
Sophia Model United Nations

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ESS

A letter from the Executive Board.

Dear Delegates,

The Eurasian Stakeholders Summit has been envisaged to tackle a monumental challenge ahead of us, the fall of the USSR. The Eurasian Stakeholders Summit, is formed to address the elephant in the room. The committee, is an Ad-Hoc committee of the secretary general of the United Nations, who has constituted this committee with the faculty of powers that lie with the secretary of the United Nations.

The agenda for this year's conference is an agenda, that we feel is one of the less talked about events in the history of the world, lately. The events that transpired at the erstwhile Soviet Republic, shall come to dominate world politics for years to come. The Fall of the USSR not only signifies the end of a republic, but the end of an ideology, the end of a way of life and with it, the challenge to the capitalist power structure, which has a chokehold on the global political order and the world economy. The forests of the Balkans, the mountains of Chechnya, the ports of Ukraine, students all around Eastern Europe bear witness to the Horrors of the Soviet regime. The promise of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika rings in the minds of the people, they want more, the hopes of a billion people, their political futures and the outcome of the millennium lies in your hands. The World as on 24th December, 1991, needs you, the members of the Eurasian Stakeholders Summit to come together and find a solution, while the church bell knells for the Former heavyweight super-power of the World. We expect a significantly high standard of debate from our delegates and we hope that you will deliver it to us. It is expected of you, to adhere to the policies set by the management, that being said, we are looking forward to the banter and antics that are associated with a Model United Nations conference. We as the chairpersons, feel obligated to tell you that this committee shall be a semi-crisis committee. To those who are first timers, please feel free to reach out to us in case you need any help.

We also have an important message to our delegates : **THE ONE PIECE IS REAL!!!!**

Yours sincerely,

Ganitha

&

Chanakya Mahadev

Introduction to the Committee

The crumbling of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is currently signalling the end of one of the most influential political entities of the 20th century. Established in 1922 following the Russian Revolution, the USSR is a federation of multiple republics, all governed under a single-party communist regime. Over nearly seven decades, the USSR evolved into a global superpower, engaging in a prolonged Cold War with the United States. This ideological and geopolitical rivalry profoundly shapes international relations, global alliances, and conflicts from the mid-20th century onward.

The decline of the USSR is primarily driven by a confluence of economic stagnation, political upheaval, and rising nationalist movements within its republics. The centrally planned economy, which initially spurred rapid industrialization, has become increasingly inefficient and corrupt, leading to widespread shortages and a decline in living standards. By the 1980s, the need for reform was undeniable. Mikhail Gorbachev, who became General Secretary in 1985, introduced policies of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) in an effort to revitalise the economy and promote greater transparency in government.

However, these reforms are having unintended consequences. Glasnost exposes the deep-rooted issues within Soviet society, including corruption, environmental disasters, and historical injustices, eroding public trust in the government. Perestroika, meanwhile, disrupts the existing economic structures without providing viable alternatives, leading to economic turmoil. The liberalisation policies also embolden nationalist movements across the USSR. Republics like Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are the first to assert their independence, inspiring similar aspirations in other regions.

The failed coup attempt by hardline communists in August 1991 appears to be the final blow to the Soviet Union. The coup aimed to halt Gorbachev's reforms and restore the old order but instead accelerated the disintegration process. The republics, seizing the moment of weakened central authority, are declaring independence. As of now, the future of the USSR hangs in the balance, marking the end of an era and the beginning of a new, uncertain chapter for its successor states.

The potential dissolution of the USSR is leaving a complex legacy that continues to challenge the stability and development of its former republics and satellite states, particularly in Ukraine, Hungary, and other Eastern European nations. The policies and actions of the Soviet era have left deep-seated issues that these countries are still grappling with today.

In Ukraine, the USSR's legacy is particularly problematic due to historical grievances and ethnic divisions. Soviet policies of Russification and demographic engineering created a significant Russian-speaking population in regions like Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. This has led to ongoing tensions and conflict, with fears that Russia might assert more control in these areas. The Soviet legacy complicates Ukraine's efforts to build a cohesive national identity and stable governance, as regional loyalties often clash with national interests.

Hungary, while not a republic of the USSR, is deeply influenced by Soviet control as a member of the Eastern Bloc. The 1956 Hungarian Revolution, which was brutally suppressed by Soviet forces, left a lasting scar on the national consciousness. As the Soviet grip weakens, Hungary faces the dual challenge of transitioning to a market economy and addressing the political legacies of Soviet-imposed communism. Nationalist sentiments are resurging as Hungary seeks to redefine its place in post-Soviet Europe, often leading to political friction both domestically and with its neighbours.

Other Eastern European countries such as Poland, Romania, and the Baltic States also struggle with the remnants of Soviet influence. The transition from centrally planned economies to market-based systems is fraught with difficulties, including economic instability and political turmoil. The presence of Russian minorities and the lingering effects of Soviet-era policies are sources of internal and external conflict. For instance, the Baltic States have to navigate the integration of Russian-speaking populations while ensuring their national sovereignty and security, particularly in the face of Russia's assertive foreign policy.

The security vacuum left by the potential collapse of the Soviet Union is further complicating the regional landscape. The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the withdrawal of Soviet troops led many former satellite states to seek integration with Western institutions like NATO and the European Union. This realignment is a source of tension with Russia, which views the eastward expansion of NATO as a threat to its traditional sphere of influence. The resulting geopolitical friction is leading to periodic crises and conflicts, underscoring the enduring impact of the USSR's legacy.

In conclusion, the imminent fall of the USSR is leaving a lasting and complex legacy in Ukraine, Hungary, and other former Soviet and Eastern Bloc countries. The interplay of historical grievances, ethnic divisions, and geopolitical tensions continues to shape the political and economic landscapes of these nations. Addressing these challenges requires a nuanced understanding of the past and a concerted effort to build inclusive and resilient political systems.

INFLUENCE OF SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union's influence on global policy is profound and multifaceted, shaping the geopolitical landscape for much of the 20th century. Since its establishment in 1922, the USSR has been a central player on the world stage, promoting its socialist ideology as an alternative to Western capitalism. This ideological battle has had far-reaching implications, influencing global alliances, economic policies, and military strategies.

One of the most significant aspects of Soviet influence is its challenge to the capitalistic structure. The USSR's model of a centrally planned economy and state ownership of resources stood in stark contrast to the market economies of the West. This economic system aimed to eliminate class disparities and provide for all citizens, promoting a vision of economic equality and social justice. The Soviet Union's success in industrialising rapidly and achieving significant advancements in science and technology, especially during the early Cold War years, showcased the potential of its alternative economic model, inspiring socialist movements worldwide.

The Soviet Union also introduced a different way of waging war, emphasising ideological and proxy conflicts over direct military confrontation. The Cold War saw the USSR and the United States engage in a series of proxy wars, supporting opposing sides in conflicts across Asia, Africa and Latin America. These proxy wars were not just military engagements but also battles of ideology, with each superpower attempting to spread its political and economic systems. The Soviet support for revolutionary movements and liberation fronts in the developing world aimed to expand its influence and counter Western colonial and neo-colonial powers.

The USSR's space program further exemplifies its influence and the different dimensions of the Cold War. The launch of Sputnik in 1957 and the subsequent achievements in space exploration highlighted Soviet technological prowess and intensified the space race with the United States. These accomplishments were not merely scientific milestones but also strategic tools, enhancing the Soviet Union's prestige and demonstrating the capabilities of its scientific and technical infrastructure.

COLD WAR COMING TO AN END

As of December 23, 1991, the Cold War appears to be drawing to a close, marking the end of a nearly five-decade-long ideological and geopolitical struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States. The Cold War, characterised by its lack of direct military conflict between the two superpowers, has shaped international relations, economic policies, and military strategies since the end of World War II. The recent political and economic changes within the USSR signal a transformative period in global politics.

The reforms initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev, particularly 'perestroika' and 'glasnost', have played a pivotal role in this shift. These policies aimed at restructuring the Soviet economy and promoting greater transparency have led to significant changes within the USSR and its relationships with other countries. Gorbachev's emphasis on reducing nuclear arsenals and improving relations with the West has eased tensions and fostered a spirit of cooperation. The signing of various arms reduction treaties, such as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 1987, has been a crucial step towards de-escalating the nuclear arms race.

The political landscape in Eastern Europe has also changed dramatically. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent reunification of Germany are symbolic of the broader collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe. These events underscore the declining influence of the Soviet Union in the region and the growing momentum towards democratic governance and market economies. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact further indicate the waning of Soviet hegemony.

Within the USSR, the rise of nationalist movements and the push for independence among various republics reflect the internal challenges facing the Soviet state. Countries such as Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have already declared their independence, and others are likely to follow. This fragmentation highlights the weakening grip of the central government and the shifting political dynamics within the USSR.

The international community is closely monitoring these developments, recognizing that the end of the Cold War presents both opportunities and challenges. The potential for a new era of cooperation between East and West is evident, with the possibility of reduced military expenditures and increased focus on global issues such as economic development, environmental protection, and human rights. However, the transition also brings uncertainties, particularly regarding the stability of the newly independent states and the future role of Russia on the world stage.

As the Cold War comes to an end, the world stands at a crossroads. The legacy of the Soviet Union and the Cold War will continue to shape international relations, but the emerging global order presents a chance for a more cooperative and peaceful future. The next steps taken by the international community will be crucial in determining how this new era unfolds.

CRUMBLING POLITICAL STRUCTURE: FIRST LEGITIMATE PRIME MINISTER AND DEMOCRATIC POLICIES

As of December 23, 1991, the political landscape of the Soviet Union is undergoing unprecedented changes. The introduction of democratic reforms has significantly altered the ethos of the socialist structure that has defined the USSR for decades. Central to these transformations is the emergence of the first legitimate Prime Minister, Ivan Silayev, who has become a pivotal figure in the current political climate.

Ivan Silayev, initially a prominent figure in the Soviet industrial sector, rose to political prominence during a time of profound crisis. In June 1990, he became the Premier of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR), a position that marked a departure from the long-standing practice of appointing party loyalists without significant public accountability. Silayev's tenure symbolises a shift towards legitimacy and public representation, qualities that have been largely absent in the Soviet leadership.

Silayev's government embarks on a series of democratic reforms under the broader policies of Perestroika (restructuring) and Glasnost (openness), initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev. These reforms aim to decentralise economic control and introduce elements of political liberalisation. However, the implementation of these democratic policies profoundly affects the socialist ethos that has underpinned Soviet governance.

Perestroika seeks to address the inefficiencies of the Soviet planned economy by introducing market mechanisms and reducing the state's direct control over enterprises. This move challenges the core principles of socialist economic management, which emphasise state ownership and central planning. As industries gain more autonomy, the rigid structure of Soviet socialism begins to erode, leading to economic disarray and contributing to the broader political instability.

Glasnost, meanwhile, opens up the political discourse, allowing for greater transparency and criticism of the government. This policy aims to foster a more open and democratic society, yet it also exposes the deep-seated corruption and inefficiencies within the system.

As the media and public gain the freedom to criticise, the legitimacy of the Communist Party and its ability to maintain control over the Union is severely undermined. The socialist ethos, rooted in the idea of a unified, centrally governed state, faces an existential threat as democratic ideals take root.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who has been at the helm of the Soviet Union since 1985, plays a critical role in the unfolding political transformations. Gorbachev's leadership is characterised by his efforts to modernise the Soviet Union through significant reforms aimed at revitalising the stagnant economy and opening up the political system. His vision for a more open and reformed Soviet Union is encapsulated in the dual policies of Perestroika and Glasnost.

Gorbachev introduced Perestroika with the intention of making the Soviet economy more efficient and responsive to the needs of its people. By allowing some market-like reforms and reducing central control, he hopes to boost productivity and innovation. However, these changes also disrupt the established economic order, leading to shortages, inflation, and a decline in the standard of living for many citizens. The economic hardships fuel public discontent and undermine the government's authority.

Glasnost, Gorbachev's policy of transparency and openness, seeks to encourage more open discussion and reduce the pervasive censorship that has long characterised Soviet life. This policy results in a surge of political activism, with citizens and intellectuals openly criticising the government and calling for further reforms. While Glasnost aims to democratise the Soviet political landscape, it also exposes the deep flaws and corruption within the system, weakening the Communist Party's grip on power.

Gorbachev's foreign policy, known as "New Thinking," also plays a crucial role in the political changes. He seeks to improve relations with the West and reduce Cold War tensions, leading to significant arms control agreements and a reduction in military expenditures. This shift in foreign policy stance further strains the Soviet economy and reduces the Kremlin's influence over Eastern Europe, as Gorbachev signals that the USSR will no longer use military force to maintain control over its satellite states.

Gorbachev's reforms, while well-intentioned, accelerate the disintegration of the Soviet Union. His policies inadvertently empower nationalist movements within various Soviet republics, as people begin to demand greater autonomy and independence. The weakening of central authority creates a power vacuum, leading to political instability and the rise of regional leaders who challenge Moscow's control.

VIOLENT UPRISINGS IN SOVIET TERRITORIES

The political turmoil within the USSR is compounded by violent uprisings in several of its territories, each challenging the central authority and further destabilising the union.

Ukraine: in Ukraine, the drive for independence is intensifying. The declaration of sovereignty in July 1990 and subsequent independence referendum on December 1, 1991, reveal overwhelming support for breaking away from the USSR. Nationalist movements gain momentum, and the central government's attempts to maintain control are met with fierce resistance. The situation in Ukraine exemplifies the broader regional push for autonomy and the rejection of Soviet rule.

Hungary: Hungary, though technically outside the Soviet Union, plays a critical role in the unravelling of Soviet influence in Eastern Europe. The Hungarian revolution of 1956, brutally suppressed by Soviet forces, remains a potent symbol of resistance. By 1989, Hungary had transitioned towards a multiparty system and opened its borders with Austria, facilitating the exodus of East Germans to the West and indirectly contributing to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This act of defiance against Soviet control emboldens other satellite states to pursue their own paths to independence.

Poland: Poland's Solidarity movement, led by Lech Wałęsa, is a catalyst for change in the Eastern Bloc. The labour strikes of the early 1980s and the eventual legalisation of Solidarity in 1989 paved the way for the first semi-free elections in June of that year. The overwhelming victory of Solidarity candidates marks the beginning of the end for communist rule in Poland and inspires other Soviet-controlled states to seek similar reforms.

Bulgaria: in Bulgaria, the fall of longtime leader Todor Zhivkov in 1989 marks the start of significant political upheaval. Zhivkov's removal, driven by internal party reformers and public discontent, leads to a series of democratic reforms. The transition towards a multiparty system and free elections in 1990 signifies a break from Soviet-style communism and aligns Bulgaria more closely with the growing wave of democratisation sweeping Eastern Europe.

East Germany: the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, stands as a pivotal moment in the collapse of Soviet influence. East Germany, under the control of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), experiences massive public protests demanding freedom of movement and political reform. The opening of the wall symbolises the failure of Soviet-imposed boundaries and accelerates the reunification of Germany. This event has a profound impact on the entire Eastern Bloc, demonstrating the power of popular uprisings against authoritarian regimes.

USSR : THE WAR MACHINE

The USSR now showing signs of crumbling, is still a warmachine. This politically depleted ussr still has some pride to salvage, and what better way to do it than by flexing its military muscles and what better time than now. The ussr still poses a security threat, a rogue nation with one of the biggest military equipments, manpower and logistics in the world, couple that up with it being the 2nd largest WMD possessing country in the world, the ussr is still a threat to the world. Having lost face in Afghanistan and arriving at a stalemate in Vietnam and Korea, the Soviets do not have a complete victory to show for their military might.

The situation in the soviet republic bothers many allies across the globe, whether India and North Korea at the forefront of the warm relationship shared by the 2 nations. The allies are now in no man's land, placed precariously in a situation where they find themselves between a cliff and a gorge, the situation is delicately poised. The international treaties signed between the ussr and the rest of the free world are also under threat, will this fighter be pushed to the corner fight as per the rules or will he do whatever is necessary in order to go out swinging, is a question that beckons us all.

Initially, Perestroika was intended to modernise the soviet economy by decentralising the administration and allowing some private ownership and market mechanisms.

However, the rigid, centrally planned economy of the ussr struggled to adapt to these changes. Instead of leading to the intended economic revival, Perestroika exposed the deep inefficiencies and systemic corruption within the soviet system. Factories that had been producing poor quality goods at high costs were suddenly required to compete in a more open market, leading to widespread closures and unemployment. Politically, Perestroika and glasnost led to a significant liberalisation of the political environment. Citizens began to demand more freedoms and rights, and the media was allowed to expose previously hidden government corruption and failures. Nationalist movements within various soviet republics gained momentum as they sought independence from Moscow's control.

Perestroika, meaning "Restructuring" in Russian, was a series of political and economic reforms introduced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s aimed at revitalising the stagnating soviet economy and promoting transparency and openness within the government. The policy, alongside its companion policy of glasnost (meaning "Openness"), sought to reduce the central control over the economy, encourage individual initiative, and introduce elements of market economics within the socialist framework.

The combination of economic hardship and political liberalisation destabilised the soviet union. The centralised control weakened, and as republics like Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia declared independence, the unity of the USSR began to unravel. The old guard of soviet leadership resisted these changes, leading to conflicts and further undermining the cohesion of the state.

Ultimately, perestroika inadvertently accelerated the collapse of the Soviet Union by destabilising the existing order without successfully establishing a new, stable system in its place. The economic and political reforms led to a power vacuum and increased calls for independence among the republics, contributing significantly to the disintegration of the ussr by the end of 1991.

1947: The Cold War begins as geopolitical tensions rise between the United States and its allies on one side, and the Soviet Union and its satellite states on the other. The Iron Curtain metaphorically and physically divides Europe.

1950-1953: The conflict in Korea becomes the first Hot War of the Cold War, with the US and its allies supporting South Korea, while China and the USSR support North Korea.

1961: The Berlin Wall is constructed, symbolising the division between the capitalist west and the communist east.

1962: Cuban Missile Crisis: the world comes to the brink of nuclear war as the US and USSR confront each other over Soviet missiles in Cuba.

1964-1975: Vietnam War: the US intervenes in Vietnam to prevent the spread of communism, ultimately withdrawing in 1973, leading to the fall of Saigon in 1975.

1979-1989: Soviet-Afghan war: the USSR invades Afghanistan to support the communist government against insurgent groups. The prolonged conflict became a costly and demoralising quagmire for the Soviets.

1980: The 80s also proved to be a time where capitalistic mindsets were gaining momentum and globalisation was aiding the same. The Solidarity movement in Poland challenges communist rule, highlighting growing discontent in Eastern Europe.

1985: Mikhail Gorbachev becomes general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, initiating reforms like Perestroika and Glasnost.

1986: Chernobyl disaster exposes the failings of the Soviet system and leads to increased demands for openness and reform.

1987: Gorbachev's policies begin to allow more open criticism of the government and greater economic freedoms, but also lead to economic instability.

1989: The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolises the collapse of communist regimes across Eastern Europe. Revolutions in countries like Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia lead to the end of communist rule.

1990: The reunification of Germany further consolidates the success of capitalist democracies over communist states. This marks the beginning of the end.

August 1991: A failed coup by hardline communists attempts to overthrow gorbachev and reverse his reforms. The coup collapses within days but severely weakens gorbachev's position and accelerates the push for independence among soviet republics.

December 8, 1991: The final act, leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus sign the Belavezha accords, declaring the ussr effectively dissolved and creating the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

December 21, 1991: Leaders of 11 former Soviet Republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldavia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan) meet in Alma-Ata (now Almaty), Kazakhstan to discuss and sign a possible protocol.

As we stand on December 24, 1991, the Soviet Union teeters on the brink of dissolution. Ivan Silayev's rise as the first legitimate prime minister and Mikhail Gorbachev's transformative policies of Perestroika and Glasnost have irreversibly altered the USSR. The once- unshakeable foundations of soviet socialism are crumbling under economic inefficiency, political transparency, and burgeoning democratic ideals.

Silayev's leadership and Gorbachev's reforms have exposed the system's contradictions and weaknesses. Decentralisation and openness have sparked public activism and criticism, weakening the communist party's control and igniting fervent independence movements.

From Ukraine's independence drive to Hungary's defiance, Poland's solidarity, Bulgaria's democratic transition, and East Germany's reunification with the west, the ussr's control is unravelling.

As delegates of this semi-crisis committee, you are now charged with navigating this tumultuous landscape. The stakes are immense, and the future of an empire hangs in the balance. Will you work to salvage the remnants of a crumbling superpower, or will you shepherd the birth of new nations from the ashes of the old? The path you choose will shape the course of history.

Prepare for intense debates, unforeseen alliances, and dramatic turns of events. The fate of the soviet union and the global order rests in your hands. Each decision you make can either stem the tide of disintegration or accelerate the march towards independence and democracy. As the world watches, poised at this critical juncture, remember that your actions today will reverberate through the annals of history. Please note: the background guide should not be the only source for research.

Thanking you,

The Executive Board,

Ganitha, Chanakya, Nia, Rhea.
