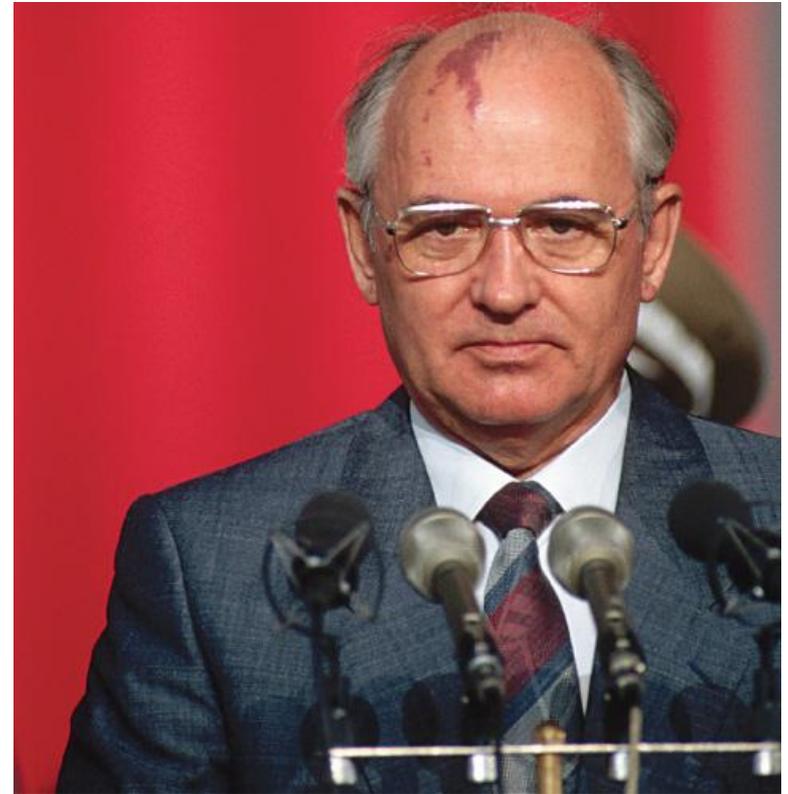


Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union



Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The beginning of the end
 - Mikhail Gorbachev (b. 1931) assumed leadership of Communist Party in 1985
 - Critical of repressive aspects of communism and the sluggish economy
 - *Glasnost* (intellectual candor) and *perestroika* (economic restructuring)



Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The beginning of the end
 - Called for the shift from a centrally planned economy to a mixed economy
 - Freed a number of Soviet dissidents
 - Revoked Brezhnev doctrine

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The beginning of the end
 - Gorbachev and perestroika
 - Competitive elections to official positions and term limits
 - Shift to a mixed economy
 - Integrating the Soviet Union into the international economy

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The beginning of the end
 - Too little, too late
 - Ethnic unrest
 - Secession movements

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- Eastern Europe after Gorbachev
 - Poland—Solidarity launched new wave of strikes in 1988
 - Hungary—new reform government under the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party
 - Purged of communist members in 1989

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- Eastern Europe after Gorbachev
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Demonstrations against Soviet domination
 - The Civic Forum—opposition coalition
 - Free elections
 - Mass demonstrations
 - Threats of a general strike
 - Václav Havel (b. 1936) elected president



Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- Eastern Europe after Gorbachev
 - East Germany
 - Severe economic stagnation and environmental degradation
 - Massive illegal emigration of East Germans to the West

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- Eastern Europe after Gorbachev
 - November 4, 1989: East Germany opened its border with Czechoslovakia
 - November 9, 1989: The Berlin Wall was breached
 - [Tom Brokaw report from the Wall 1989](#)
- A united Germany (October 3, 1990)



Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The velvet revolution
 - Romania under Nicolae Ceaușescu (1918–1989)
 - <http://www.biography.com/people/nicolae-ceausescu-38355#awesm=~oF0FHiMRGtYbaE>
 - Single-party governments collapsed
 - Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia claimed independence from Moscow
 - Lithuania and Latvia proclaimed their independence in 1991

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The Soviet Union
 - The failure of perestroika
 - The rise of Boris Yeltsin (b. 1931)
 - Elected president of the Russian Federation
 - Anti-Gorbachev platform
 - Mounting protests against slow change (1991)

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- The Soviet Union
 - Hardline communists planned a coup against Gorbachev (August 1991)
 - Gorbachev incarcerated
 - The Soviet Union ceased to exist on December 8, 1991
 - Gorbachev resigned on December 25, 1991

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- After the fall of the Soviet Union
 - Food shortages and the falling value of the ruble
 - Free enterprise brought crime, corruption, the black market, and a lower standard of living
 - Yeltsin dissolved parliament in September 1993

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- After the fall of the Soviet Union
 - The attempted conservative coup
 - Communist resurgence and the nationalists
 - Ethnic and religious conflict
 - Chechnya (1994)
 - Guerrilla warfare and atrocities



Map 28.3 Russian and Eastern Europe after the Cold War

Europe Recast: The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Soviet Union

- After the fall of the Soviet Union
 - The end of the Cold War
 - Ethnic conflict
 - Diplomatic uncertainty about the new Russian government
 - The Russian “Wild West”



Map 28.2 Eastern Europe in 1989