



Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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TOPIC 15.1. SOVIET DISINTEGRATION

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 30: The New Europe, pp. 1112-1161.

COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION	<p>The collapse of the Soviet Union radically changed the world's economic and political environment. No other conflict of interest dominated the post World War II world like the Cold War did. Its end, credited to Mikhail Gorbachev, was a by-product of the fall of Communism in the USSR and the collapse of the USSR itself.</p>
ONLINE RESOURCES	<p>See the PowerPoint presentation in Course Documents for additional details.</p> <p>For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources:</p> <p>The Causes and Consequences of the Collapse of the Soviet Union: Extensive links relating to Soviet disintegration.</p> <p>Lecture 16: 1989: The Walls Came Tumbling Down: Traces Cold War developments under Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev.</p> <p>History of the Soviet Union (1985-1991): Discussions the rise of Gorbachev, his programs of <i>Perestroika</i> and <i>Glasnost</i>, Yeltsin and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the restructuring the Soviet system.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>Drawing on the resources you have had an opportunity to explore (textbook, course documents, online resources, library resources), answer one or more of the following questions:</p> <p>Analyze the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the weakness of the command economy, burdens of military commitments, and growing resistance to Soviet rule by dissidents in satellite states and the non-Russian Soviet republics.</p>