

The Effects of the Collapse of the Soviet Union

Collapse of the Soviet Union

- In June 1991, Boris Yeltsin is the first elected President of the Russian Federation.
- After an unsuccessful coup to remove Gorbachev from power, the Soviet communists lost power in government. Gorbachev officially resigns Dec. 25, 1991.
- The 15 Soviet satellite republics all declared their independence and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
- The Soviet Union officially dissolves in December 1991.



Problems in Russia

- Yeltsin starts “shock therapy” which was an abrupt change to capitalism from a socialist economy.
- By 1993, this led to high inflation and economic hardship for the people.
- Chechnya, a former Soviet satellite, declared independence in 1991. However, Russia did not grant it independence because it wanted access to Chechnya’s vast oil resources. Chechnya rebelled and has been fighting against Russia ever since. (Use terror tactics).
- Vladimir Putin becomes President in 1999.



Czechoslovakia

- After WW1, the land known as Czechoslovakia broke apart from what was the Austria-Hungary Empire.
- While the majority of people were Czechs, there was a large minority of Slovaks living in the land too.
- After the Germans were defeated during WW2, the Soviets occupied Czechoslovakia making it a communist country.



Czechoslovakia

- In late 1989, the Velvet Revolution ended communism in the country. It was called the Velvet Revolution because it was such a smooth transition of power.
- The Slovaks did not feel that they were being represented well in the Czech dominated government.
- In 1993, a peaceful split of the country was negotiated, and the nations of Czech Republic and Slovakia are established.



Yugoslavia

- Yugoslavia was a federal system with six republics: Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Montenegro.
- In 1945, Yugoslavia becomes communist when Soviet forces occupy after WW2. Marshall Tito is a strict Communist president of the country.
- When he dies (1980), the republics want their independence and greater economic prosperity.



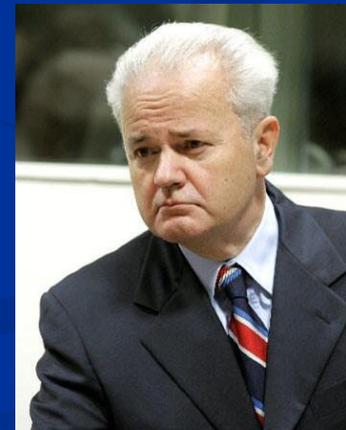
Yugoslavia

- Reforms were often met with violence.
- Slovenia was the first republic to secede, and Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia followed.
- In Serbia and Montenegro, “ethnic cleansing” (genocide) between Muslims and Christians occurred. NATO approved peacekeeping troops to stop the genocide.



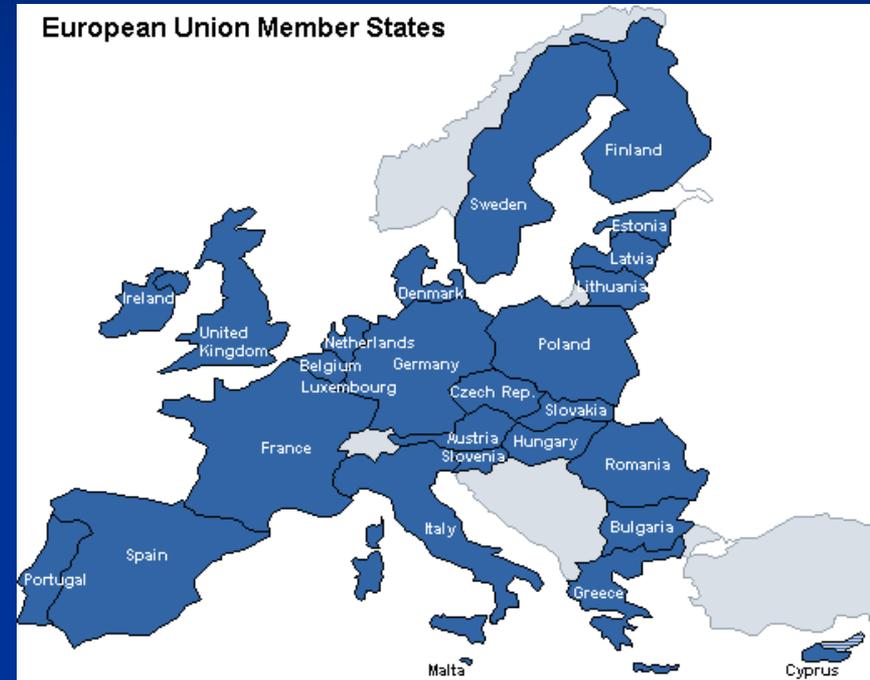
Yugoslavia

- Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic encouraged the ethnic cleansing. The United Nations put him on trial for “crimes against humanity” in 2001.
- By 2006, Serbia and Montenegro split into two independent nations.
- Ethnic violence also occurred in Kosovo beginning in 1999. (The U.S. through NATO still has peacekeeping troops there!) In 2008, Kosovo received its independence from Serbia.



European Union

- During the Cold War, the European Economic Community (EEC) was formed to increase trade among the European countries by taking away the taxes on trade.
- In 1993, the group renames itself the European Union (EU).



European Union

- Characteristics of the EU:
 - Single currency (Euro)
 - Focus on common defense, democratic ideas, foreign policy
 - 28 member nations from Western and Eastern Europe

NAFTA

- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Created in 1994
- Creates the world's largest free trade area among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

