

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION

Chapter 20 Section 2
Jason M. Hauck



I. Postwar Soviet Union

- A. World War II devastated the Soviet Union.
 - 1. To create a new industrial base, Stalin returned to the method that he had used in the 1930s.
 - a. Soviet workers were expected to produce goods for export with little in return for themselves.
 - b. The incoming capital from abroad could then be used to buy machinery and Western technology.
- B. By 1950, Russian industrial production surpassed prewar levels by 40 percent.
 - 1. New power plants, canals, and giant factories were built.
 - 2. The hydrogen bomb in 1953 and the first space satellite, Sputnik I, in 1957 enhanced the Soviet Union's reputation as a world power.

- C. The production of consumer goods did not increase as much as heavy industry, and there was a housing shortage.
- D. Stalin was the undisputed master of the Soviet Union.
 - 1. He distrusted competitors, exercised sole power, and had little respect for other Communist Party leaders.
- E. In 1946 the government ordered all literary and scientific work to conform to the state's political needs.

F. Stalin died on March 5, 1953.

1. A group of leaders succeeded Stalin, but Nikita Khrushchev, soon emerged as the chief Soviet policy maker.
 - a. After he was in power, Khrushchev took steps to undo some of the worst features of Stalin's regime.

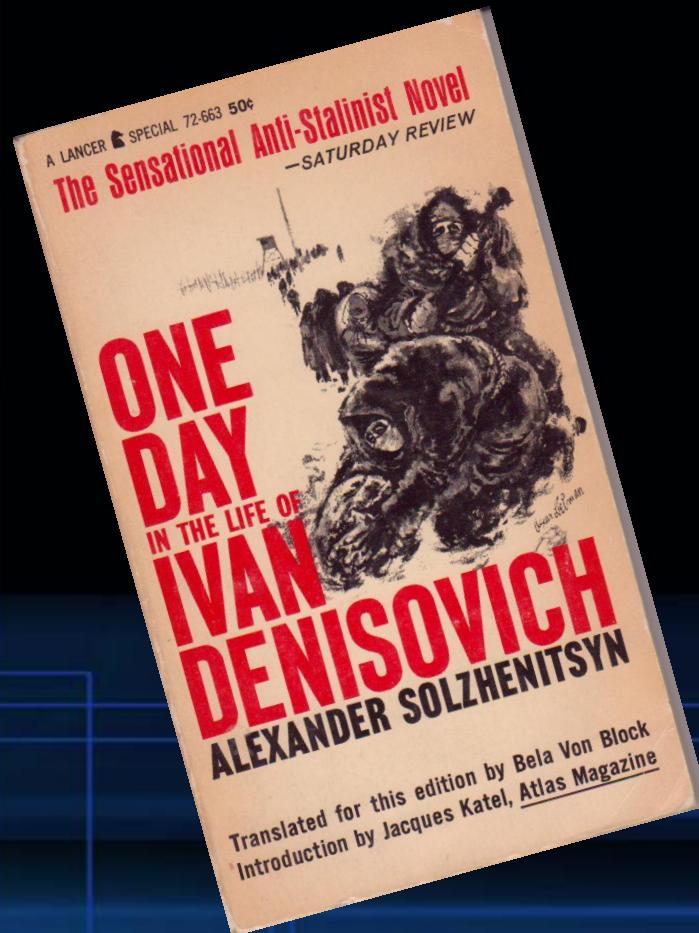
G. At the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party in 1956, Khrushchev condemned Stalin for his "administrative violence, mass repression, and terror."

1. The process of eliminating the more ruthless policies of Stalin became known as de-Stalinization.



H. Khrushchev loosened government controls on literary and artistic works.

1. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. This novel, written by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is a grim portrayal of life in a Siberian labor camp.

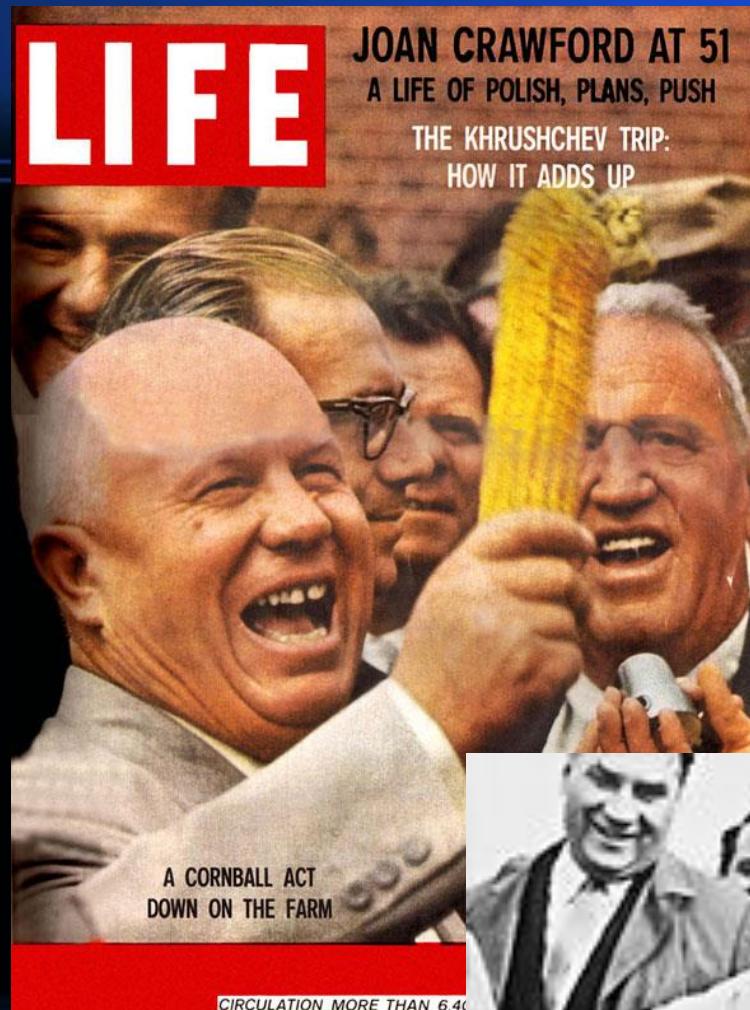


I. Khrushchev also tried to place more emphasis on producing consumer goods.

1. He attempted to increase agricultural output by growing corn and cultivating vast lands east of the Ural Mountains.
 - a. The attempt was unsuccessful and damaged Khrushchev's reputation within the party.

J. Foreign policy failures also damaged Khrushchev's reputation among his colleagues.

1. His rash plan to place missiles in Cuba was the final straw.
2. While he was away on vacation in 1964, a special meeting of the Soviet leaders voted him out of office (because of "deteriorating health") and forced him into retirement.



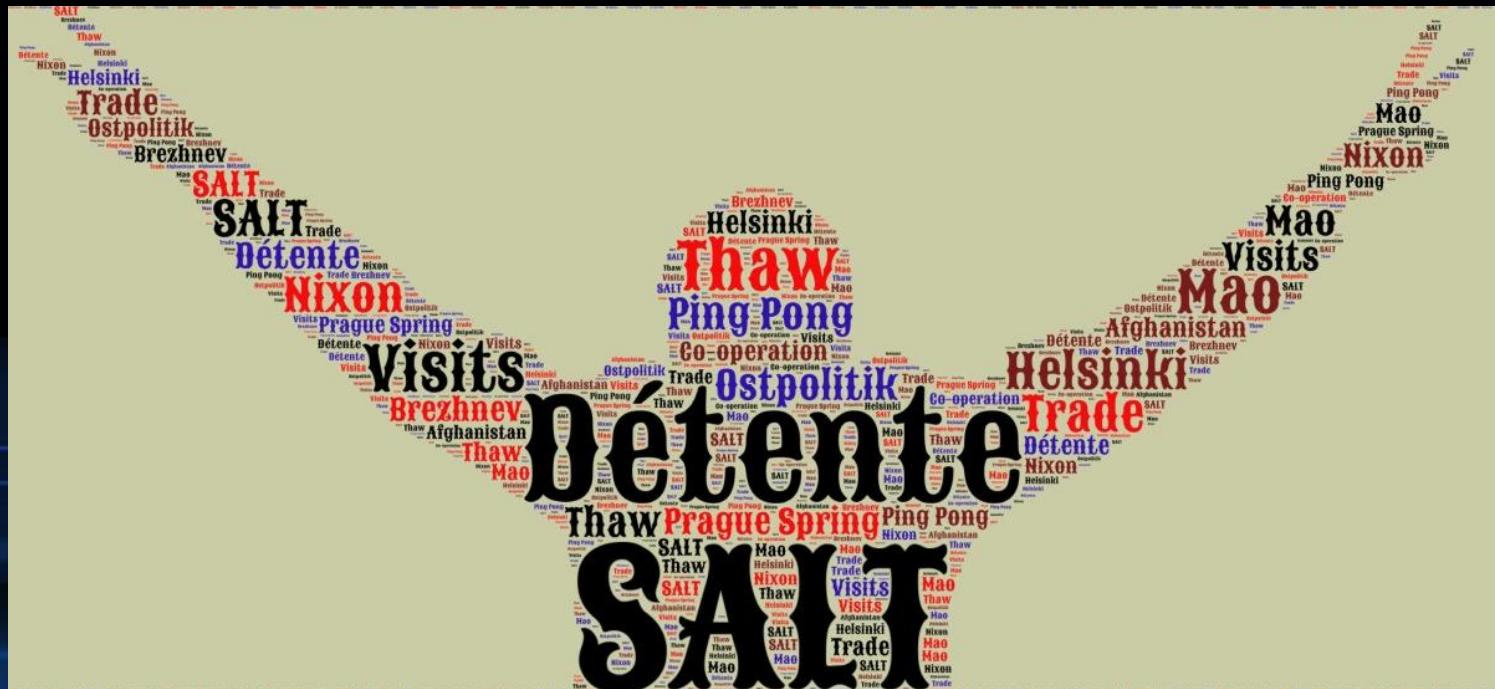
K. When Nikita Khrushchev was removed from office in 1964, two men, Alexei Kosygin and Leonid Brezhnev replaced him.

1. Brezhnev emerged as the dominant leader in the 1970s.
2. Brezhnev insisted on the Soviet Union's right to intervene if communism was threatened in another Communist state (known as the Brezhnev Doctrine).



L. At the same time, Brezhnev benefited from détente, a relaxation of tensions and improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

1. In the 1970s, because they felt more secure, the two superpowers signed treaties to limit nuclear arms.
 - a. SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties)
 - b. Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM)



M. By the 1970s, the Communist ruling class in the Soviet Union had become complacent and corrupt.

1. Party and state leaders, as well as army leaders and secret police (KGB), enjoyed a high standard of living.
 - a. Brezhnev was unwilling to tamper with the party leadership and state bureaucracy.

N. Détente collapsed in 1979 when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

1. The Soviet Union wanted to restore a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan.
2. The United States viewed this as an act of expansion.
 - a. President Carter canceled U.S. participation in the 1980 Olympic Games to be held in Moscow.

O. Relations became even worse when Ronald Reagan became president and called the Soviet Union the “evil empire,” he began a military buildup and a new arms race.



II. Eastern Europe

- A. At the end of World War II, Soviet military forces occupied all of Eastern Europe and the Balkans.**
- B. The timetable of the Soviet takeover varied from country to country.**
 - 1. Between 1945 and 1947, Soviet-controlled Communist governments became firmly entrenched in East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, and Hungary.**
 - 2. Czechoslovakia in 1948.**

C. In Yugoslavia, Josip Broz, created an independent Communist state.

1. Stalin hoped to take control of Yugoslavia.
2. Tito, however, refused to give in to Stalin's demands.
 - a. Tito ruled Yugoslavia until his death in 1980.
3. Although Yugoslavia had a Communist government, it was not a Soviet satellite state.



- D. Between 1948 and Stalin's death in 1953, the Eastern European satellite states instituted Soviet-type five-year plans with emphasis on heavy industry rather than consumer goods.
 - 1. They collectivized agriculture, eliminated all noncommunist parties, and set up the institutions of repression—secret police and military forces.
- E. After Stalin's death, the Soviet Union made it clear that it would not allow its Eastern European satellites to become independent of Soviet control.

F. In 1956 protests erupted in Poland.

1. In response, the Polish Communist Party adopted a series of reforms in October and elected Władysław Gomułka as first secretary.
 - a. He declared that Poland had the right to follow its own socialist path.
 - b. Fearful of Soviet armed response, however, the Poles compromised.
 - i. Poland pledged to remain loyal to the Warsaw Pact.

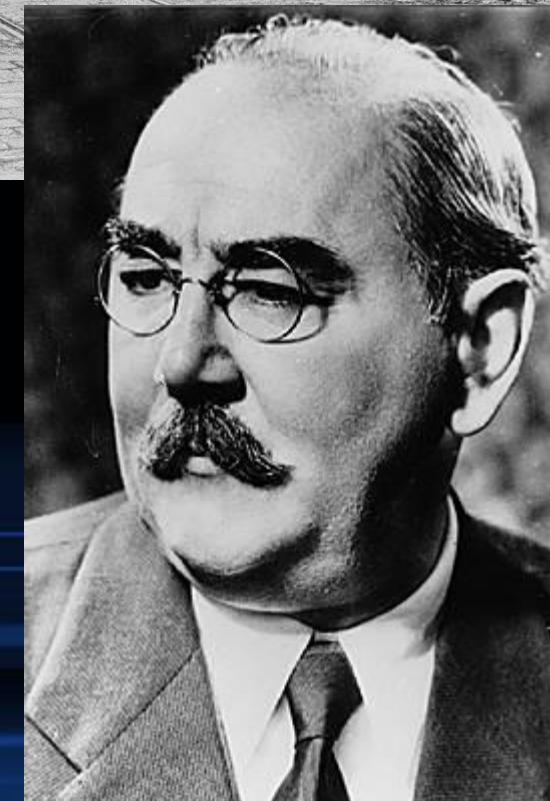


G. Developments in Poland led Hungarian Communists to seek the same kinds of reforms.

1. Imre Nagy, the Hungarian leader, declared Hungary a free nation on November 1, 1956, and promised free elections.
 - a. This could mean the end of Communist rule in Hungary.

H. Khrushchev was in no position at home to allow a member of the Communist group of nations to leave.

1. Three days after Nagy's declaration, the Soviet Army attacked Budapest.
2. Nagy was seized by the Soviet military and executed two years later.





Dubcek



Novotny

- I. In Czechoslovakia, Stalin had placed Antonín Novotný, the "Little Stalin," in power in 1953.
 - 1. A writers' rebellion, which encouraged the people to take control of their own lives, led to Novotný's resignation in 1968.
- J. In January 1968, Alexander Dubcek's was elected first secretary of the Communist Party. He introduced a number of reforms, including freedom of speech and press and freedom to travel abroad.
 - 1. Dubcek hoped to create "socialism with a human face."

K. A period of euphoria broke out that came to be known as the "Prague Spring."

1. The euphoria proved to be short-lived.
 - a. To forestall the spreading of this "spring fever," the Soviet Army invaded Czechoslovakia.
2. Gustav Husák replaced Dubcek, revoked his reforms, and reestablished the old order.

