the hands of Trotsky. Disregarding the authority of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet, dominated as before by the Mensheviks and Socialists Revolutionaries, the Bolsheviks invited those local soviets in which they enjoyed majorities to attend a national congress beginning on October 25 November 7, New Style. In the meantime they built up an armed force to carry out a coup. Since the Bolsheviks were the only organization with an independent armed force, they took over the Military Revolutionary Committee and used it to topple the government. During the night of October 24â€”25, Bolshevik Red Guards peacefully occupied strategic points in Petrograd. On the morning of October 25, Lenin, reemerging from his hideaway, issued a declaration in the name of the Military Revolutionary Committee, which had no authority to do so, that the provisional government was overthrown and all power was assumed by the soviets. The declaration referred neither to the Bolsheviks nor to socialism, for which reason the inhabitants of the city had no inkling how profound a change had occurred.

4: Soviet Union | History, Leaders, Map, & Facts | www.enganchecubano.com

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As it did with Great Britain, the United States shipped weapons, ammunition, and essential supplies to the Soviet Union. As soon as the war was over, perhaps even in its final months, tensions over spheres of influence in Europe began to escalate. One of the flashpoints of conflict was the future of West Berlin, an enclave within the Soviet-controlled East German zone. In 1948, the Soviets blocked land access to West Berlin. For almost a year, American and British airplanes supplied the city, until the blockade ended. Following this era, the nations of West Germany and East Germany came into being. With American encouragement, West Germany achieved extremely rapid economic growth, while East Germany stagnated. In 1949, the stakes between the Americans and the Russians increased when the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb. Between 1950 and 1953, the two sides faced off in Korea, until an uneasy armistice, which still stands today, left the borders between North and South Korea where they had been before the conflict started. The 1950s saw propaganda wars between the two sides. When the Soviets beat the Americans into space, both with unmanned craft Sputnik 1 in 1957 and with the first man in space Yuri Gagarin in 1961, the Americans were stunned. American pride only returned in 1969 with the first Apollo moon landing. Although no one knew it at the time, and would turn out to be pivotal years in the Cold War. Crisis conditions in between the two superpowers were the result, with nuclear options discussed. At a certain point, Soviet and American tanks faced each other at the border at point blank range. Soon after the Cuban crisis ended, the United States began a long and tragic military presence in Southeast Asia, leading to the Vietnam Conflict against the Soviet supported regime of North Vietnam. More than 50,000 Americans died before the military withdrawal from the region in 1975. In the 1980s, the Soviet Union would lose more than 20,000 troops in its unsuccessful occupation of Afghanistan. Both these conflicts were disasters for the countries involved, generating a great deal of internal protest, but the more flexible United States bounced back more readily than did the Soviet Union. International terrorism replaced the Russians as the major threat to the security of the United States.

5: - The complete guide to the Soviet Union by Victor E Louis

March 6, , Page The New York Times Archives. By Victor and Jennifer Louis. St. Martin's. \$ In Leningrad. By Joseph Wechsberg. Doubleday. \$ Visitors to the Soviet Union are.

Check new design of our homepage! Who ruled such a great landmass before its fall? Here is a list of all the leaders of the USSR. Historyplex Staff Last Updated: Oct 25, Did you know? Perestroika meaning reconstruction and Glasnost meaning openness were crucial reforms brought in by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the late s. The Union was dissolved in December The Politburo was formed for directing the revolution. He first led the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic as the head of the government from the year Later, from onwards, he was the leader of the Soviet Union till , when he died. Nationalization of estates and lands, legalizing abortion and homosexuality, and free access to birth control, were some of the path-breaking policies he adopted. Joseph Stalin Period: Stalin remained in the post until it was abolished. He took over as the Premier of the Union later, from onwards. A few highlights of his rule include industrialization and centralization of resources, socialism in one country, etc. Georgy Malenkov Period: This family bond took him to the core group of the party. Handling responsibilities like that of the Soviet missile program during World War II, he gradually headed towards leading the party. However, after the death of Stalin, he executed his duties solely as the Premier, leaving the party activities to Nikita Khrushchev. Considered to have led a failed term, he was expelled from the Politburo and also from the party in the late s. Nikita Khrushchev Period: Supporting the foundational work for the Soviet space program was one of his phenomenal achievements. His domestic policies aimed at improving the life of citizens, and towards agriculture did not prove to be a success. Leonid Brezhnev Period: After Stalin, it was Brezhnev who held the position as the leader of the Soviet Union for such a long period. The years during the mids are referred to as the Era of Stagnation, due to lack of a reformist economy. With most of the budget catering towards the military, the national income saw a decline during his tenure. Yuri Andropov Period: That did not however ask for any deviation from socialist principles. It was during the anti-corruption campaign that actions against some ministers were taken by dismissing them; criminal cases were also lodged against party and state officials. The relations between the US and the Soviet Union were not so great during his term. Konstantin Chernenko Period: He worked for the party in several roles. During his leadership, a trade pact was signed between the Republic of China and the Soviet Union. His policies were similar to those of the Brezhnev period. Mikhail Gorbachev born Period: He was also the first and last President of the Union. An interesting fact is that, he was the only Secretary General who was born after the October Revolution. Besides these policies of reconstruction and openness, his talks with the then United States President Ronald Reagan are said to have ended the Cold War. Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in During the August Coup of , in an attempt by some members of the Soviet government to take over the leadership from Mikhail Gorbachev, he was deposed. They were against the reforms he brought in. It was during this coup that lasted for three days that Gennady Yanayev was made the Acting President 19 to 21 August.

6: Holdings : The complete guide to the Soviet Union / | York University Libraries

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For more information, please see the full notice. Bush did not automatically follow the policy of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, in dealing with Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Union. Instead, he ordered a strategic policy re-evaluation in order to establish his own plan and methods for dealing with the Soviet Union and arms control. Boris Yeltsin makes a speech from atop a tank in front of the Russian parliament building in Moscow, U. While Bush supported these independence movements, U. With the policy review complete, and taking into account unfolding events in Europe, Bush met with Gorbachev at Malta in early December. Following the May elections, Gorbachev faced conflicting internal political pressures: Facing a growing schism between Yeltsin and Gorbachev, the Bush administration opted to work primarily with Gorbachev because they viewed him as the more reliable partner and because he made numerous concessions that promoted U. When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the United States and the Soviet leadership worked together diplomatically to repel this attack. In January, violence erupted in Lithuania and Latvia. Soviet tanks intervened to halt the democratic uprisings, a move that Bush resolutely condemned. By, the Bush administration reconsidered policy options in light of the growing level of turmoil within the Soviet Union. Three basic options presented themselves. The administration could continue to support Gorbachev in hopes of preventing Soviet disintegration. Alternately, the United States could shift support to Yeltsin and the leaders of the Republics and provide support for a controlled restructuring or possible breakup of the Soviet Union. The final option consisted of lending conditional support to Gorbachev, leveraging aid and assistance in return for more rapid and radical political and economic reforms. Unsure about how much political capital Gorbachev retained, Bush combined elements of the second and third options. The Soviet nuclear arsenal was vast, as were Soviet conventional forces, and further weakening of Gorbachev could derail further arms control negotiations. Bush administration officials also, however, increased contact with Yeltsin. The unsuccessful August coup against Gorbachev sealed the fate of the Soviet Union. He resigned his leadership as head of the Communist party shortly thereafter—separating the power of the party from that of the presidency of the Soviet Union. The Central Committee was dissolved and Yeltsin banned party activities. A few days after the coup, Ukraine and Belarus declared their independence from the Soviet Union. The Baltic States, which had earlier declared their independence, sought international recognition. Amidst quick, dramatic changes across the landscape of the Soviet Union, Bush administration officials prioritized the prevention of nuclear catastrophe, the curbing of ethnic violence, and the stable transition to new political orders. The basic message was clear—if the new republics could follow these principles, they could expect cooperation and assistance from the United States. Baker met with Gorbachev and Yeltsin in an attempt to shore up the economic situation and develop some formula for economic cooperation between the republics and Russia, as well as to determine ways to allow political reforms to occur in a regulated and peaceful manner. On December 25, , the Soviet hammer and sickle flag lowered for the last time over the Kremlin, thereafter replaced by the Russian tricolor. Earlier in the day, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned his post as president of the Soviet Union, leaving Boris Yeltsin as president of the newly independent Russian state. People all over the world watched in amazement at this relatively peaceful transition from former Communist monolith into multiple separate nations. With the dissolution of Soviet Union, the main goal of the Bush administration was economic and political stability and security for Russia, the Baltics, and the states of the former Soviet Union. Bush recognized all 12 independent republics and established diplomatic relations with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. In February, Baker visited the remaining republics and diplomatic relations were established with Uzbekistan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Civil war in Georgia prevented its recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States until May. Leaders from Kazakhstan and Ukraine visited Washington in May. During his

visits to Washington, politics, economic reforms, and security issues dominated the conversations between Yeltsin and Bush. Of paramount concern was securing the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union and making certain nuclear weapons did not fall into the wrong hands. Baker made it clear that funding was available from the United States to secure nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the former Soviet Union. Bush and Baker also worked with Yeltsin and international organizations like the World Bank and IMF to provide financial assistance and hopefully prevent a humanitarian crisis in Russia.

7: Jennifer Louis (Author of The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union)

The Soviet Union: the land and its people / with an introd. by A. Perpillou and translated by E.D. Laborde. DK 17 J82 HN Country Life picture book of Russia.

8: Soviet Union - Wikipedia

A Complete List of Leaders of the Soviet Union (USSR) The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, was at its greatest with reference to the area it covered during the period of and

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