

Causes & Effects of the Fall of the Soviet Union

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Problems in the Soviet Union

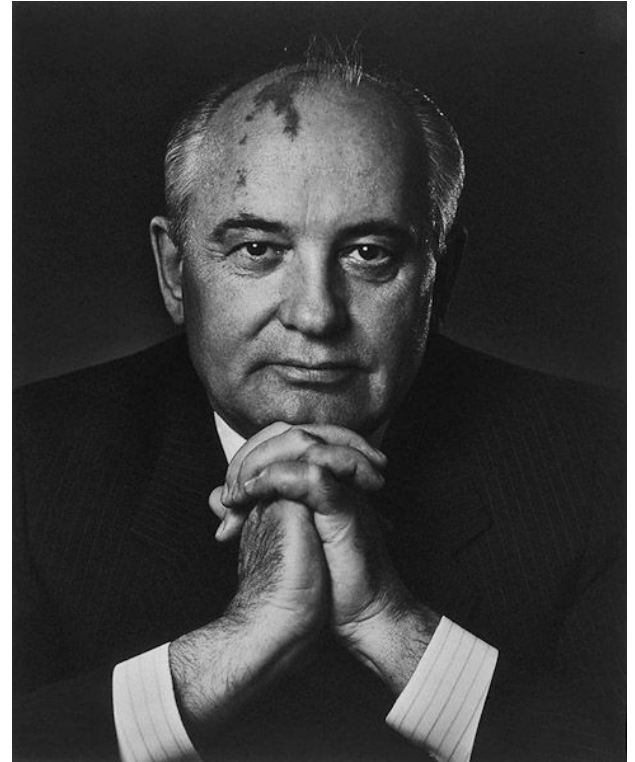
- Food shortage
- Near Bankruptcy
- Army was fighting war in Afghanistan – low Morale
- Spent too much Money on the Cold War
- Many people were Drinking to Forget Problems
- Absenteeism and low productivity

Gorbachev's Policies

- **Glasnost** – political openness
 - eased censorship
- Raise price of **Alcohol**
- **Perestroika** – economic reform
 - allows elements of **Capitalism**
 - similar to Lenin's NEP
- Signed **Agreements** with the US to **Decrease** weapons
- **Withdrew** troops from Afghanistan

Results of Gorbachev's Policies

- Economy suffered
 - prices Increased
 - factories Closed
- People kept Drinking
- People criticized Gorbachev
- Crime increased
- Won the Nobel Peace Prize



Events

- Satellites (Republics) revolt and one by one they gain Independence
- Gorbachev allowed Free elections and many communists Lost power
- Some Communist leaders Kidnapped Gorbachev. He was later released and they went to jail.
- Gorbachev Resigns and the Soviet Union Collapsed and becomes Russia

Causes

- Leadership of Gorbachev
- Openness to Democratic ideas
 - Glasnost
- Reshaping of Economy and Allowing Capitalist Ideas
 - Perestroika
- Social problems
- Freedom Movements in Satellite States

Effects

- U.S.S.R. broke up into 15 Republics
- **Lost** of role as world Superpower
- End of **Cold War**
- Economic **Collapse**
- **Conflicts** between pro-communist and **Democratic** groups
- Minority **Revolts** and civil **Ethnic Conflict**