The End of the Cold War

An Empire in Decline
- Andropov/Chernenko
  o Both old, died shortly
  o Wanted reform
- Helsinki Accords
  o 1975
  o First conference on security and cooperation
    ▪ 35 nations signed
  o Human rights, economic/scientific collaboration
- The Gorbachev Era
  o Mikhail Gorbachev
    ▪ Came to power in 1985
    ▪ Criticized corruption within party
    ▪ Acknowledged economy was lagging
  o Major internal reforms
    ▪ Perestroika
      • Restructuring of the economy
        o Privatization allowed to a degree
    ▪ Glasnost
      • Openness
      • Freedom of speech and press
    ▪ Democratization
      • Multi-candidate elections
      • Weakened communist party
        • Led to collapse of Soviet Union
  o Changes in foreign policy
    ▪ Improve connections and trade with the West
    ▪ Abandoned Brezhnev Doctrine
      • Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Albania all make reforms away from communism
        • Soviet Union does not use force
    ▪ Restrictions on nuclear weapons
      • SALT I and SALT II
    ▪ Breaks down Berlin Wall
      • November 9th, 1989
      • 100,000s of people emigrate
      • German Reunification October 3rd, 1990
        o Reforms allowed by Egon Krenz

The fall of the Soviet Union
- Reasons
  o Un-willingness of Gorbachev to fight to hold onto republics
  o Increased economic competition from the US
    ▪ President Ronald Reagan’s idea to economically bankrupt Soviets
  o Outdated Soviet Factories
  o Lessened stature of Red Army
    ▪ Defeat in Afghanistan
    ▪ Shadow of former glory
- **Fall of communist support worldwide**
  - Democratization
  - Liberalization

- **Economic Stagnation and Capitalization**
  - Permitting Individual Enterprise (1986)
  - More Power to Factories (1987)
  - Legalized Co-operatives (1988)

- **Technological Inferiority to west**
  - Star Wars

- **Countries in Inner Empire encouraged by split of outer empire**
  - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania movements to split off

---

**The End of the Union**

- **Boris Yeltsin**
  - Originally leader of Supreme Soviet
  - Elected President in June 1991
  - Declared Independence from Soviet Union in 1991
    - Established Russian Federation
      - Russia and many of its small Republics
  - August 18th, 1991 Attempted Coup
    - Led by KGB against Gorbachev and Yeltsin
    - People rose up against Army
    - Yeltsin’s famous speech on top of a tank
    - Yeltsin hailed as a Hero
      - Gorbachev loses power

---

**Final Stages**

- Nov 6, 1991 – Banning of Communist Party in Russia
- Dec 8, 1991 – Soviet Union Dissolved
- Dec 24, 1991 – Russian Federation Replaces Soviet Union at UN
- Dec 25, 1991 – Gorbachev Resigns Soviet Union Completely Gone
  - Soviet Flag lowered from Kremlin

---

**Fall of Communism in Eastern Bloc**

- **Erich Honecker**
  - East German
  - Did not want to make reforms
    - Resigned and fled to Chile
  - Succeeded by Egon Krenz
    - Forced out of office by People’s council
      - Allowed for democratic elections

- **Lech Walesa**
  - Poland
  - “Solidarity”
    - Illegal organization of trade unions
    - Gdansk
    - Asking for free elections
    - 10 million members
    - 1981 suspended
      - Walesa arrested
    - 1989 finally won Prime Minister elections
      - No more communism
- **Nikolai Ceausescu**
  - Dictator of Romania
  - Did not want to give up power
    - Forced to step down
  - Arrested, put on trial, and executed
    - December 25, 1989
    - Hundreds volunteered to carry out sentence
      - Guards had guns on automatic
        - Used full clips
    - Ten hours to establish a new government
- **Warsaw Pact dissolved**
  - March 1991
- **Velvet Revolution**
  - November 1989
  - Led by students
    - Vaclav Havel
      - Leader
      - Playwright
    - Demonstration swelled to 500,000 people
  - Communist party steps down
  - **Velvet Divorce**
    - 1993
    - Czechoslovakia splits into Czech Republic and Slovakia
      - Czechs primarily non-religious or protestant and Slovaks primarily catholic
    - Soft revolution
      - No bloodshed

**Eastern Europe in 1993**

Russians protesting soviet crackdown on Lithuania, 1990