

1: Joseph Stalin - HISTORY

The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was the development that took Japanese wariness of the Soviet Union to an unprecedented level. Policy orientation toward Japan under Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko changed very little from that of the Brezhnev years.

The eastern part in Asia extended to the Pacific Ocean to the east and Afghanistan to the south, and was much less lived in than the western part. Its five climatic different weather, temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure zones were tundra, taiga, steppes, desert, and mountains. Two thirds of the Soviet border was coastline of the Arctic Ocean. Across the Bering Strait was the United States. History The last Russian Tsar translated Caesar, which means emperor, Nicholas II, ruled Russia until March, when the Russian Empire was taken over and a short-lived "provisional government" replaced it, led by Alexander Kerensky and soon to be overthrown in November by Bolsheviks. The Soviet Union was officially created in December as the union of the Russian also known as Bolshevik Russia, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Transcaucasian Soviet republics ruled by the communist Bolshevik parties. Revolution and the foundation of a workers nation Extreme government-changing activity in the Russian Empire began with the Decembrist Revolt of, and although serfdom was removed in, its removal was achieved on terms unfavorable to the peasants poor agricultural workers and served to encourage changers revolutionaries. A parliament legislative assembly "the State Duma" was created in after the Russian Revolution of, but the Tsar protested people trying to move from absolute to constitutional monarchy. Rebellion continued and was aggravated during World War I by failure and food shortages in popular cities. Vladimir Lenin talking to a crowd in The tsarist autocracy was replaced by the Russian "Provisional government", whose leaders intended to have elections to Russian Constituent Assembly and to continue war on the side of the Entente in World War I. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, pushed for socialist revolution in the Soviets and on the streets. In November, during the "October Revolution", they took power from the Provisional Government. In December, the Bolsheviks signed an armistice peace with the Central Powers. In March, after more fighting, the Soviets quit the war for good and signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. In the long and bloody Russian Civil War the new Soviet power won. The civil war between the Reds and the Whites started in and ended in It included the Siberian Intervention and other foreign interference, the killing of Nicholas II and his family and the famine in, which killed about 5 million. In March, during a related conflict with Poland, the Peace of Riga was signed and split disputed territories in Belarus and Ukraine between the Republic of Poland and Soviet Russia. The Soviet Union had to resolve similar conflicts with the newly established Republic of Finland, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania which had all escaped the empire during the civil war. The big changes of the economy, industry and politics of the country began in the early days of Soviet power in A large part of this was performed according to Bolshevik Initial Decrees, documents of the Soviet government, signed by Vladimir Lenin. One of the most important and notable breakthroughs was the GOELRO plan, that planned a major change of the Soviet economy based on total electrification of the country. The Plan was developed in and covered a to year period. It included the making of a network of 30 regional power stations, including ten large hydroelectric power plants, and numerous electric-powered large industrial organizations. The Plan became the prototype for subsequent Five-Year Plans and was basically fulfilled by Organized religion was suppressed in the Soviet Union. From its beginning years, government in the Soviet Union was ruled as a one-party state by the Communist Party Bolsheviks. After the economic policy of War Communism during the Civil War, the Soviet government permitted some private enterprise to coexist with nationalized industry in the s and total food requisition in the countryside was replaced by a food tax see New Economic Policy. Gulag camps greatly expanded to take millions of prisoners. After the revised constitution, the Soviet Union stopped acting as a union of republics and more as a single super-country. He came to power after he convinced the government to overthrow Nikita Krushchev. He was awarded Hero of the Soviet Union The highest honour on three separate occasions. Brezhnev was succeeded by Yuri Andropov, who died a few years later. Andropov was succeeded by the frail and aging Konstantin Chernenko. Chernenko died a year

after taking office. The games were heavily boycotted by the western nations, particularly the United States. During the closing ceremony, the flag of the City of Los Angeles was raised instead of the flag of the United States to symbolise the next host Summer Olympics and the anthem of the Olympics was played instead of the anthem of the United States. Brezhnev was the second longest serving Soviet leader after Stalin. The following is a list of leaders General Secretary of the Communist Party in order of their tenure and length of leadership:

2: Cold War (â€“) - Wikipedia

In the Soviet Union's seventy-year history there was no official leader of the Soviet Union office, but during most of that era there was a de facto top leader who usually led the country through the office of Premier or the office of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

According to Washington, it was a threatening state that needed to be confronted and contained. The East-West struggle shaped relations between states, economies, cultures and peoples from to The conflict was a geo-political and ideological struggle, which not only involved armies and resources, but ideas and values. Zubok to produce the first international study recounting the struggle from the perspective of the Kremlin. Zubok explores the motives which drove the Soviet Union to confront the United States and its allies. The paradigm is a dualistic concept in which Soviet behavior is explained by the interaction between traditional imperial motives and the messianic revolutionary ideals of Russian communism. On the other hand, messianic communist ideals, which date back to Bolshevik upheaval of , represent the Leninist aspiration to spread world revolution. Zubok uses this dualistic framework to explain the shifting nature of Soviet policies from Joseph Stalin to Mikhail Gorbachev. His book is divided into ten chapters which trace each leader and the significant phases of the Cold War. Zubok asserts Stalin mobilized his people for conflict using ideological rhetoric, but desired to control various regions to create a security buffer zone. Kremlin leaders believed the more territory the Soviet Union conquered the safer the state would be. The goal was to gain control of Eastern Europe and the Balkans; within these regions Soviet ideology would also be promoted. For Stalin, security and regime-building were two sides of the same coin. According to Zubok, Soviet policy was the main factor which contributed to the origins of the Cold War. A new foreign policy developed which sought to reopen ties with the West. Policymakers within the Kremlin hoped to curtail the effects of the militarization of the Cold War. The new policy intended to gain flexibility for Moscow on the international stage. Despite the formation of a new policy, Zubok claims the revolutionary-imperial paradigm still guided Soviet leaders. The Soviet Union had acquired a vast empire by and the Kremlin was not about to give it up. What was important to Khrushchev was to maintain the spread of communism. During his tenure, the Kremlin increased its support for Third World nationalists, wrangled with the United States over Berlin and Cuba, and threatened nuclear war. Zubok next examines the rule of Leonid Brezhnev between and Shaped by his experience in the Second World War, Brezhnev hoped to avoid war at all costs. The desire for peace did not mean the Iron Curtain would be rolled back nor the revolutionary-imperial paradigm abandoned. Brezhnev wanted to secure the Soviet empire by creating a period of stability between the superpowers. Brezhnev renounced the use of force and enhanced relations with Washington, but the Kremlin never stopped its military build-up or its ideological expansionism in the Third World. Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in hoping to reform the Soviet system. It was a bold and ultimately failed effort. In the Iron Curtain was torn asunder and two years later the Soviet Union collapsed. In evaluating the end of the Cold War, Zubok does not give credit to the Reagan administration. The aggressive policies of the United States only served to prolong the conflict. Zubok asserts that Gorbachev did more than anyone else to end the Cold War â€” in this, he echoes the opinion of Reagan himself who always credited Gorbachev with bring the cold war to an end. Ultimately, the collapse of the Soviet empire came from within â€” the economic problems gave rise to reformist policies which eroded the strength of the revolutionary-imperial paradigm and the power of the Soviet Union. A Failed Empire is a momentous study which exposes the policies of the Soviet Union. Economics hardly figures into the work and the geopolitical reasoning for Soviet intervention in the Third World is not fully explored. Brezhnev and Gorbachev appear to shape the Cold War on their own. In addition, grass roots movements which gained momentum after the signing of the Helsinki Accords in are not examined. These movements played a major role in eroding Soviet power in the s. He does not center his work on the superpower conflict. He also spends many chapters on the domestic impact of the Cold War and successfully explores the role of personalities in the struggle. Overall, A Failed Empire is a compelling work which reminds us that the Cold War looked different to those on the Soviet side. Zubok, A Failed Empire: University of North Carolina Press, , ix. In the

YEARS OF THE AGING SOVIET LEADERS pdf

background is St. May 31, Source: Kennedy sit in the residence of the U. June 3, Source:

3: Soviet Union Facts for Kids

The Soviet Union was a world superpower that helped to shape and define almost the whole 20th century. The Soviet Union formed out of the ashes of World War One, was a victor of World War Two and went on to challenge the United States as a world superpower during the Cold War.

The last Russian tsar , Nicholas II , ruled until March and was executed with his family the following year. The Soviet Union was established in December as the union of the Russian colloquially known as Bolshevik Russia , Ukrainian , Belarusian , and Transcaucasian Soviet republics ruled by Bolshevik parties. Modern revolutionary activity in the Russian Empire began with the Decembrist Revolt of , and although serfdom was abolished in , its abolition was achieved on terms unfavorable to the peasants and served to encourage revolutionaries. A parliament, the State Duma , was established in , after the Revolution , but political and social unrest continued and was aggravated during World War I by military defeat and food shortages in major cities. Lenin on the Tribune by Alexander Gerasimov. The tsarist autocracy was replaced by the Provisional Government , whose leaders intended to establish liberal democracy in Russia and to continue participating on the side of the Allies in World War I. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin , agitated for socialist revolution in the soviets and on the streets. Only after the long and bloody Russian Civil War of , which included foreign intervention in several parts of Russia, was the new Communist regime secure. The Red Army became infamous for burning entire villages full of people and sending the men to labor camps for sometimes harboring deserters from the army. The Cheka also had to put down numerous rebellions by the peasants because of food requisition. In a related conflict with Poland , the " Peace of Riga " in early split disputed territories in Belarus and Ukraine between Poland and Soviet powers. From its first years, government in the Soviet Union was based on the one-party rule of the Communist Party Bolsheviks. By gradually consolidating his influence and isolating his rivals within the party Joseph Stalin became the leader of the Soviet Union by the end of the s. In , Stalin introduced the First Five-Year Plan for building a socialist economy, now, unlike the internationalism expressed by Lenin and Trotsky throughout the course of the Revolution, "in one country. Collectivization met widespread resistance from peasants, resulting in a bitter struggle against the authorities in many areas, famine, and estimated millions of deaths. Social upheaval continued in the mids. Meanwhile, countless Soviet citizens were jailed and sent to Gulags Chief Administration for Corrective Labor Camps , a vast network of forced-labor camps, or executed. Yet despite the turmoil of the mid- to late s, the Soviet Union developed a powerful industrial economy in the years before World War II. Photograph by Yevgeniy Khaldey. In late November , unable to gain control of the strategic port of Petsamo by diplomatic means, Stalin ordered the invasion of Finland. Although it has been debated whether the Soviet Union had the intention of invading Nazi Germany once it was strong enough, Germany itself broke the treaty and invaded the Soviet Union in The Red Army stopped the Nazi offensive in the Battle of Stalingrad , lasting from late to early , being the major turning point, and drove through Eastern Europe to Berlin before Germany surrendered in see Great Patriotic War. Although ravaged by the war, the Soviet Union emerged from the conflict as an acknowledged superpower. During the immediate postwar period, the Soviet Union first rebuilt and then expanded its economy, while maintaining its strictly centralized control. First human in space, Yuri Gagarin. Joseph Stalin died on March 5 , In the absence of an acceptable successor, the highest Communist Party officials opted to rule the Soviet Union jointly, although a struggle for power took place behind the facade of collective leadership. At the same time, Soviet military force was used to suppress democratic uprisings in Hungary and Poland in Following the ousting of Khrushchev, another period of rule by collective leadership ensued, lasting until Leonid Brezhnev established himself in the early s as the preeminent figure in Soviet political life. Another contributing factor was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December After some experimentation with economic reforms in the mids, the Soviet leadership reverted to established means of economic management. Industry showed slow but steady gains during the s, while agricultural development continued to lag. Throughout the period, the Soviet Union maintained parity with the United States in the areas of military technology, but this expansion ultimately crippled the economy. Two

developments dominated the decade that followed: After the rapid succession of Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko, transitional figures with deep roots in Brezhnevite tradition, beginning in Mikhail Gorbachev made significant changes in the economy see Perestroika, Glasnost and the party leadership. His policy of glasnost freed public access to information after decades of government regulations. The Soviet flag as it was lowered over the Kremlin for the last time. In the late s, constituent republics of the Soviet Union started asserting sovereignty over their territories or even declaring independence, citing Article 72 of the USSR Constitution, which stated that any constituent republic was free to secede. Many held their first free elections in the Soviet era for their own national legislatures in . Many of these legislatures proceeded to produce legislation contradicting the Union laws in what was known as "The War of Laws. Boris Yeltsin was elected the chairman of the Congress. The period of legal uncertainty continued throughout as constituent republics slowly became de-facto independent. A referendum for the preservation of the USSR was held on March 17, 1991, with the majority of the population voting for preservation of the Union in most republics. The referendum gave Gorbachev a minor boost, and, in the summer of 1991, a new Union Treaty was designed and agreed upon by most republics which would have turned the Soviet Union into a much looser federation. The balance of power tipped significantly towards the republics. Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania immediately declared their independence, while the other 12 republics continued discussing new, increasingly looser, models of the Union. While doubts remained over the authority of the Belavezha Accords to dissolve the Union, on December 21, 1991, the representatives of all Soviet republics except Georgia, including those republics that had signed the Belavezha Accords, signed the Alma-Ata Protocol, which confirmed the dismemberment and consequential extinction of the USSR and restated the establishment of the CIS. The summit of Alma-Ata also agreed on several other practical measures consequential to the extinction of the Union. On December 25, 1991, Gorbachev yielded to the inevitable and resigned as the president of the USSR, declaring the office extinct. He turned the powers that until then were vested in the presidency over to Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia. The following day, the Supreme Soviet, the highest governmental body of the Soviet Union, recognized the collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolved itself. This is generally recognized as the official, final dissolution of the Soviet Union as a functioning state. Many organizations such as the Soviet Army and Police forces continued to remain in place in the early months of 1992 but were slowly phased out and either withdrawn from or absorbed by the newly independent states. In the late s, the government appeared to have many characteristics in common with liberal democratic political systems. For instance, a constitution established all organizations of government and granted to citizens a series of political and civic rights. The Supreme Soviet, which had an elected chairman who functioned as head of state, oversaw the Council of Ministers, which acted as the executive branch of the government. The chairman of the Council of Ministers, whose selection was approved by the legislative branch, functioned as head of government. A constitutionally based judicial branch of government included a court system, headed by the Supreme Court, that was responsible for overseeing the observance of Soviet law by government bodies. According to the Soviet Constitution, the government had a federal structure, permitting the republics some authority over policy implementation and offering the national minorities the appearance of participation in the management of their own affairs. In practice, however, the government differed markedly from Western systems. In the late s, the CPSU performed many functions that governments of other countries usually perform. For example, the party decided on the policy alternatives that the government ultimately implemented. The CPSU used a variety of mechanisms to ensure that the government adhered to its policies. The party, using its nomenklatura authority, placed its loyalists in leadership positions throughout the government, where they were subject to the norms of democratic centralism. Party bodies closely monitored the actions of government ministries, agencies, and legislative organs. The content of the Soviet Constitution differed in many ways from typical Western constitutions. It generally described existing political relationships, as determined by the CPSU, rather than prescribing an ideal set of political relationships. The Constitution was long and detailed, giving technical specifications for individual organs of government. The Constitution included political statements, such as foreign policy goals, and provided a theoretical definition of the state within the ideological framework of Marxism-Leninism. The CPSU leadership could radically change the constitution or remake it completely, as

it did several times throughout its history. The Council of Ministers acted as the executive body of the government. Its most important duties lay in the administration of the economy. The council was thoroughly under the control of the CPSU, and its chairman - the Soviet prime minister - was always a member of the Politburo. The council, which included more than members, was too large and unwieldy to act as a unified executive body. The main tasks of the congress were the election of the standing legislature, the Supreme Soviet, and the election of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who acted as head of state. The Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers had substantial authority to enact laws, decrees, resolutions, and orders binding on the population. The judiciary was not independent. The Supreme Court supervised the lower courts and applied the law as established by the Constitution or as interpreted by the Supreme Soviet. The Constitutional Oversight Committee reviewed the constitutionality of laws and acts. The Soviet Union lacked an adversarial court procedure known to common law jurisdictions. Rather, Soviet law utilised the system derived from Roman law, where judge, procurator and defense attorney worked collaboratively to establish the truth. The Soviet Union was a federal state made up of fifteen republics joined together in a theoretically voluntary union. In turn, a series of territorial units made up the republics. The republics also contained jurisdictions intended to protect the interests of national minorities. The republics had their own constitutions, which, along with the all-union Constitution, provide the theoretical division of power in the Soviet Union. In , however, the CPSU and the central government retained all significant authority, setting policies that were executed by republic, provincial, oblast, and district governments. For more details on this topic, see Soviet law. The head of government was considered the Premier, and the head of state was considered the President. The Soviet leader could also have one or both of these positions, along with the position of General-Secretary of the party.

4: List of leaders of the Soviet Union | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

In this area, despite their recognition of the crisis, the aging Soviet leaders made no effective attempt to reform the rigidities of centralized economic planning. And as the standard of living declined, political repression increased.

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 1918, 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 him and undercut 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 1928 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 1926 and became a full member of the Communist Party in 1928. 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 1957. Brezhnev continued to help him rise through the ranks, with Chernenko gaining full membership to the Central Committee in 1961. 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 . He worked to provide more freedoms and reforms to the Soviet people with his policies of glasnost and perestroika openness and restructure. In 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 Gorbachev was grappling with different groups waging war and demanding independence, along with a sputtering Soviet economy. By the end of December of , 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 . The coup collapsed after three days due to the growing popularity of Boris Yeltsin, and Yanayev was arrested. He was pardoned in and spent the rest of his life working for the Russian tourism administration until his death in . 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.

5: Soviet Union - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Arthur Adair Hartman, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Videotaped Remarks Washington, DC May 14, Following are excerpts of an interview conducted by Elisa Becker of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, March 20,

By autumn of 1985, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev had been in power for three riveting years as general secretary of the Communist Party. Open, ebullient, reform-minded, and charismatic, Gorbachev had brought a new and refreshing style, as well as hope, to a people whose economy and self-confidence had deteriorated. Here was a Soviet leader who, more than anyone else on either side of the Cold War, had contributed to its thaw. Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan had signed a landmark arms treaty and even dared to discuss at the Reykjavik Summit their mutual dream of a world without nuclear weapons. Bush prepared to succeed Reagan as president. But, just over three years later, the Soviet Union would collapse, dividing into 15 independent states. His promotion of greater personal and social freedoms were just, but had made the country harder to govern. His liberal platform at home and campaign to lower Cold War tensions with the United States led the KGB, military, and party hardliners to overthrow him for three excruciating days in August 1991. Get The Weekender in your inbox: Sign Up Thank you for signing up! The future Soviet leader came from a family of peasant farmers in the North Caucasus. He also witnessed the harsh occupation of his own region by German troops. Gorbachev was a star there and after as he quickly climbed the Communist Party ladder in his native Stavropol and eventually to Moscow as the brightest young star in the Politburo in 1985. He was also opportunistic, courting the favor of visiting Politburo officials vacationing in the rugged North Caucasus where Gorbachev worked for most of his first three decades in the Soviet system. After the aging leaders Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov, and Konstanin Chernenko all died in rapid succession starting in 1982, a divided Politburo chose the young Gorbachev for the top post in 1985. From the start, he made economic reform his top priority. But his effort stumbled due to outmoded infrastructure, falling productivity, alcoholism and, especially, excessive control by party apparatchiks in Moscow. From his first months in office, Gorbachev recognized that his country could not survive a prolonged, expensive arms race with the much wealthier United States. Another reason he became determined to seek peace involved the Chernobyl disaster of 1986, which taught him that no country could survive the catastrophe of nuclear war. In 1987, Gorbachev, Bush, and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl negotiated the unification of a German nation that had been divided since 1945. These two extraordinary diplomatic accomplishments testify to the newfound trust between the former rivals. Why did Gorbachev fail in his quest to remake the Soviet system? First, Taubman notes, he was far from a perfect leader. Second, he had the bad luck of the Chernobyl catastrophe and waited far too long to withdraw from the disastrous Afghan War. Third, those nationalities unjustly imprisoned in the Soviet Union such as the Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians fought for and deserved their own independence. Most importantly, he never accepted that the only way to save his country was to quit the failing communist system instead of trying to fix it. Advertisement When the end came, it was bitter indeed. Gorbachev called Bush on Christmas morning as the hammer and sickle of the now collapsed union was about to be lowered from the Kremlin. Russian critics of the left and right blame him for what Vladimir Putin has called the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century – the fall of the once great Soviet Union. Just as the legacy of American presidents wax and wane over time, Gorbachev may one day be rehabilitated in the judgment of his fellow Russians. A decade or more from now, Putin and his Soviet-trained generation of leaders will also pass from power. Perhaps then, Taubman concludes in this magisterial book, a younger generation might begin to appreciate anew the extraordinary optimism, hope, and courage that Gorbachev brought to the Kremlin three decades ago when he changed the world for the better.

6: Soviet Union - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For many years, Soviet leaders maintained that the underlying causes of conflict between nationalities of the Soviet Union had been eliminated and that the Soviet Union consisted of a family of nations living harmoniously together.

Visit Website Stalin grew up poor and an only child. His father was a shoemaker and alcoholic who beat his son, and his mother was a laundress. As a boy, Stalin contracted smallpox, which left him with lifelong facial scars. As a teen, he earned a scholarship to attend a seminary in the nearby city of Tblisi and study for the priesthood in the Georgian Orthodox Church. In , Stalin was expelled from the seminary for missing exams, although he claimed it was for Marxist propaganda. Visit Website After leaving school, Stalin became an underground political agitator, taking part in labor demonstrations and strikes. He adopted the name Koba, after a fictional Georgian outlaw-hero, and joined the more militant wing of the Marxist Social Democratic movement, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin. Stalin also became involved in various criminal activities, including bank heists, the proceeds from which were used to help fund the Bolshevik Party. He was arrested multiple times between and , and subjected to imprisonment and exile in Siberia. Ekaterina perished from typhus when her son was an infant. They had two children, a boy and a girl. Nadezhda committed suicide in her early 30s. Stalin also fathered several children out of wedlock. Three years later, in November , the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. The Soviet Union was founded in , with Lenin as its first leader. During these years, Stalin had continued to move up the party ladder, and in he became secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, a role that enabled him to appoint his allies to government jobs and grow a base of political support. After Lenin died in , Stalin eventually outmaneuvered his rivals and won the power struggle for control of the Communist Party. By the late s, he had become dictator of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union Under Joseph Stalin Starting in the late s, Joseph Stalin launched a series of five-year plans intended to transform the Soviet Union from a peasant society into an industrial superpower. His development plan was centered on government control of the economy and included the forced collectivization of Soviet agriculture, in which the government took control of farms. The forced collectivization also led to widespread famine across the Soviet Union that killed millions. Stalin ruled by terror and with a totalitarian grip in order to eliminate anyone who might oppose him. He expanded the powers of the secret police, encouraged citizens to spy on one another and had millions of people killed or sent to the Gulag system of forced labor camps. During the second half of the s, Stalin instituted the Great Purge, a series of campaigns designed to rid the Communist Party, the military and other parts of Soviet society from those he considered a threat. Additionally, Stalin built a cult of personality around himself in the Soviet Union. Cities were renamed in his honor. Soviet history books were rewritten to give him a more prominent role in the revolution and mythologize other aspects of his life. He was the subject of flattering artwork, literature and music, and his name became part of the Soviet national anthem. His government also controlled the Soviet media. Stalin then proceeded to annex parts of Poland and Romania, as well as the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He also launched an invasion of Finland. Stalin had ignored warnings from the Americans and the British, as well as his own intelligence agents, about a potential invasion, and the Soviets were not prepared for war. As German troops approached the Soviet capital of Moscow, Stalin remained there and directed a scorched earth defensive policy, destroying any supplies or infrastructure that might benefit the enemy. The tide turned for the Soviets with the Battle of Stalingrad , from August to February , during which the Red Army defeated the Germans and eventually drove them from Russia. As the war progressed, Stalin participated in the major Allied conferences, including those in Tehran and Yalta His iron will and deft political skills enabled him to play the loyal ally while never abandoning his vision of an expanded postwar Soviet empire. He prosecuted a reign of terror, purges, executions, exiles to labor camps and persecution in the postwar USSR, suppressing all dissent and anything that smacked of foreignâ€”especially Westernâ€”influence. He established communist governments throughout Eastern Europe, and in led the Soviets into the nuclear age by exploding an atomic bomb. Stalin, who grew increasingly paranoid in his later years, died on March 5, , at age 74, after suffering a stroke. By some estimates, he was responsible for the

deaths of 20 million people during his brutal rule. Start your free trial today.

7: Gorbachev: a tragic hero - The Boston Globe

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.

The eastern part in Asia extended to the Pacific Ocean to the east and Afghanistan to the south, and was much less lived in than the western part. Its five climatic different weather, temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure zones were tundra, taiga, steppes, desert, and mountains. Two thirds of the Soviet border was coastline of the Arctic Ocean. Across the Bering Strait was the United States. History[change change source] The last Russian Tsar emperor, Nicholas II, ruled Russia until March, when the Russian Empire was taken over and a short-lived "provisional government" replaced it, led by Alexander Kerensky and soon to be overthrown in November by Bolsheviks. The Soviet Union was officially created in December as the union of the Russian also known as Bolshevik Russia, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Transcaucasian Soviet republics ruled by the communist Bolshevik parties. Revolution and the foundation[change change source] Extreme government-changing activity in the Russian Empire began with the Decembrist Revolt of, and although serfdom was removed in, its removal was achieved on terms unfavorable to the peasants poor agricultural workers and served to encourage changers revolutionaries. A parliament legislative assembly "the State Duma" was created in after the Russian Revolution of, but the Tsar protested people trying to move from absolute to constitutional monarchy. Rebellion continued and was aggravated during World War I by failure and food shortages in popular cities. The tsarist autocracy was replaced by the Russian "Provisional government", whose leaders intended to have elections to Russian Constituent Assembly and to continue war on the side of the Entente in World War I. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, pushed for socialist revolution in the Soviets and on the streets. In November, during the "October Revolution", they took power from the Provisional Government. In December, the Bolsheviks signed an armistice peace with the Central Powers. In March, after more fighting, the Soviets quit the war for good and signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. In the long and bloody Russian Civil War the new Soviet power won. The civil war between the Reds and the Whites started in and ended in. It included the Siberian Intervention and other foreign interference, the killing of Nicholas II and his family and the famine in, which killed about 5 million. In March, during a related conflict with Poland, the Peace of Riga was signed and split disputed territories in Belarus and Ukraine between the Republic of Poland and Soviet Russia. The Soviet Union had to resolve similar conflicts with the newly established Republic of Finland, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania which had all escaped the empire during the civil war. The big changes of the economy, industry and politics of the country began in the early days of Soviet power in. A large part of this was performed according to Bolshevik Initial Decrees, documents of the Soviet government, signed by Vladimir Lenin. One of the most important and notable breakthroughs was the GOELRO plan, that planned a major change of the Soviet economy based on total electrification of the country. The Plan was developed in and covered a to year period. It included the making of a network of 30 regional power stations, including ten large hydroelectric power plants, and numerous electric-powered large industrial organizations. The Plan became the prototype for subsequent Five-Year Plans and was basically fulfilled by. Organized religion was suppressed in the Soviet Union. From its beginning years, government in the Soviet Union was ruled as a one-party state by the Communist Party Bolsheviks. After the economic policy of War Communism during the Civil War, the Soviet government permitted some private enterprise to coexist with nationalized industry in the s and total food requisition in the countryside was replaced by a food tax see New Economic Policy. Gulag camps greatly expanded to take millions of prisoners. After the revised constitution, the Soviet Union stopped acting as a union of republics and more as a single super-country. Leonid Brezhnev[change change source] Leonid Brezhnev led the Soviet Union from until his death in. He came to power after he convinced the government to overthrow the then-leader Nikita Krushchev. He had many self-awarded medals. He was awarded Hero of the Soviet Union the highest honor on three separate occasions. Brezhnev was succeeded by

YEARS OF THE AGING SOVIET LEADERS pdf

Yuri Andropov , who died a few years later. Andropov was succeeded by the frail and aging Konstantin Chernenko. Chernenko died a mere year after taking office. The games were heavily boycotted by the western nations, particularly the United States. Brezhnev was the second longest serving Soviet leader after Stalin. The Following is a list of leaders General Secretary of the Communist Party in order of their tenure and length of leadership:

8: Leaders Throughout The History Of The Soviet Union - www.enganchecubano.com

Deng's commitment to replacing the aging leaders suffered a setback, however. When faced with demands for political reforms by students and citizens throughout China in , Deng ordered the military to move in and clear Tiananmen Square, where they were demonstrating for greater freedom of speech and press, and greater accountability on the.

Leadership transition[edit] By , the stagnation of the Soviet economy was obvious, as evidenced by the fact that the Soviet Union had been importing grain from the U. A huge rate of defense spending consumed large parts of the economy. The transition period that separated the Brezhnev and Gorbachev eras resembled the former much more than the latter, although hints of reform emerged as early as Andropov interregnum[edit] Brezhnev died on 10 November Two days passed between his death and the announcement of the election of Yuri Andropov as the new General Secretary , suggesting to many outsiders that a power struggle had occurred in the Kremlin. Andropov maneuvered his way into power both through his KGB connections and by gaining the support of the military by promising not to cut defense spending. For comparison, some of his rivals such as Konstantin Chernenko were skeptical of a continued high military budget. Aged 69, he was the oldest person ever appointed as General Secretary and 11 years older than Brezhnev when he acquired that post. In June , he assumed the post of chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, thus becoming the ceremonial head of state. It had taken Brezhnev 13 years to acquire this post. Andropov began a thorough house-cleaning throughout the party and state bureaucracy, a decision made easy by the fact that the Central Committee had an average age of He replaced more than one-fifth of the Soviet ministers and regional party first secretaries and more than one-third of the department heads within the Central Committee apparatus. As a result, he replaced the aging leadership with younger, more vigorous administrators. The transition of power from Brezhnev to Andropov was notably the first one in Soviet history to occur completely peacefully with no one being imprisoned, killed, or forced from office. In tandem with such economic experiments, Andropov launched an anti-corruption drive that reached high into the government and party ranks. Unlike Brezhnev, who possessed several mansions and a fleet of luxury cars, he lived quite simply. The official press agency TASS accused Reagan of "thinking only in terms of confrontation and bellicose, lunatic anti-communism". In Afghanistan , Angola , Nicaragua and elsewhere, under the Reagan Doctrine , the US began undermining Soviet-supported governments by supplying arms to anti-communist resistance movements in these countries. Many Europeans became convinced that the US and not the Soviet Union was the more aggressive country, and there was fear over the prospect of a war, especially since there was a widespread conviction in Europe that the US, being separated from the Red Army by two oceans as opposed to a short land border, was insensitive to the people of Germany and other countries. Moreover, the memory of World War II was still strong and many Germans could not forget the destruction and mass rapes committed by Soviet troops in the closing days of that conflict. His most significant legacy to the Soviet Union was his discovery and promotion of Mikhail Gorbachev. Beginning in , Gorbachev advanced in two years through the Kremlin hierarchy to full membership in the Politburo. His responsibilities for the appointment of personnel allowed him to make the contacts and distribute the favors necessary for a future bid to become general secretary. At this point, Western experts believed that Andropov was grooming Gorbachev as his successor. Chernenko interregnum[edit] At 71, Konstantin Chernenko was in poor health, suffering from emphysema, and unable to play an active role in policy making when he was chosen, after lengthy discussion, to succeed Andropov. Chernenko advocated more investment in consumer goods and services and in agriculture. However, KGB repression of Soviet dissidents also increased. This policy was underlined in June when Vladimir Danchev, a broadcaster for Radio Moscow, referred to the Soviet troops in Afghanistan as "invaders" while conducting English-language broadcasts. After refusing to retract this statement, he was sent to a mental institution for several months. Valery Senderov, a leader of an unofficial union of professional workers, was sentenced to seven years in a labor camp early in the year for speaking out on discrimination practiced against Jews in education and the professions. Fighting in the Afghan Democratic Republic also intensified, but in the late autumn of the United States and the Soviet Union did agree to resume arms control talks in early Changing of the guard[edit]

After years of stagnation, the "new thinking" Anatoli Cherniaev, During his official confirmation on March 11, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko spoke of how the new Soviet leader had filled in for Chernenko as CC Secretariat, and praised his intelligence and flexible, pragmatic ideas instead of rigid adherence to party ideology. Gorbachev was aided by a lack of serious competition in the Politburo. The defense establishment was also given a thorough shakeup with the commanders of all 16 military districts replaced along with all theaters of military operation, as well as the three Soviet fleets. Sixty-eight-year-old Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov was fully rehabilitated after having fallen from favor in 1984 due to his handling of the KAL shootdown and his ideas about improving Soviet strategic and tactical doctrines were made into an official part of defense policy, although some of his other ambitions such as developing the military into a smaller, tighter force based on advanced technology were not considered feasible for the time being. Many, but not all, of the younger army officers appointed during were proteges of Ogarkov. Gorbachev got off to an excellent start during his first months in power. He projected an aura of youth and dynamism compared to his aged predecessors and made frequent walks in the streets of the major cities answering questions from ordinary citizens. He became the first leader that spoke with the Soviet people in person. When he made public speeches, he made clear that he was interested in constructive exchanges of ideas instead of merely reciting lengthy platitudes about the excellence of the Soviet system. He also spoke candidly about the slackness and run-down condition of Soviet society in recent years, blaming alcohol abuse, poor workplace discipline, and other factors for these situations. In terms of foreign policy, the most important one, relations with the United States, remained twitchy through In October, Gorbachev made his first visit to a non-communist country when he traveled to France and was warmly received. The fashion-conscious French were also captivated by his wife Raisa and political pundits widely believed that the comparatively young Soviet leader would have a PR advantage over President Reagan, who was 20 years his senior. Reagan and Gorbachev met for the first time in Geneva in November. The three weeks preceding the summit meeting were marked by an unprecedented Soviet media campaign against the Strategic Defense Initiative SDI, taking advantage of opposition at home in the US to the program. A joint communique by both parties stated that they were in agreement that nuclear war could not be won by either side and must never be allowed to happen. It was also agreed that Reagan and Gorbachev would carry out two more summit meetings in 1985. Tensions between the superpowers increased during this time, when Carter placed trade embargoes on the Soviet Union and stated that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was "the most serious threat to the peace since the Second World War. This thesis is not confirmed by the extensive study on the causes of the dissolution of the Soviet Union by two prominent economists from the World Bank— William Easterly and Stanley Fischer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Afghan war and the Soviet response to Mr. And the defense effort throughout the period from to contributed only marginally to economic decline. The gradual opening of markets was too slow and not deep enough to leave any significant economic reforms until it was too late to prevent the collapse of the USSR. This "long-term strategic offensive," which "contrasts with the essentially reactive and defensive strategy of "containment", accelerated the fall of the Soviet Union by encouraging it to overextend its economic base. He pointed out that the Saudis decreased their production of oil in 1973 it reached a year low, whereas the peak of oil production was reached in 1970 They increased the production of oil in 1971, reduced it in 1972 with a subsequent increase in 1973, but not to the levels of when production reached its highest level. The real increase happened in 1974, by which time the Cold War was almost over. The new wave of industrialization based upon information technology had left the Soviet Union desperate for Western technology and credits in order to counter its increasing backwardness. Under this provision, cooperative restaurants, shops, and manufacturers became part of the Soviet scene. Glasnost resulted in greater freedom of speech and the press becoming far less controlled. Thousands of political prisoners and many dissidents were also released. State archives became more accessible, and some social statistics that had been kept secret became open for research and publication on sensitive subjects such as income disparities, crime, suicide, abortion, and infant mortality. In January 1988, Gorbachev called for democratization: A conference convened by Soviet economist and Gorbachev adviser Leonid Abalkin, concluded: Gorbachev, as General Secretary of the Communist Party, could be forced to resign at any moment if the communist elite became dissatisfied with him. To proceed with reforms

opposed by the majority of the communist party, Gorbachev aimed to consolidate power in a new position, President of the Soviet Union, which was independent from the CPSU and the soviets councils and whose holder could be impeached only in case of direct violation of the law. At the same time, Article 6 of the constitution was changed to deprive the CPSU of a monopoly on political power. Initially intended as tools to bolster the Soviet economy, the policies of perestroika and glasnost soon led to unintended consequences. Relaxation under glasnost resulted in the Communist Party losing its absolute grip on the media. Before long, and much to the embarrassment of the authorities, the media began to expose severe social and economic problems the Soviet government had long denied and actively concealed. Problems receiving increased attention included poor housing, alcoholism, drug abuse, pollution, outdated Stalin-era factories, and petty to large-scale corruption, all of which the official media had ignored. Media reports also exposed crimes committed by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet regime, such as the gulags, his treaty with Adolf Hitler, and the Great Purges, which had been ignored by the official media. Moreover, the ongoing war in Afghanistan, and the mishandling of the Chernobyl disaster, further damaged the credibility of the Soviet government at a time when dissatisfaction was increasing. In all, the positive view of Soviet life long presented to the public by the official media was rapidly fading, and the negative aspects of life in the Soviet Union were brought into the spotlight. By following his doctrine of "new political thinking", Gorbachev had repudiated the Brezhnev Doctrine in favor of non-intervention in the internal affairs of its Warsaw Pact allies "Sinatra Doctrine". Gradually, each of the Warsaw Pact countries saw their communist governments fall to popular elections and, in the case of Romania, a violent uprising. The Soviet Union also began experiencing upheaval as the political consequences of glasnost reverberated throughout the country. Massive peaceful protests in the Baltic republics such as the Baltic Way and the Singing Revolution drew international attention and bolstered independence movements in various other regions. The rise of nationalism under freedom of speech soon re-awakened simmering ethnic tensions in various Soviet republics, further discrediting the ideal of a unified Soviet people. Violence against local Azerbaijanis was reported on Soviet television, provoking massacres of Armenians in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait. Emboldened by the liberalized atmosphere of glasnost, public dissatisfaction with economic conditions was much more overt than ever before in the Soviet period. The reforms made some inroads in decentralization, but Gorbachev and his team left intact most of the fundamental elements of the Stalinist system, including price controls, inconvertibility of the ruble, exclusion of private property ownership, and the government monopoly over most means of production. Government spending increased sharply as an increasing number of unprofitable enterprises required state support and consumer price subsidies to continue. Tax revenues declined as republic and local governments withheld tax revenues from the central government under the growing spirit of regional autonomy. Dissolution of the Soviet Union The dissolution of the Soviet Union was a process of systematic disintegration, which occurred in the economy, social structure and political structure. The process was caused by a weakening of the Soviet government, which led to disintegration and took place from about 19 January to 31 December. Andrei Grachev, the Deputy Head of the Intelligence Department of the Central Committee, summed up the denouement of the downfall quite cogently: It was still that this country was governed and kept together, as a structure, as a government structure, by the fear from Stalinist times. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. February Learn how and when to remove this template message The principal elements of the old Soviet political system were Communist Party dominance, the hierarchy of soviets, state socialism, and ethnic federalism. He implemented these measures because he wanted to resolve serious economic problems and political inertia that clearly threatened to put the Soviet Union into a state of long-term stagnation. But by using structural reforms to widen opportunities for leaders and popular movements in the union republics to gain influence, Gorbachev also made it possible for nationalist, orthodox communist, and populist forces to oppose his attempts to liberalize and revitalize Soviet communism. Although some of the new movements aspired to replace the Soviet system altogether with a liberal democratic one, others demanded independence for the national republics. Still others insisted on the restoration of the old Soviet ways. Ultimately, Gorbachev could not forge a compromise among these forces and the consequence was the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The subsidies

to money-losing farms and industries were cut, price controls abolished, and the ruble moved towards convertibility. After obtaining power, the vast majority of "idealistic" reformers gained huge possessions of state property using their positions in the government and became business oligarchs in a manner that appeared antithetical to an emerging democracy.

9: Russia - The Brezhnev Era

The history of the Soviet Union from through spans the period from Leonid Brezhnev's death and funeral until the dissolution of the Soviet www.enganchecubano.com to the years of Soviet military buildup at the expense of domestic development, economic growth stagnated.

Deng Xiaoping Mao Zedong Mao Zedong was one of the historic figures of the twentieth century. A founder of the CCP Chinese Communist Party, he played a major role in the establishment of the Red Army and the development of a defensible base area in Jiangxi province during the late 1920s and early 1930s. He consolidated his rule over the Party in the years after the Long March and directed overall strategy during the Sino-Japanese War and the civil war. He formally assumed the post of Party Chairman in 1955. His reliance on the peasantry a major departure from prevailing Soviet doctrine and dependence on guerrilla warfare in the revolution were essential to the Communist triumph in China. These included land reform, the collectivization of agriculture, and the spread of medical services. In particular, this leader of the revolution remained alert to what he saw to be new forms of oppression and sensitive to the interests of the oppressed. In 1958 he advocated a self-reliant "Great Leap Forward" campaign in rural development. During the early 1960s, Mao continued his restless challenge of what he perceived as new forms of domination in his words, "revisionism," or "capitalist restoration". When Liu, Deng, and others seemed to be ignoring his call to "never forget class struggle," Mao initiated the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," exploiting discontent among some students the "Red Guards" and others. The Cultural Revolution was successful in removing many who opposed his policies but led to serious disorder, forcing Mao to call in the military to restore order in 1969. But Mao came to have doubts about Lin and soon challenged him politically. In 1971 Lin was killed in a plane crash while fleeing China after an alleged assassination attempt on Mao. Until his death, a failing Mao refereed a struggle between those who benefited from the Cultural Revolution and defended its policies, and rehabilitated veterans who believed that the Cultural Revolution had done China serious harm. It seemed for a while that the veterans, led by Deng Xiaoping, had won the day. Mao chose the more centrist Hua Guofeng to carry on his vision. His leadership, especially the Cultural Revolution initiative, has been hotly debated. From Focus on Asian Studies, Vol. The Asia Society, Zhou Enlai Zhou Enlai was, for decades, one of the most prominent and respected leaders of the Communist movement. Born into an upper-class family, he was drawn into the vortex of Chinese politics during the May Fourth Movement. In 1920 he traveled to Europe on a work-study program in which he met a number of future CCP leaders. He joined the Party in 1922 and returned to China in 1924, becoming the political commissar of the Whampoa Military Academy in Canton during the first united front with the Nationalists. But Zhou was always most prominent during periods in which the CCP reached out to otherwise hostile political forces. He passed the foreign minister portfolio to Chen Yi in 1958 but continued to play an active role in foreign policy. With the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Zhou advocated an opening to Japan and the West to counter the Russian threat. That same year Zhou was diagnosed as having cancer, and he began shedding some of his responsibilities, especially to Deng Xiaoping who was rehabilitated in April 1978. Amid radical attacks on him during the Anti-Confucius Campaign, Zhou entered the hospital during and died on January 8, 1976. Zhou continued to affect Chinese politics even after his death. With the purge of the "Gang of Four" in October 1976, his policy of "four modernizations" received the full endorsement of the new leadership. He held prominent positions in the government in the 1950s and 1960s, but he was removed from office and imprisoned during the years of the Cultural Revolution. His family was persecuted. He set the course of reform by dismantling the communes set up under Mao and replaced them with the Household Responsibility System HRS, within which each household must be held accountable to the state for only what it agrees to produce, and is free to keep surplus output for private use. In addition to this program, which was an incentive for households to produce more, Deng encouraged farmers to engage in private entrepreneurship and sideline businesses in order to supplement their incomes. Deng Xiaoping said that "practice is the sole criterion of truth," and believed that only by experimenting with alternative forms of production and entrepreneurial activity would China find the best path for economic development. As Deng said, "it does not matter if a cat is black or white so long as it

catches the mouse;" it no longer matters if an economic policy is capitalist or socialist, in other words, as long as it results in economic growth. Deng also wanted to set up an arrangement whereby leadership succession would take place according to legal guidelines rather than personality struggles. In general, he hoped to establish a social and political order governed by "rule by law, not by man. When faced with demands for political reforms by students and citizens throughout China in , Deng ordered the military to move in and clear Tiananmen Square, where they were demonstrating for greater freedom of speech and press, and greater accountability on the party of government. Economically, China has entered a very difficult period characterized by unemployment and general uncertainty. Also unclear is how history will view the role and achievements of Deng Xiaoping in light of the events at Tiananmen Square.

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