

Russian and Central Asian Politics
February 6, 2019

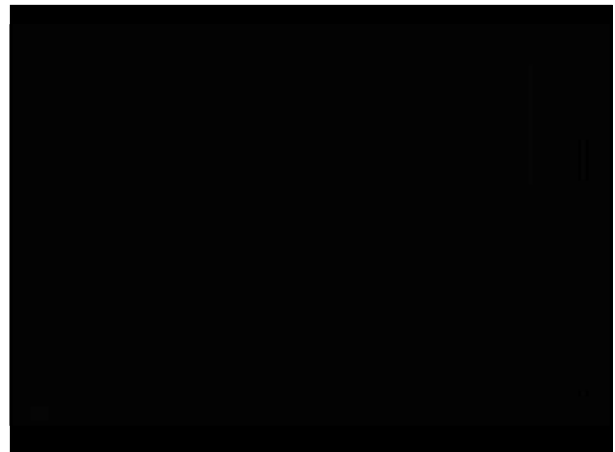
jimbutterfield.org/3440.html



December 31, 1991

USSR President and Secretary-General
of the Communist Party resigns.

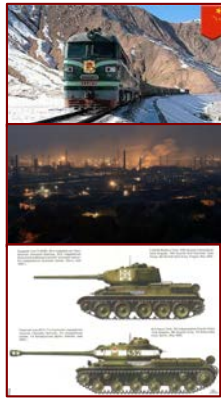
The USSR ceases to exist at midnight.



USSR: Accomplishments

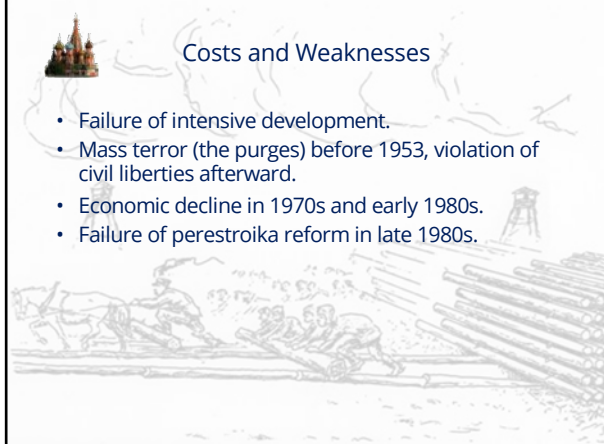
- Extensive development.
- Socialist social contract: basic goods.
 - Housing, nutrition, health care, education, employment.
- Multinationalism.
- High levels of education, including higher education.
- R&D in STEM* fields.

* Science, technology, engineering and math.



Costs and Weaknesses

- Failure of intensive development.
- Mass terror (the purges) before 1953, violation of civil liberties afterward.
- Economic decline in 1970s and early 1980s.
- Failure of perestroika reform in late 1980s.



Why did the USSR collapse?

- Remember: complex events have complex and multiple causes.
- Political reasons: closed system → no feedback loops. Corruption.
- Economic reason: inefficiency.
- Social reason: broken social contract.
- Ethnic reason: failure of Soviet identity.

Table 1.4 U.S.S.R.: Population (De Jure) by Nationality

(in thousands)	Nationality	1979	1989
TOTAL		252,085	285,743
Russian		137,397	145,155
Ukrainian		42,347	44,186
Uzbek		12,456	16,695
Belorussian		9,463	10,036
Kazakh		6,556	8,136
Azerbaijani		5,477	6,770
Tatar		6,317	6,649
Armenian		4,151	4,623
Tadzhik		2,898	4,215
Georgian		3,571	3,981
Moldavian		2,968	3,352
Lithuanian		2,851	3,067
Turkmen		2,028	2,729
Kirgiz		1,906	2,529
People of Dagestan		1,857	2,065
Avar		483	601
Lezgin		383	466
Darghin		287	365
Kumyk		228	282
Lak		100	118
Tabasaran		75	98
Nogay		60	75
Rutul		15	20
Tsaikhur		14	20
Agul		12	19
German		1,938	2,039
Chuvash		1,761	1,842
Lithuan		1,439	1,459
Bashkir		1,371	1,449
Jewish		1,811	1,378
Moravian		1,192	1,154
Polish		1,151	1,126
Estonian		1,020	1,027
Chechen		756	957

Table 1.4 U.S.S.R.: Population (De Jure) by Nationality - Continued

(in thousands)	Nationality	1979	1989
Udmurt		714	747
Mari		622	671
Osetian		542	598
Korean		389	439
Karakalpak		303	424
Buryat		353	421
Kalashin		322	391
Yakut		328	382
Bulgarian		361	373
Komi		327	345
Criman Tatar		132	272
Uyghur		211	263
Gisay		209	262
Tuvu		166	207
Turkash		93	208
Navar		168	184
Gagaur		173	188
People of the North		30	35
Evenk		27	30
Khant		21	23
Chukchi		14	15
Even		13	17
Nenets		11	12
Koryak		7.9	9.2
Nivkh		7.6	8.5
Dolgian		5.1	6.9
Selkup		4.4	4.7
Nenets		3.6	3.6
Ufich		2.6	3.2
Yakut		1.4	2.6
Udegey		1.6	2.0
Swam		1.3	1.9
Esikim		1.5	1.7
Iganian		.9	1.3

Table 1.4 U.S.S.R.: Population (De Jure) by Nationality - Continued

(in thousands)	Nationality	1979	1989
Chuvash		(*)	1.5
Kel		1.1	1.1
Yukagir		.8	1.1
Oroch		1.2	.9
Totari		.8	.7
Abkhazian		.5	.7
Nagidai		.5	.6
Ork		(NA)	.2
En		(*)	.2
Kalmuk		147	174
Hungarian		171	171
Karachayev		131	156
Kordian		116	193
Komi-Permyak		151	152
Rumanian		129	146
Karel		138	131
Alyghy		109	126
Abkhaz		105	91
Balkar		66	85
Khakas		77	80
Altay		60	71
Darghin		52	69
French		77	82
Cherkas		46	52
Polish		31	40
Middle Asiatic Jewish		28	36
Abazin		29	34
Tat		31	31
Beluzh		19	29
Armenian		25	26
Talysh		1.4	2.0
Mountain Jewish		9.4	1.9
Shor		1.7	1.7
Czechs		1.8	1.6
Jewish-Georgian		8.5	1.6
Veps		8.1	1.3

Table 1.4 U.S.S.R.: Population (De Jure) by Nationality - Continued

(in thousands)	Nationality	1979	1989
Chinese		12	11
Slovak		9.4	9.1
Udin		6.9	8
Arab		6.8	7.7
Alghaz		4.0	6.7
Albanian		4.3	4.0
Vietnamese		2.8	3.4
Spanish		3.0	3.2
Khalkha-Mongolian		3.2	3
Cuban		2.6	2.8
Serbian		1.7	2.7
Karavay		3.3	2.6
People of India and Pakistan		1.7	1.7
Krymchak		3.0	1.4
Italian		1.0	1.3
Dutch		.7	.8
Ihor		.7	.8
Japanese		.2	.8
French		.8	.7
Austrian		.6	.5
American		.1	.3
Polish		.2	.3
Other and unidentified*		1.1	1.2
		25	32

(NA) Not available.

NOTES: Nationality of adults is based on the self-identification of census respondents, while the nationality of children (up to age 18) is based on the declaration of their parents.

*En includes En for 1979. En were separately enumerated in the 1989 census.

*Chukchi includes Chuvash for 1979. Chuvash were separately enumerated in the 1989 census.

*Other nationality includes those for whom nationality was not reported on the census form.

Ethnolinguistic Groups in the Caucasian Region



[This map is on the web site on the Maps page.]



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- Remember: complex events have complex and multiple causes.
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- Political reasons: closed system → no feedback loops. Corruption.
- Ethnic reason: failure of Soviet identity.
- Social reason: broken social contract.
- International reason: "imperial overreach."

1990s: The Triple Transition

- Political transition: communism to democracy.
- Economic transition: central planning to a market economy.
- Identity transition: from building communism to a different future.



Political Transition: Agenda

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Communism | • Post-communism |
| – Top institution: communist party | – Deliberative legislature |
| – Rubber-stamp courts, legislature | – Independent courts |
| – Highly centralized | – Decentralization (federalism optional) |
| – Closed political system | – Competitive elections |
| – Non-competitive elections | – Multi-party system |