

# FALL OF COMMUNISM

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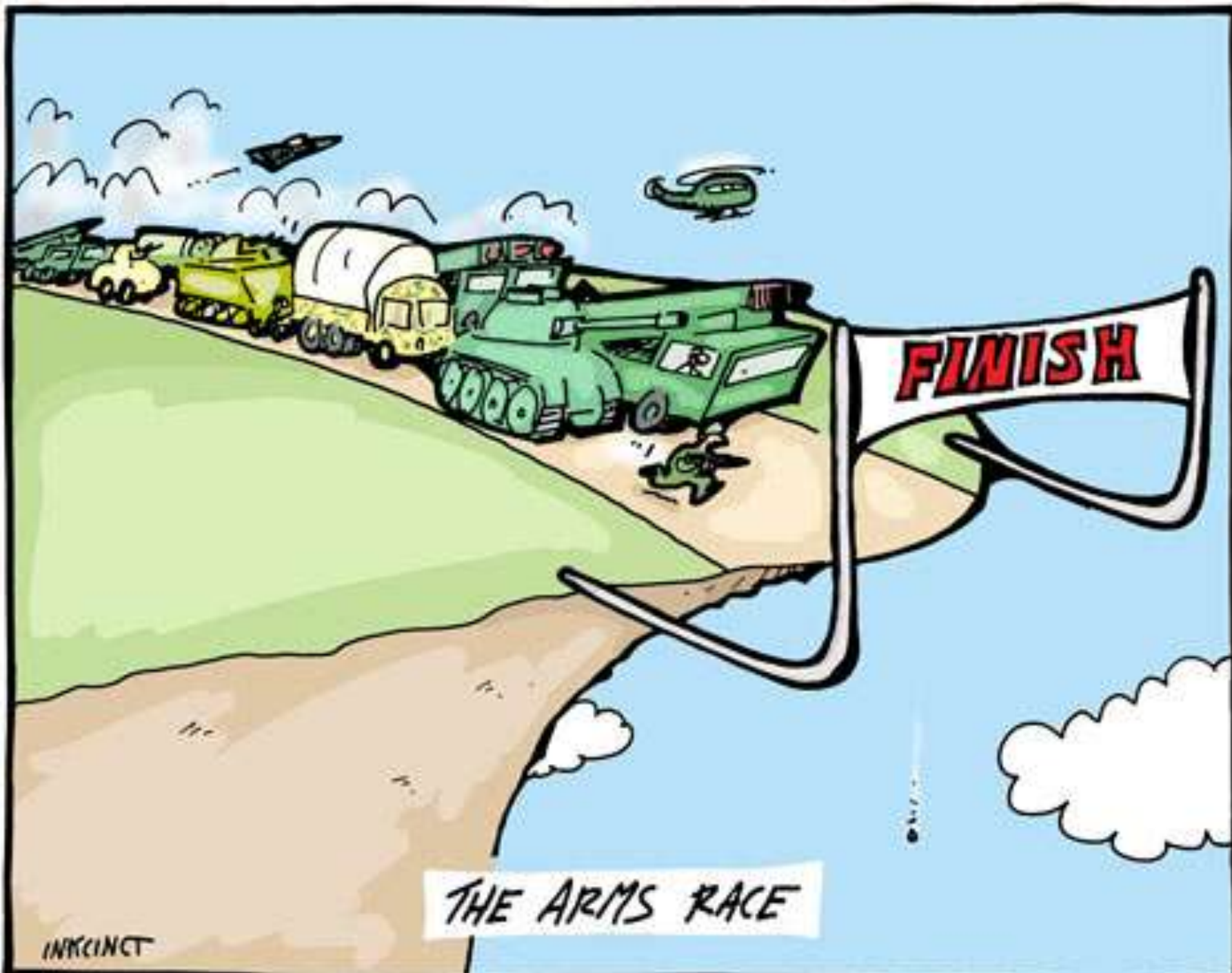






# CRISIS IN THE USSR

- The USSR is on the brink of disaster in 1985
  - Economy: GDP is falling, inflation is rising, food shortages, low productivity. USSR is nearly broke from Cold War, and arms race with the USA.
  - Government: military weapons race with USA, no personal freedom for people
  - Gorbachev can no longer afford to send troops to EE countries to stop the unrest...they were on their own!
  - In other countries in Eastern Europe communist governments are surrendering their power/being overthrown by their people and being replaced with democratic forms of government.
  - 1989 Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, and Germany all overthrow their communist governments.



THE ARMS RACE

INKCINCT









# Laika



Sputnik-1  
Orbit: 13840 km  
Period: 96.2 min  
Apogee: 1483 km

962 10 21 20 00 00 UTC  
Red Dog



# TIME

## RACE FOR THE MOON

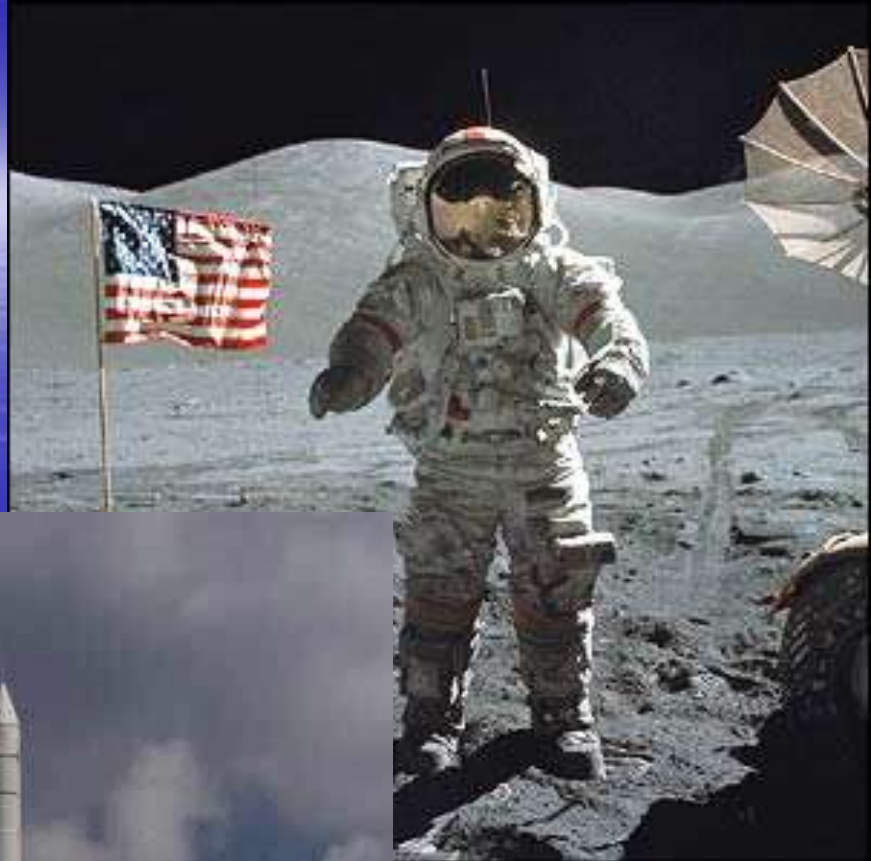


# Sputnik

This addon for the Celestia  
3D Space Simulator can be found at  
[www.celestialmotherlode.net](http://www.celestialmotherlode.net)

Follow Sputnik 1  
2000 00 00 00 00 UTC









# vi. USSR pulls out of Afghanistan.







# The Berlin Wall comes crashing down!!!





# ■ What was the Berlin Wall?

- Wall built to divide E & W Germany
- Visible symbol of communism and Cold War.

- Why was it built?

- To divide and weaken Germany

- To stop people in E. Germany from leaving the country



- What problems did it cause?
  - Cut off communication
  - Limited supplies and consumer goods
  - Could not cross border
  - People tried to escape...failed...killed...or imprisoned

- When did it fall?

- November 9, 1989...E.

- Germany opened several access points

- Official reunification: October 3, 1990



- Why did it fall?

- People rebelling against communism in other Eastern European countries
- People no longer feared the communist governments because the USSR was no longer sending troops to keep them in power



Show GPN Berlin Wall video  
Play CD 2 #8













c. Gorbachev needs to make reforms in his country if it is going to survive.



## d. Gorbachev's 2 reforms...

### GLASNOST

- “openness”
- More freedom and rights to the people

### PERISTROIKA

- “restructuring”
- Modifying the economy to allow some private ownership

## e. The Baltic Republics want

- The republics believed they had a right to self rule and would be better off economically on their own
- They begin rebelling
- Gorbachev is trying to give them more freedom without losing them
- Other republics in the USSR will follow



## f. Gorbachev continues to reject the republics cry for independence

- He believed the whole USSR would collapse if the republics began breaking away
- He cut off trade to the Baltics and sent in some military force to stop the rebellion
- He needs more time to make glasnost and perestroika work
- He wants to make changes and improve the USSR, can't do it fast enough
- By 1991 rebellion in Baltics is so severe he has to send in mega military force to stop it, this is known as a crackdown.
- He doesn't really want to end communism, just make enough changes so it will work
- Other republics are now screaming for independence too
- Gorbachev tries to give them more freedom without losing them
- Hardline communists do not like this, they are losing their strength



# Lithuania











The hardline  
communists must do  
**SOMETHING**...so they  
do not lose their power!

**THE COUP D'ÉTAT**

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**KOO day tah**

**French for  
“Sudden Strike”**



# THE COUP D'ÉTAT

**Suddenly or  
forcefully  
overthrowing a  
government.**

# When did it happen?

- August 1991



## Who did it?

- **Hardline communists**
- These are the members of the Communist Party that believe Gorbachev is giving too much control to the republics and too much freedom to the people!

## How did it happen?

- Gorbachev was placed under house arrest at his vacation home
- Military was sent to take control of the Kremlin
- Communists go on TV to tell people Gorbachev is sick and they are taking over until he is better





**Gorby's Dacha (cottage)**

# Who is it against?

- President Gorbachev





# Why did the coup happen?

- Hardline Communists believe Gorbachev is giving too much political and economic freedom
- They also think he is giving too much control to the individual republics

# What was the outcome of the coup?

- Leaders of it are arrested
- Gorbachev is freed
- Communist Party is stripped of power
- This happens because Yeltsin tells the people to stand up to the communist party...they do!
- **SUCCESS!** The coup fails!





**Coup leaders on trial**

















**Yeltsin  
standing  
on tank**





# How do Gorbachev and Yeltsin fit into all of this?

- Gorbachev resigns and disbands the Communist Party
- Yeltsin will become the “HERO”
  - First elected President of the NEW Russia!



**President of JUST RUSSIA,  
NOT the USSR.**











"...and then there were three!"

# III. NO MORE COMMUNISM

- Gorbachev resigns as leader of USSR 12/25/91
- Declares communist party illegal
- The republics are now all independent and form the CIS
- Russia holds elections, Yeltsin becomes first democratically elected President of Russia
- Eventually all republics will become **fully independent**



The republics are  
now all independent



# NOW WHAT???

- Governments no longer guarantee jobs or control prices
- Economic and political confusion
- Trying to become democratic with a market economy
- No experience and little knowledge how to do this
- There is severe inflation, high unemployment, and increasing crime, corruption
- Will these new countries survive?











# Soviet Leader Sheet