



Fall of the Soviet Union Timeline



1983: President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative

1985: Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power in Soviet Union

1986: Oil prices fall to almost half of their 1985 average, and stay low for the rest of the decade. Soviet oil production falls steeply from 1987 onward.

1986: Gorbachev ends economic aid to Soviet satellites

1989: Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan (15,000 dead and missing, over 400,000 incapacitated by disease or serious illness).

1989: Solidarity movement in Poland wins congressional elections; next year, its leader, Lech Walesa, won the Presidency.

1989 Berlin Wall falls (November), and in the next month, communist governments fall in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania.

1990 In March, the East German communist party loses its hold in congressional elections, and in October, re-unites with West Germany.

1990—**Soviet Union passes a law allowing republics to break away** with a 2/3 majority in a referendum. In June, Boris Yeltsin (Russian President) leads its **congress to declare its sovereignty over Russia** (removing the largest SSR from the sphere of the USSR). In August, a **coup led by military hardliners attempts to seize power in Moscow** to stop the decline of the USSR and Gorbachev's "giveaway" of control. Coup leaders, however, are arrested and Yeltsin replaces regional leaders who supported it.

1991-- Belavezha Accords declare the USSR dissolved, and form the Commonwealth of Independent States with Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. In July, the Warsaw Pact is dissolved.

1990-91 USSR pulls out its nuclear and conventional forces from Warsaw Pact nations