

The Breakup of the Soviet Union

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Global History II
Mepham High School

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Brezhnev



'DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I'M AFRAID SOMEBODY IS FOLLOWING US'

Breakup of the Soviet Union

- The Soviet Union was a multinational state. People in non-Russian republics opposed Russian domination. In 1991, the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania regained their independence. Soon, all the Soviet republics declared their independence. The Soviet Union ceased to exist.



This letter is to
inform you that
LET'S BREAK UP.

BEFORE
the fall
of the
Soviet
Union

Soviet Union, East and South Asia



AFTER the fall of the Soviet Union

Commonwealth of Independent States

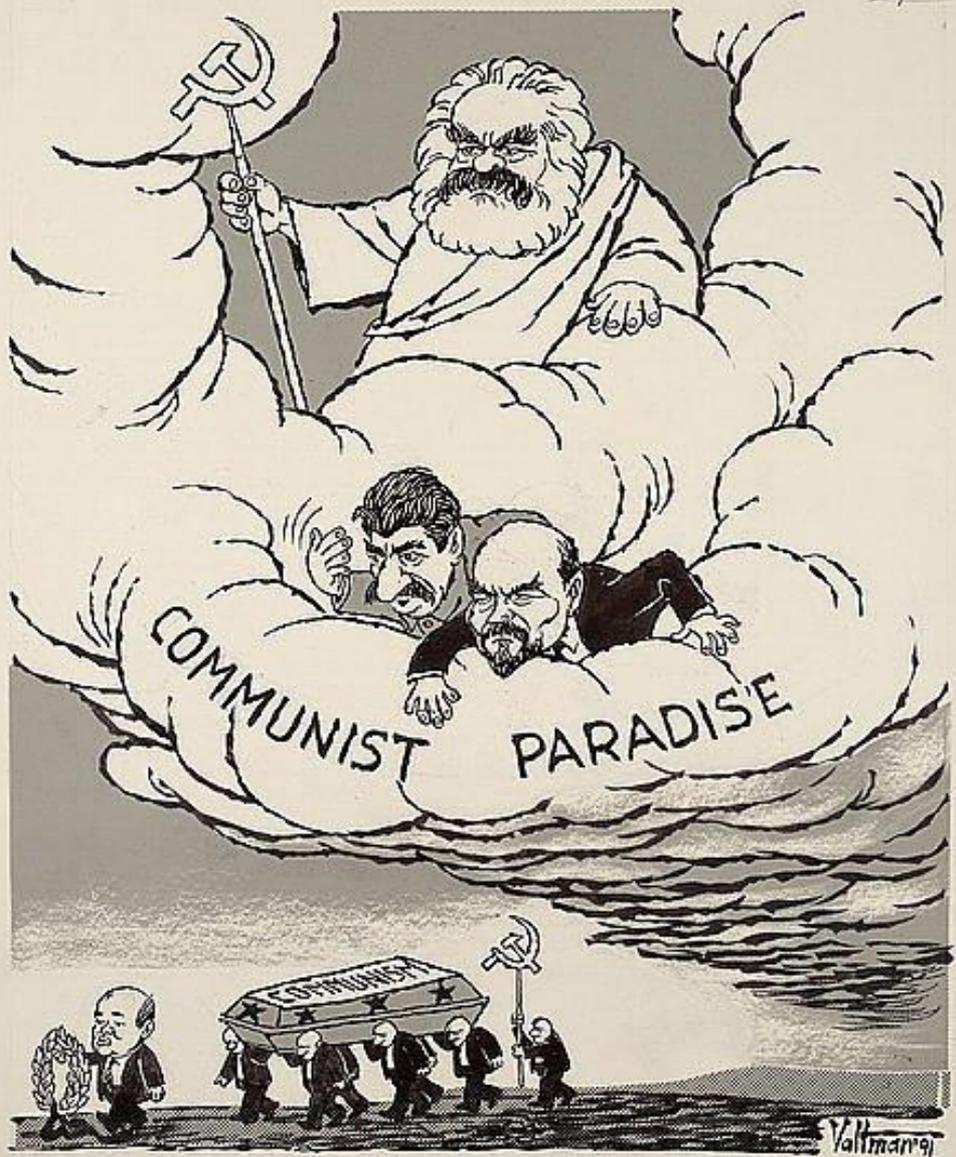


- New States formed:
- Russia
 - Ukraine
 - Kazakhstan
 - Byelorussia
 - Lithuania
 - Latvia
 - Estonia
 - Uzbekistan
 - Tajikistan
 - Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Turkmenistan
 - Moldova Kyrgrzstan

Aug. 31



Sept. 20



'I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!'



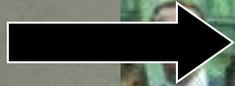
Boris Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin (1990-1999)

- New Russian president
- Struggles to make change from communism to democracy
- Industries and farms were privatized (shares of stock were sold or given to private individuals)
- Each Russian received a certificate authorizing trade in stock.



Boris
Yeltsin



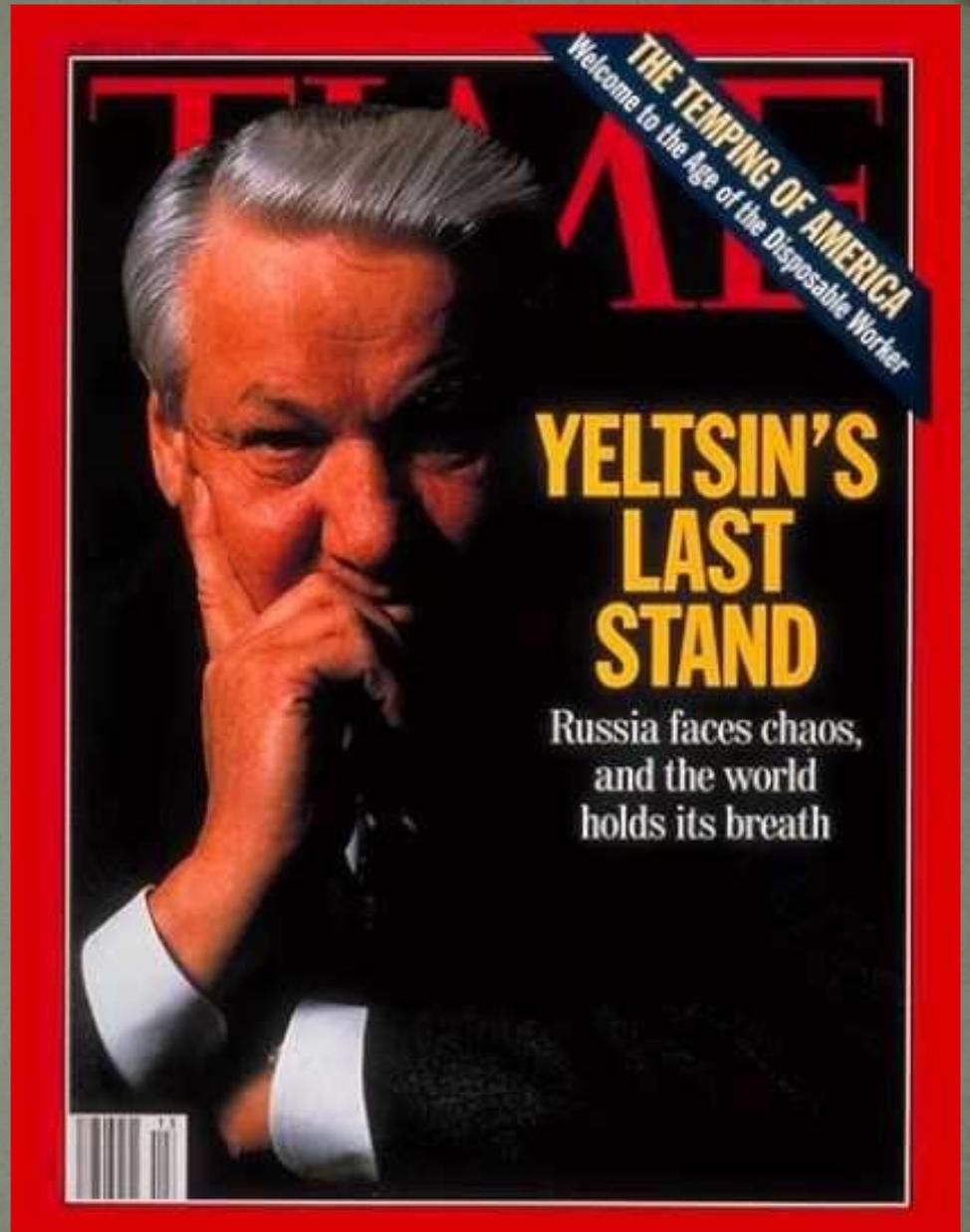
STANDING UP FOR FREEDOM: August 19, 1991 - President Boris Yeltsin stood atop an armored personnel carrier in Moscow. He was trying to convince Russians to resist a government takeover by communism. Russians showed courage and their love for freedom by ending Soviet domination. At this time, what most Russians wanted was peace.

Boris Yeltsin (contd)

- One of the hardest challenges was changing the state-run command economy (government officials make all the basic economic decisions) to a market economy (goods and services are determined by the people)
- Under communism, no one had to worry about losing their job if they were not productive enough. NOW a free market economy requires best business efficiency.

Boris Yeltsin (contd)

- Those that had made a lot of \$\$ and had power under communism were now afraid of losing everything once Yeltsin came to power
- Economic problems got worse
- Food shortages and unemployment rose
- In 1999 Yeltsin resigned



Vladimir Putin



Vladimir Putin



- Voters CHOSE Putin to replace Yeltsin.
- For the first time in Russian history, power passed peacefully from one elected leader to another.
- Putin curbed power of regional leaders and exerted control over the Duma (Russia's legislature).

Putin (contd).



- Putin wanted a new relationship with the West
- 2001 - Negotiated a friendship and trade agreement with North Korea and China
- 2002 - Russia signed a nuclear arms reduction agreement with the United States and began a new era of cooperation with NATO.

Putin (contd).

- Improved Russian economy by increasing oil production
- Began economic reforms (allowing the free purchase and sale of land and tax cuts) and tried to join the World Trade Organization
- Although Putin's policies have led to economic growth, there are growing concerns about his control of dissidents (critics of the government) and the future of democracy in Russia
- President Putin became very authoritarian, imprisoning people that opposed him

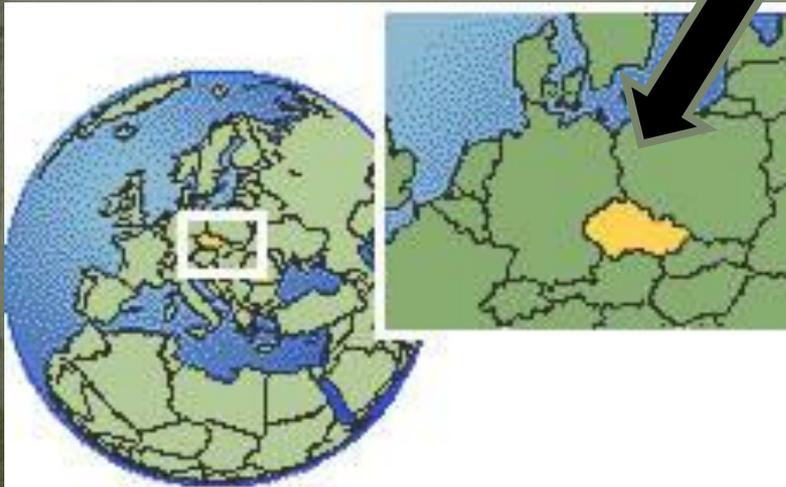


New Problems & Ethnic Tensions



Ethnic Tensions

- Under communism, ethnic tension in multinational states had been suppressed.
- With the fall of the Soviet Union, they had resurfaced.
- Czechoslovakia split peacefully into two separate countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



- In other areas, ethnic divisions often resulted in open warfare.
- In early 1990s, Armenia and neighboring Azerbaijan fought over a small area in Azerbaijan where many Armenians lived.
- Armenia eventually gained control of the area



- In the Balkan peninsula, ethnic conflict was a problem in Yugoslavia
- The Chechen people (whose Muslim culture is very different from the Russians) have fought for their independence for 150 years.
- 1991 – Soviet Union collapses and Russia refuses to recognize Chechnya as an independent nation
- WAR between Chechnya and Russia
- Today, Chechnya declares its independence and Russia refuses to acknowledge it.

Chechnya



DIRECTIONS: Before you close the presentation, write this question on an index card!

What were the longer lasting effects of the fall of the Soviet Union?