

HIS311- March 24, 2016

# The End of the Cold War



**“The end of the Cold War  
is our common victory.”  
- Mikhail Gorbachev,  
January 1992**

# Task ahead

- **How does the Cold War come to an end?**
- **Reflecting upon Canada's participation in the Cold War**
  - Multilaterally: NATO, UN, etc
  - Bilaterally: the United States
  - Canada's transformation from post-WWII to the 1990s

# RECAP from last class

- Throughout the 1980s: Soviet Union fought an increasingly frustrating war in Afghanistan
- The Soviet economy also faced difficulties, both from stagnant economy & escalating costs of arms race
- Between 1989-1990, the Berlin Wall came down, borders opened and free elections ousted Communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe

# Focus on: Mikhail Gorbachev \*exam

- Toured Canada in 1983 as the Soviet agriculture minister
- Succeeded as general secretary of the Communist party; Energetic, stylish, relatively open
- adopted by the Western media hopeful of change (generally popular on tour of the West)
- brought change+flexibility to Soviet foreign policy
- Met with Reagan in 85,86,87 re ban intermid nukes
- 89-90: Soviet Union drops Eastern/Central Europe (No more backing from the Red Army for troubles)

# Gorbachev w/Thatcher (Dec 84)

- Margaret Thatcher declares that Gorbachev is someone she 'can do business' with.



# Reagan and Gorbachev (Nov 85)

- Historic fireside chat in a **Geneva boat house** on 19 November 1985. This is followed by the **Reykjavik summit in 1986**, culminating in a **nuclear non-proliferation treaty in December 1987**.





# Inside the Soviet economy...

- Reforms failed
- Lagging behind
- Issues of resource allocation
- Lack of R&D
- Price inflation
- Menial jobs
- Lack of innovation
- High inefficiency



# Stagnation & empty stores





# Siberians line up outside a shop





# A long queue forms in Novokuznetsk for bacon at a state-run butcher shop



Peter Turnley/CORBIS

Peter Turnley/CORBIS

# Gorbachev & new ideas (1986)

- **Mikhail Gorbachev**
- Head of the Communist party (1985-1991)
- Introduces **perestroika** and **glasnost** (restructuring and openness) at the 27<sup>th</sup> party congress in **1986**





# Emergence of nationalism

- Signs of nationalism emerge in **Kazakhstan** in 1986 and quickly spread to other Soviet states. In **August 1987, Estonians** demonstrate against the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact which allowed the Soviet Union to annex the three Baltic countries.



# End of the Soviet-Afghan War

- The Soviet-Afghan war ends in **May 1988** bc **Gorbachev pulls troops out**
- signalled warming relations between the US and the USSR





# Fall of the Berlin Wall (9 November 1989)



# Czechoslovakia (Dec 1989)

- Non-Communist government formed
- Began to dismantle divisions between the East and West





# Azerbaijan ('90)

- January 1990 and the demand for independence spread to Baku.





# Tajikistan ('90)

- A state of emergency is declared in Dushande, Tajikistan, in February 1990



# Ukraine ('90)



- A pro-independence rally is held in Lvov in Ukraine in February 1990



# Bulgaria ('90)



- In Bulgaria, protesters set fire to the Communist party headquarters during a demonstration on 26 August 1990.

# Lithuania

- Lithuania declared independence in March 1990. In January 1991, Soviet forces moved into the centre of Vilnius, killing 13 people.



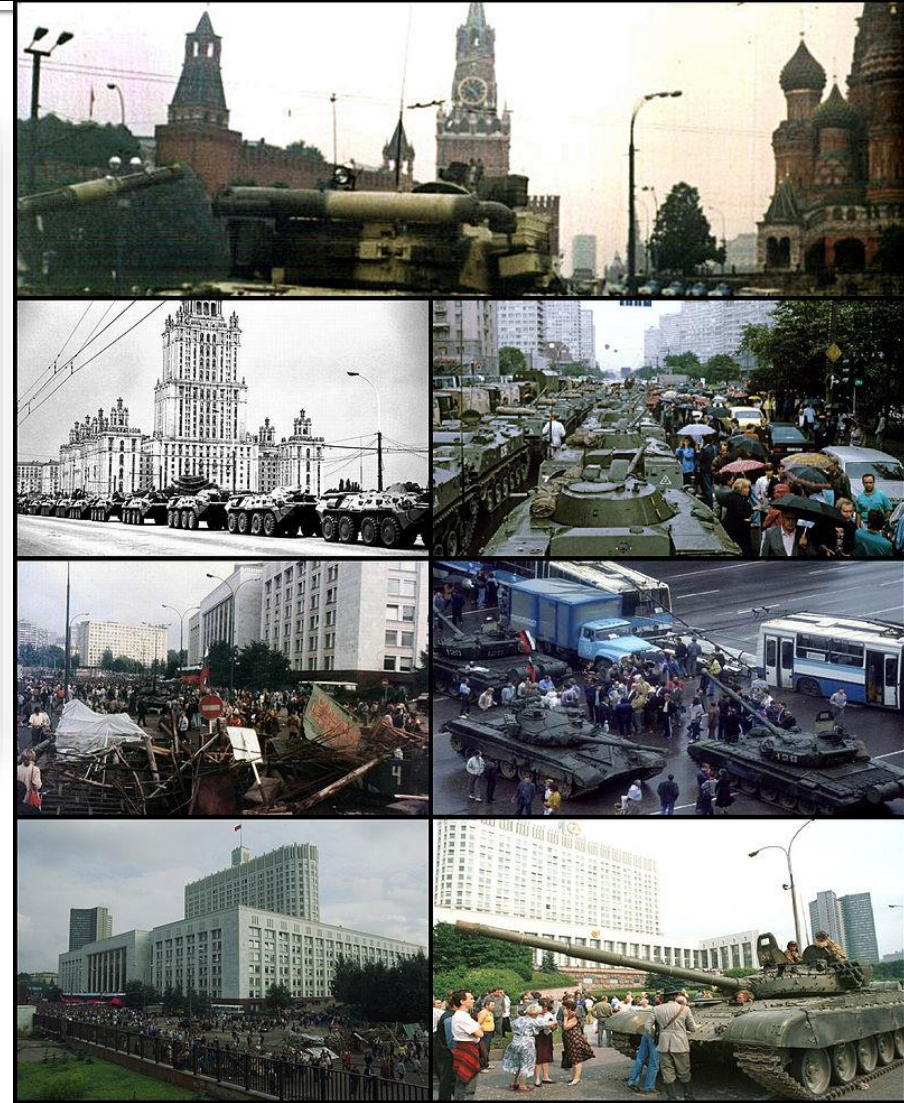
# GORBACHEV



- In local elections in March 1990, non-communists ran for office for the first time in seven decades and won control of the city councils in Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow.
- Gorbachev is booed during the May Day parade in 1990. Popular among reformists, his policies have split the country and greater freedoms allow regular demonstrations by opponents.



# 1991 Soviet coup d'état attempt



# Military Coup in Moscow



- Gorbachev tried to create a new federal structure to recognize diversity within the Soviet Union.
- Anti-reform hardliners staged a military coup while Gorbachev was on holiday in Crimea, culminating in the early hours of 20 August 1991.
- Hard-line communist opposed the decline of communist party's position + warm relations w/ West



# Uprisings in Moscow

- In Moscow, pro-democracy demonstrators tried to turn the army.



# Rallies in Russia



- Most people went off to streets and refused to support the hardliners.
- Rallies in support of Gorbachev and against the coup plotters, the State Committee on the State of Emergency (known as the Gang of Eight), were held across Russia, including in Leningrad.

# The "Aug Coup" (Августовский путч)

- Coup d'état attempt by a group of members of the Soviet Union's government to take control of the country from Gorbachev.
- Hard-line members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, opposed to Gorbachev's reform program and the new union treaty that he had negotiated which decentralised much of the central government's power to the republics.
- They were opposed, mainly in Moscow, by a short but effective campaign of civil resistance.



# Post-coup & Boris Yeltsin



Yeltsin emerged as the voice of reform  
(left the Communist party in 1990 to set up a new party)



# From Gorbachev to Yeltsin

Although he survives the August coup, Gorbachev's political career is over. On 25 December 1991 he announces his resignation on television and by the end of the year the USSR has collapsed. Yeltsin, his former friend turned nemesis, remains as head of the Russian Federation.





# Economic difficulties continue (Nov 91)

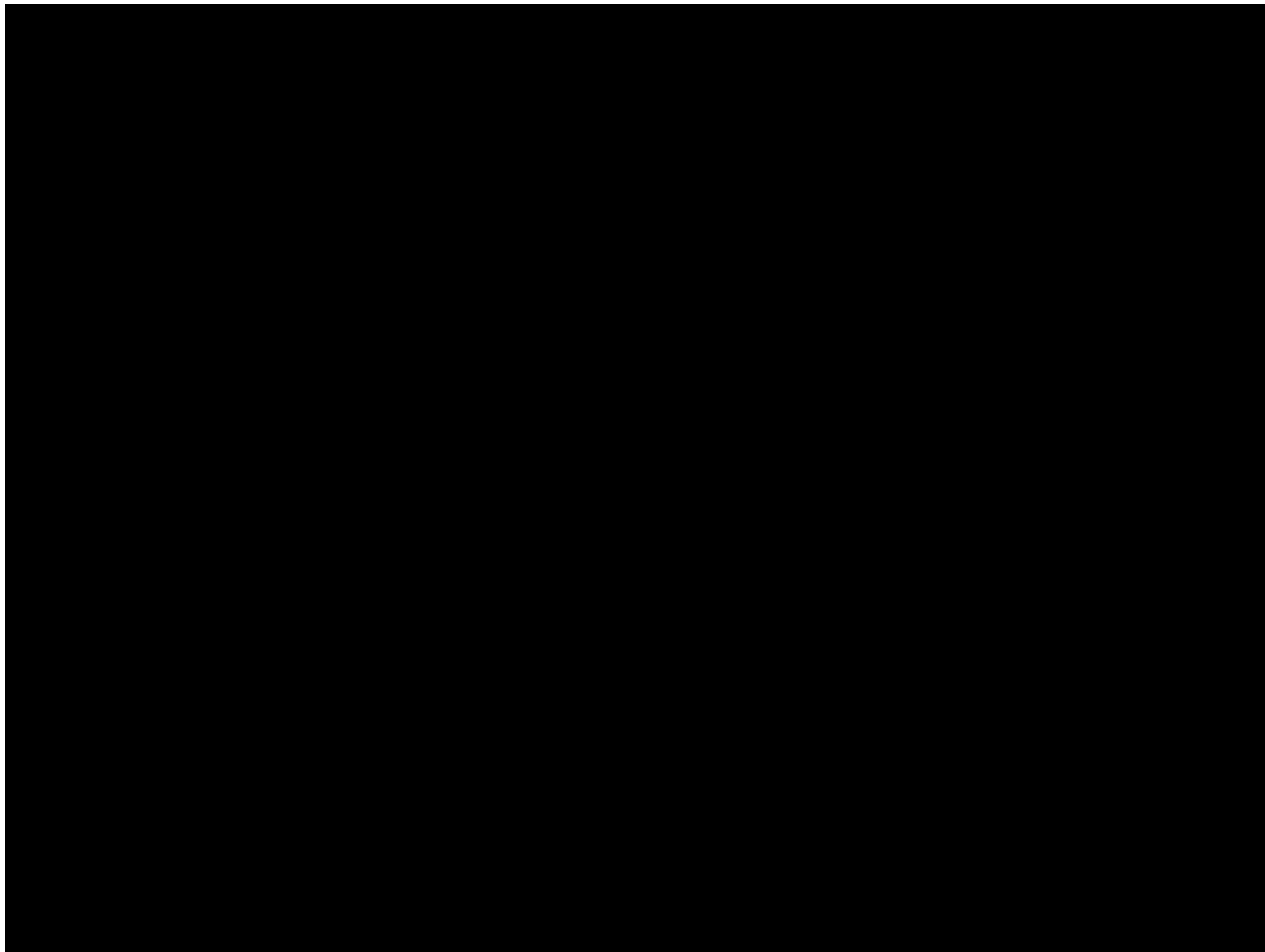




# Dissolution of the Soviet Union \*

- December 26, 1991
- Declaration no. 142-H of the Soviet Republic of the Supreme Soviet Union
- acknowledged the independence of the former Soviet republics and created the Commonwealth of Independent States
- The week before the union's formal dissolution, 11 republics – all except the Baltic states and Georgia – signed the Alma-Ata Protocol formally establishing the CIS and declaring that the Soviet Union had ceased to exist.

# ABC News coverage (Dec 8, 1981)



# Looking back @ the Cold War

## \*EXAM

- Depending on how you calculate, the Cold War lasted 74 years (duration of the Soviet Union itself) or roughly 45 years (post-WWII)
- Quite specific: confrontation between a particular Communist State (the Soviet Union) and its allies and the Western powers led by the United States
- Ideological, Military, Political, Economic, Cultural..
- Canada clearly belonged to the Western camp



# Canada & the Cold War \*EXAM

- The Cold War gave shape and certainty to Canadian foreign policy.
- It helped define Canadian relations with the US and Europe, balancing political+economic considerations.
- It united Canadians on the side of democracy and Western world and it divided them over perils of war and dreams of peace

# Reflecting upon the Cold War

## \*EXAM

- The Cold War was a perilous time >> there were many moments when real war seemed imminent and when the US and the Soviet Union were on the verge of vaporizing their allies and enemies with nuclear weapons
- The conflicts had rippling effects on the “Third World” for proxy warfare/covert ops
- The public nature of the Cold War should not be forgotten

# Focus on Canada \*EXAM

- Canada was a follower than a leader in these events; main focus on the US-USSR relations
- Trudeau's peace missions had minimal effects
- Mulroney encouraged Reagan and George Bush Sr. to believe that they were doing well
- alliance & illusion a key theme in the Cold War
- Canada's efforts throughout the Cold War: also shows divergence from the US (ie UN peacekeeping operations)



# Focus on : PM Jean Chrétien

- 20<sup>th</sup> prime minister of Canada (1993–2003)
- Lawyer and long-time parliamentarian
- Using a folksy style in English and French, created a rapport with his audiences
- Led the federal government to its first surplus in nearly 30 years



# Quebec referendum

- 30 October 1995
- the referendum on Québec sovereignty was settled by a narrow victory for the “No” camp



## **Jacques Parizeau, politician**

Former Parti Québécois leader Jacques Parizeau, September 1989. In 1994, he became the second leader of the separatist PQ to become premier

# CBC: Startling details of the Quebec referendum

