



WHY THE USSR COLLAPSED

*Remember that the USSR is NOT Russia; Russia was 1 of 15 Republics within the United Soviet Socialist Republic

I. Internal Soviet Instability

1. General Economic Failure -
 - a. USSR could not compete in the World economy
 - b. There was a continuous drain of resources to the military and Cold War policies
 - c. Inadequate supply of resources for its people
 - d. Lagged technologically behind all others
2. Political Institutional Failure -
 - a. Central communism did not work for all of the republics
 - b. It was not able to meet the needs of all of its people
 - c. Corruption and inability to change
3. Republics want Autonomy *1990* (Nationalism moving force)
4. Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) gain Independence *1991*
5. Gorbachev plans to Restructure the USSR *August 1991*
6. Party Coup Fails *21 August 1991*

II. Internal Soviet Political Activity

1. Ukraine / Kravchuk
 - 17 March 1991* Sovereignty Referendum
 - 24 August 1991* Declaration of Independence by Parliament
2. Gorbachev steps down as General Secretary of the CPSU *24 August 1991*
Power transfers completely to Yeltsin
3. Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus plan to dissolve the USSR *8 December 1991*
25 December 1991 USSR ceased to exist; new governments in 15 individual states because active (only 24 years ago).