

JCC:
1962 USSR Cabinet
MADMUN XIV



A Letter From the Dais

To all of our delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 1962 USSR Cabinet where only the correct opinions are allowed, but more importantly, where the USSR remains on top throughout history. With tumultuous times, is it up to the members of this cabinet to decide how to de-escalate (or escalate if the members so choose to) the current situation in Cuba. Our cabinet will convene on September 1st, 1962, where it is up to you to fight the western world.

If you are newer to crisis committees, have no fear! We will be guiding you throughout the day and are open to any questions you may have. This cabinet is part of a JCC, or joint crisis committee. This means that throughout the conference we will be interacting with the United States and Cuban cabinets. There will be opportunities for the USSR to pass notes between rooms, host summits, send representatives - or partake in an isolationist perspective and keep to yourselves.

Members of the dais will be traveling between rooms to transport information and relay the perspectives of higher level government officials! We will also function like a regular crisis, with many crisis updates, directives, and moderated and unmoderated discussions. Throughout every step of the conference, each dais member will be available to pause and answer clarifying questions!

Your chairs for the USSR are Nadia and Mary, and your sim will be Valery - we are so excited to meet you all this November! The following background guide is to serve as a starting point for your research. All of your positions are real people, but if there is a lack of information please align with the position's general stance on each topic. Feel free to be creative and add to your characters as well!

MADMUN is our one day regional conference, meaning it is a place to try new things and experiment. We are looking for delegates with creativity in both the front and back room, collaboration with fellow committee members, and strong speeches that captivate the audience. Throughout the day, make sure to respect others when they are speaking, and keep it civil. Keep historical context in mind and make sure your language is appropriate. Don't forget the increasing globalization and make sure to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

We require a standard crisis position paper on each topic submitted by the start of the committee to be considered for awards. Make sure to speak from your character's point of view throughout the paper and committee. Use this background guide as a jumping off point and good luck!

If you have any questions before November, please email any member of the dais at:

Nadia: schewdn@mcfds.org

Mary: deserrm@mcfds.org

Valery: vayserv@mcfds.org

Sincerely,
Your USSR dais

If you would like to utilize McFarland Model UN's intro to crisis slideshow, it is linked here:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAFPWXjt29O/61e82uGAIQksQPpY8XWJbg/edit?utm_content=DAFPWXjt29O&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Topic 1: Soviet Internal Affairs and the Rapidly Occurring Situation Between the USSR, Cuba, and the United States

Introduction

The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, also known as the USSR or the Soviet Union, emerged from the Second World War victorious: hand in hand with the rise of socialism in Eastern Europe and many internal triumphs. The USSR is a rising star on the global scale, with the resources and political willpower needed to succeed. Due to this, the nation began catching the eye of the United States: a powerful leader of the capitalist West. The US has always had a grudge towards socialism and communism, but now the USSR has become their top competitor. The political tension between the two nations escalates to new heights as allies and industrial accomplishments start to factor in. The US and the USSR are knee-deep in plans for gaining the upper hand, but with power comes destruction. The stakes are high: who is going to emerge victorious?

The Russian Revolutions of the Early Twentieth Century

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Social-Democratic Workers' Party had emerged in Russia. The Party was split into two: the Bolsheviks "a member of the majority" and the Mensheviks, "a member of the minority". The Bolsheviks were led by Vladimir Lenin and believed in a radical and elitist revolution against the current Russian government, a tsarist autocracy run by Nicholas II. The Bolshevik's also wanted to create peace between the Soviet Union and Germany in the midst of WWI, which was what made the Russian people support them. The Mensheviks were led by Julius Martov: they opposed Lenin and wanted a more democratic government that they would achieve by having collaboration between the working class and the bourgeoisie. Regardless of the names of the two groups, the Mensheviks were the majority of the party and gained more public attention because of its more inclusive ideas towards changing the government.

The Russian Revolution

The Russian revolution of 1905, better known as the February Revolution, was the revolt that fueled Tsar Nicolas II to change the current autocratic government into a constitutional monarchy. Before this, there was a lot of liberal rhetoric, strikes, riots, and assassinations that were against the current Russian political system. This included Bloody Sunday, the massacre of many peaceful demonstrations at

the Winter palace in St. Petersburg. Tsar Nicholas II wasn't in the city, so the chief of security police, (the Tsar's uncle) Grand Duke Vladimir, was handling the situation. Vladimir had ordered his men to fire upon the marchers, killing more than 100 of them.

The Tsar tried to establish an elected assembly and election procedures, but neither stopped the growing revolt. This cause spread to non-Russian parts of the empire like Poland, Finland, Georgia, and Baltic provinces, further escalating violence and the size of the forces. The efforts finally convinced Nicholas to act, where he established Yulyevich Witte as the Prime Minister, promised a constitution and an elected legislature (the Duma). Some workers were satisfied with this decree and went back to their jobs. The few rebellions that were left after this were suppressed by the Russian military violently. By the beginning of 1906, the government had regained control of the army and of the Trans Siberian Railroad that connected Russia to the other countries fueling the revolution: finally, the revolution was over. The revolution wasn't able to overthrow the government, but it did lead the way for the development of parties in Russia. Which would be the eventual downfall of Tsar Nicholas and the birth of the USSR.

Russia then entered the First World War, which proved to be a devastating decision for their infrastructure. Russia relied heavily on their trade imports, without them and with attacks from Germany and Turkey, Russia lost their railway, electricity, supply systems, and harvesters. The army was deprived of food and proper supplies which led to the soldiers' mutiny with strikes and protests. The government tried to exile "troublemakers," but by 1917 the Russian people had lost faith in Tsar Nicholas.

The February Revolution

Then in late February of 1917, metal workers went on strike and were joined by working women who were protesting food rationing. More strikers and protesters joined the workers, compiling over 200,000 people marching for the replacement of Tsar Nicholas and the end of the First World War. The Tsar tried to suppress the riot, but his troops refused. Nicholas abdicated for himself and his son and his brother wouldn't take the throne, which marked the end of the tsar autocracy in Russia on March 2nd.

The revolt was named the February Revolution and a new provisional government was born. This government consisted of members of Nicholas's elected legislature, the Duma, and was led by Prince George Lvov. This government was seen as the representation of the privileged in Russia. That being said, the Petrograd Soviet of Workers and Soldiers' Deputies, who held "Dual Power" with the provisional government, was an assembly of over 500 who were elected by ordinary people, and therefore represented the regular people of Russia. The fatal mistake of the provisional government was the decision to not take Russia out of the First World War, one of the main reasons that Nicholas was overthrown.

The October Revolution

On October 24th of 1917, the Bolsheviks began to take control of many key places in Petrograd under the authority of Vladimir Lenin. Lenin wanted a Soviet government that would be directly ruled by councils of soldiers, peasants, and workers. Before the revolution, Lenin was exiled in Switzerland, but Germany allowed him to travel through Germany back to Russia because of his goal for peace with Germany. By the night of the 25th, the Bolsheviks had gained control of the entire city except for the seat of the Provisional Government, the Winter Palace. That night, they rushed the palace and arrested the ministers, bringing the provisional government to an end. This was a chance for a government that consisted of harmony and equality for the Russian people, including the interests of the working class being integrated into the government.

The Russian Civil War

After the Bolshevik takeover of Petrograd (the Russian capital city), they had to defend their new government from those who opposed them. The October Revolution set the stage for the Russian Civil War in the following month, on November 7th of 1917. Lenin rose to power and quickly made peace with the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) which angered many Russians and caused a civil war to break out. Groups emerged, those loyal to the Tsar became known as the White Russians who were fighting against the communist Red Army (those who were supportive of the Bolshevik government). One other group came about, but was less influential: the Black Russians, which were made up of mostly anarchist Ukrainian peasants and workers who wanted a free and libertarian government.

The development of the civil war worried the Allies (France, the United Kingdom, Russia, the United States, Italy, and Japan) and they sent French, British, and US soldiers to Russia to help break up the war. The Allies wanted Russia to get back involved in the WWI fight and to stop the spread of communism. The Allies deployed to Northern Russia and Siberia, they supported the anti-Bolshevik armies and worked to keep military supplies and information out of the Bolshevik's hands. The Allies suffered many casualties and withdrew in June of 1919. Siberian forces fought with the White Russians and worked to keep the Japanese from using the conflict to take more territory.

The West wasn't focused on the chaos in Russia because of the problems in France, but the Soviets would not forget how the West had intervened and tried to crush the communist revolution. The Red Army had many advantages against the White Russians and the Allies: they controlled the areas with the most people and they outnumbered the White Russians tremendously. Although the armies were similar in their discipline, the commander of the Red Army, Leon Trotsky, reigned over the soldiers with terror while the White Russians only used brutality. The Red Army also made peace with the Black Russians, giving them an advantage over the White Russians. In essence, the Red Army was organized

and powerful as opposed to the sporadic White Russians.

By the end of 1920, the Red Army had forced the Whites into Siberia, but the Red Army soon thereafter broke their agreement with the Black Russians and started killing the anarchist Black Russians and their sympathizers. The Red Army destroyed the White Russian forces and by October of 1922: they took the eastern port of Vladivostok from the White Russians, ending the Civil War. Any revolts that emerged were suppressed by the Red Army. After the Bolshiviks cemented their communist government, the Russians remembered the Western intervention in the war which created a distrustful rift between the Russians and the West. Millions of people had died fighting or from the famines and the epidemics that followed the war, and the West's intervention fueled those deaths.

The USSR

In late December of 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was born. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was the unification between fifteen republics in Europe and Asia. The USSR was formed to create a very centralized and one-party government under the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. They were led by the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic based in Moscow. Vladimir Lenin fathered the USSR under the mission of uniting the countries that the Russian government kept separated, in a "prison of nations" as Lenin called it. The Soviet Union was to follow socialism and lead the people down the road to communism. The cultures and traditions that differentiated the Socialist Republics were able to continue. Russia was already the largest country in the world, but with the USSR? All areas that were under the tsarist regime became bigger than ever.

Lenin's Commissar for Nationalities, Joseph Stalin, wanted to incorporate non-Russian republics into the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic as autonomous republics, which went against Lenin's goal for the USSR, allowing the republics to still be their own. The leaders of the republics were concerned with Stalin's ideas, worried that they wouldn't be able to secede from the union. After the Civil War, the Bolshevik party was militarized and their solution to most problems had become brute force. The Bolsheviks crushed rebellions, but they also suppressed those who were loyal to them.

On January 21st of 1924, Vladimir Lenin died from complications of three prior strokes he had suffered. More than a year before his death, the USSR had been running without him because of his health complications. Lenin was the Father of the USSR and an iconic revolutionary figure whose actions had long lasting effects.

Joseph Stalin

After Lenin's death, Joseph Stalin worked hard to defeat his competitors. By the late 1920's, he became the dictator of the Soviet Union. Stalin used fear to stay in power by expanding the secret police that either killed those who opposed Stalin or sent them to forced-labor camps. Stalin's goals included transforming the USSR into an industrial superpower. To achieve this, he first took control of the economy by giving the farms to the government. Farmers who refused Stalin's order, were killed or exiled. And the government collectivization of the country's agriculture led to famine that killed millions.

In the late 1930s Stalin initiated the Great Purge, many campaigns that would get rid of anyone who posed a threat to him in the government. Stalin altered history books and photographs to remove those who he purged and to give him a more prominent role in the revolution. He inserted himself into art, literature, books, and the national anthem. Stalin and his government also controlled social media. In the 1940's WWII broke out. Stalin and Germany created the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact that was later broken by Germany in 1941. When the Germans invaded, Stalin had been in denial of the warnings that his advisors, the US, and Britain had given him about Germany's plans. The Soviet Union was not ready for war, but they prevailed and eventually forced Germany out of the USSR in 1943. This betrayal let the Soviet Union join the Allied Forces where they helped end WWII, but through the War Stalin never faltered in his goal for expanding the Soviet empire.

Stalin continued to reign in terror with added purges and executions in the post-war USSR. Foreign influence was the main cause for his brutality, especially any Western influence. While suppressing all he could, Stalin established more Eastern-European communist governments and exploded their first atomic bomb in 1949. Stalin also gave the North Korean leader Kim II Sung the permission to invade the US-allied South Korea, which led to the Korean War. By the end of his reign, Stalin had secured three seats for the USSR in the newly formed United Nations, made the Soviet Union a global superpower armed with nuclear weapons, and achieved the respect he had wanted. Stalin was seen as a God-like figure by the Soviet people because of his ability to deceive the soviet people with his power over the media. Stalin almost released another purge because of the discovery of plots to assassinate him, but he wasn't able to follow through because on March 5th , 1953 from a stroke.

Nikita Khrushchev

Nikita Khrushchev was born into a poor family in south-western Russia in 1894 and received little education. As he grew older, he joined the Bolshhevik army in 1918 and became a commissar for the Red Army in the Russian Civil War a year later. In 1920, the famine that Stalin had caused by giving agriculture control to the government, killed Khrushchev's wife. By 1925 Khrushchev was doing work for the Communist party full time. Khrushchev moved to Moscow in 1929 to attend the Stalin Industrial Academy, and after his time there we went back to working for the communist party in Moscow.

Khrushchev kept rising in the ranks of the party, notably in 1936 he became a member of a 70-men Central Committee of the Soviet Union Communist Party and a Constitutional Committee member while evading being killed in Stalin's Great Purge. Khrushchev then got involved with the Politburo, the highest decision-making body of the Communist Party at that time, and he was officially made a member of the Politburo in 1939. In 1940 Khrushchev was in charge of integrating the conquered land of Eastern Poland into the Soviet Union. In 1941, Khrushchev wanted to revive the Ukrainian Communist Party, but as WWII began Nazi Germany invaded Ukraine, disrupting that plan. Khrushchev was told to evacuate as much of Ukraine's industry to the East, in order to reduce damages. That year Khrushchev became the lieutenant general as well. His main task was to stimulate resistance from the civilian people and to keep relations between Stalin and the Politburo. After the liberation of Poland from Nazi Germany in 1944, Khrushchev resumed his work there and became the first secretary of the Ukraine's Communist Party.

In 1946, a famine ravaged Ukraine: Khrushchev fought to increase the production of grain and distribution of food against Stalin's wishes. Stalin wanted to use Ukraine's production elsewhere, which led to Khrushchev's passion for the Soviet's agricultural problems. In 1949, Khrushchev was called back to Moscow by Stalin, where the Soviet government increasingly became pawns in Stalin's "palace politics". Khrushchev began real agriculture work, creating large state farming plans. Alas, Khrushchev's plans were rejected in 1951 because agriculture responsibility had been transferred to Georgy Malenkov, the beginning of tension between the two. Then in 1953, after Stalin's death, Khrushchev had a power struggle with Malenkov for the Premier role. Malenkov was the heir to Stalin, but Khrushchev used his Party machinery control to gain the upper hand. In September, Khrushchev successfully replaced Malenkov as Premier, and quickly executed his political rivals. Prominent goals that Khrushchev had at that time were liberalizing domestic affairs and foreign relations.

In 1956, Khrushchev changed the tides for his premiership, he gave a secret speech to the Communist Party congress that denounced Stalin and his actions like the Great Purge and police repression. Khrushchev was in the midst of the Great Purge, he worked with many of those who were executed, making that instance personal. To support this speech he released millions of political prisoners that Stalin had imprisoned. Khrushchev's speech was so significant that it caused the chair of the Soviet Writer's Union to commit suicide. Stalin was a god to the Soviet people, still stuck in the illusion Stalin had instilled with his control over the media. As well as denouncing Stalin, Khrushchev was officially reverting to Leninist views and even quoted when Vladimir Lenin had warned that Stalin would abuse his power. Khrushchev glossed over many of Stalin's actions, including all those that occurred before 1934

The Soviet Union became a global superpower in no time at all. You may be asking, what is the economic situation now? When Khrushchev became premier he had a plan to restructure the entire

economic system that Stalin had made. Stalin's economic organization made all economic trade have to go through Moscow, a tactic he used to keep a grip on the country. Khrushchev was initiating his "horizontal organization" reform of the economic system, where the Soviet Union is divided into ninety two regions each with an economic council. Any state-owned issues that arose would be taken care of by that region's council and manufacturers could trade or interact with each other without having to go through the ministry. Speaking of which, most economic ministries in Moscow were abolished. These reforms allowed for the republics to acquire more individuality. These reforms weakened the control Moscow had over the economy, but they still have the right to veto the actions of the regional councils. Khrushchev made all resources from the regions be distributed and invested by the regional economic councils. Excess resources and funds will be sent to regions that are underdeveloped. Khrushchev didn't have much support from the rest of the government, but Khrushchev did not fully retreat from his reforms although he did have to retract the reforms from a single sector to appease the other leaders.

The Cuban Revolution

On July 26th, 1953, Fidel Castro launched an attack against the Cuban Dictator Fulgencio Batista at the Moncada Barracks in Cuba. Batista had the support of the United States, who supplied him with weapons to use against the insurgency. Batista had extinguished individual liberty in Cuba, and the Cuban people were ready for justice. Castro was a young, charismatic lawyer and activist at the time and began to help orchestrate a revolt against Batista. Despite this, the attack on the Barracks ended with Castro sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Castro was released from prison in 1955 by Batista in a political amnesty. Castro fled to Mexico and continued his fight against the Batista regime.

On December 2nd, 1956, Castro and eighty one men landed on the eastern coast of Cuba where they waged guerilla warfare¹ against Batista's forces. Castro's forces grew by volunteers and in a string of defeats, Batista's poorly led forces had been defeated. This caused Batista to flee the country on January 1st of 1956. Castro then became the head of armed forces in Cuba. His ambition didn't stop there: he eventually pushed out the president as well. Naturally, Castro then became the premier of Cuba with the support of the Cuban people who wanted a more peaceful way of life for their country. After Castro became the leader of Cuba, the United States cast a partial economic embargo on Cuba in 1960 and Washington D.C. cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961. On April 17th of 1961, Castro formally announced that Cuba was a Socialist state.

¹ Untraditional warfare led by small, irregular groups against larger, regular forces (Ex: the military).

The Alliance

Shortly after the Cuban Revolution, ties with the Soviet Union were established. The USSR and Cuba became close allies through trade, a common enemy, and political ideologies. The Soviet Union needed to gain leverage against the US and Cuba offered the perfect opportunity to get it: after all, the Cuban people were attacked by the US and the US aided in the destruction that Batista's regime caused. The US and the Soviet Union are two very powerful nations with two very different political ideologies, who both want to expand their ideals. Allying with Cuba gives the Soviet Union the upper hand on the US, and shows the US that they have just begun.

United States vs. Socialism

The beginning of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union dated back to WWI. The United States was hostile because the Soviet Leaders pulled out of the war, the US was already suspicious of the USSR because of their opposing ideologies, Capitalism and Communism. The US was also deterred by the Stalin regime and the totalitarian nature of it. There was little room for friendly relations between the two. Although the USSR and the US were allied in WWII, the Soviet's approach toward Eastern Europe was much too aggressive and undemocratic for the US. To add to it all, when Khrushchev and Castro initiated relations very publically in the US, the US issues between Cuba and the Soviets had merged. The partnership between two of the US's rivals could only cause chaos within the US government.

Not even two days after Castro's commitment to socialism, the United States launched the Bay of Pigs Invasion on April 19th, 1961. The Bay of Pigs Invasion was being planned by the US since March of 1960 when US president Dwight Eisenhower approved the program that would begin the training of Cuban exiles to invade Cuba. The plan relied heavily on the assumption that the Cuban citizens and some parts of their military, would support the invasion. Shortly after the approval, the United States Central of Intelligence (CIA) set up training camps in Guatemala. By November of 1960, they had a small army lined up for the inevitable attack.

Eisenhower's presidency didn't last long enough for him to follow through with his plans, but his successor, John F. Kennedy, was briefed on Eisenhower's plan before Kennedy was even inaugurated on January 20th of 1961.

The US had reached their limit for communism: first the Soviet Union became their main competitor, and now 90 miles from their coastline a communist regime is brewing? This did not fly with our rivals. The solidification of the allyship between the Soviet Union and Cuba opened up the possibility of communist attacks that didn't need to cross an ocean to reach the United States. The fear of that

possibility was the root of why the invasion began, and Castro's declaration of Socialism gave the US the green light to initiate it.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion ended in failure: which was amazing for the USSR. The US disguised planes as Cuban air force planes that attempted to bomb Castro's air force base, but the planes missed most of their targets and left the base somewhat in-tact. On top of that, the planes were recognized as the US's immediately and the information was released to the public, outing the US government for being in charge of the attack. President Kennedy was forced to cancel the second air strike. The US's exile ground force was greeted by heavy fire once on Cuba's beaches. Actual Cuban planes took out most of the exiles' planes, ships, and invasion team. Those who survived the Invasion either fled or were taken prisoner by Castro.

After the disastrous invasion, in an attempt to redeem the Kennedy Administration, they initiated Operation Mongoose in January of 1962. Operation Mongoose was a series of plans to take down the Castro regime and finish what the Bay of Pigs supposedly started. JFK left the plans of taking down Castro in the hands of his brother Robert F. Kennedy, JFK's Attorney General. Citizens and politicians alike were pressuring the government to take Castro down. JFK eventually announced that Castro's defeat was the top priority of the US government. The operation was categorized as being small and covert missions that would take down Castro, instead of one large plan.

Nuclear Revenge

Shortly after the alliance was born, in July of 1962 Castro and Khrushchev agreed to set up nuclear missiles in Cuba, to arm Cuba against the US and to get revenge for the missiles the US has in Turkey. In 1961, the US government deployed Jupiter nuclear missiles to Turkey and Italy and they trained officials in the countries on how to use them. The US sent the missiles to Europe because of NATO's Atomic Stockpile plan where the US would provide missiles to their allies. This plan came about because of the escalating cold war and the nuclear arms race. The Cold War was the tension that hung between the Soviet Union and the United States while both of them opposed and had the weapons to destroy each other. The two powerful nations continued to upgrade their military and nuclear weapon supply just to have the upper hand on the other in the event that they would go head to head. Which led the USSR to the plan of deploying nuclear missiles to Cuba to combat the US missiles in Turkey and protect their ally Cuba from any more attacks from the US.

The beginning of the twentieth century in Russia was a bloody path that led to the creation of the USSR. The Soviet Union was and still is haunted by the past, although the USSR *is* rising to economic and industrial heights on a global scale. But with this power has come governmental conflicts and an escalated rivalry. The Soviet government must decide on the course of action to take to achieve success. What should the focus be? How can the USSR use their allies? How should the Soviets approach the issues that they are faced with?

Questions to consider:

- How can the USSR use Cuba to improve internal politics?
- How can the USSR have more political support?
- How can the USSR use the missiles in Cuba to spread Soviet ideology?
- How can the USSR gain the upper hand against the United States in this situation?
- How can Khrushchev gain the support of other Soviet leaders and the Soviet people?
- What could go wrong by supporting Cuba against the US, what could go right?
- Should the USSR approach the situation with the US and Cuba with aggression or diplomacy?
- How should the USSR communicate with Cuba and the US effectively?
- Should the Soviet government focus on their internal or external situations first?
- Will the instability of the USSR's government affect its rivalry with the US?
- How does the USSR's history impact current policy?

Works Cited:

- "Soviet Union." *Wikipedia*, 3 Sept. 2023. *Wikipedia*,
https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Soviet_Union&oldid=1173669261.
- "Soviet Union Timeline." *BBC News*, 1 May 2012. *www.bbc.com*,
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17858981>.
- Bloody Sunday | Tsar Nicholas II, Protestors, Massacre | Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Bloody-Sunday-Russia-1905>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2023.
- Russian Revolution - The February Revolution | Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution/The-February-Revolution>. Accessed 10 Sept. 2023.
- Russian Revolution of 1905 | Causes, Consequences & Impact | Britannica*. 21 July 2023,

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution-of-1905>.

“What Was The February Revolution?” *Imperial War Museums*,
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-february-revolution>. Accessed 10 Sept. 2023.

October Revolution. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/october-revolution>. Accessed 11 Sept. 2023.

“The October Revolution in Russia.” *Origins*,
https://origins.osu.edu/milestones/november-2017-october-revolution-russia?language_content_entity=en. Accessed 11 Sept. 2023.

“Death of Lenin.” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*, 17 June 2015,
<https://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/death-of-lenin/>.

Editors, The. “The Birth of the Soviet Union and the Death of the Russian Revolution.” *JSTOR Daily*, 21 Dec. 2022,
<https://daily.jstor.org/the-birth-of-the-soviet-union-and-the-death-of-the-russian-revolution/>.

“Russian Civil War.” *Army Heritage Center Foundation*,
<https://www.armyheritage.org/soldier-stories-information/russian-civil-war/>. Accessed 14 Sept. 2023.

Russian Civil War | Casualties, Causes, Combatants, & Outcome | Britannica. 11 Aug. 2023,
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Civil-War>.

What Is the Difference between the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks? | MyTutor.
<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/answers/10347/13-Plus/History/What-is-the-difference-between-the-Mensheviks-and-the-Bolsheviks/>. Accessed 12 Sept. 2023.

Biography: Joseph Stalin. https://www.pbs.org/redfiles/bios/all_bio_joseph_stalin.htm. Accessed 15 Sept. 2023.

“Joseph Stalin: Death, Quotes & Facts.” *HISTORY*, 25 Apr. 2023,
<https://www.history.com/topics/european-history/joseph-stalin>.

BBC - History - Historic Figures: Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971).
https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/khrushchev_nikita.shtml. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

Khrushchev's Secret Speech | Facts, Date, & Significance | Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Khrushchevs-secret-speech>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

Nikita Khrushchev (U.S. National Park Service). <https://www.nps.gov/people/nikita-khrushchev.htm>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

Khrushchev's Reforms | Schoolshistory.Org.Uk. 23 July 2017,
<https://schoolshistory.org.uk/topics/european-history/russia-soviet-union/khrushchevs-reforms/>.

Khrushchev Charts A New Economic Course by Isaac Deutscher 1957.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/deutscher/1957/khrushchev-economy.htm>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

New Russian Evidence on Soviet-Cuban Relations, 1960-61: When Nikita Met Fidel, the Bay of Pigs, and Assassination Plotting | Wilson Center.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/new-russian-evidence-soviet-cuban-relations-1960-61-when-nikita-met-fidel-the-bay-pigs>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

The Soviet Union and the United States - Revelations from the Russian Archives | Exhibitions - Library of Congress. 15 June 1992, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/sovi.html>.

“Arms Race: Definition, Cold War & Nuclear Arms.” *HISTORY*, 16 Mar. 2023,

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/arms-race>.

The Jupiter Missiles and the Endgame of the Cuban Missile Crisis: A Matter of “Great Secrecy” | Wilson Center.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/jupiter-missiles-and-endgame-cuban-missile-crisis-matter-great-secrecy>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2023.

Topic 2: Soviet Ideology and Influence Abroad

Introduction

The post-WWII global landscape was a new era for global politics, ideologies, and allyships. The United States and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR) had emerged as superpowers economically and militarily while Europe was squandered and their colonies were now faced with the difficult task of freedom in the wake of colonialism. The two powers, however, had emerged with vastly different ideologies and government structures. The more either attempted to spread their influence over the shattered world, the more conflict they elicited from the other. From here we saw the NATO alliance and Warsaw Pact emerge, wars break out and tear nations apart, and the looming threat of mutually assured destruction. With both countries so deeply set on becoming the dominant global force, at the expense of the other, dedicated efforts from the governments emerged to spread their influence abroad.

The Eastern Bloc & Soviet Strongholds

At its founding in 1922, the Soviet Union consisted of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Transcaucasia, later it would grow to have 15 official member states. The 15 states, as they are known post-USSR include; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the USSR maintained control over several satellite states² across East Europe who, along with the USSR nations, made up the Eastern Bloc: the group advocating for the growth and expansion of communism worldwide. East Germany was a key part of the Eastern Bloc as the German divide was where the 'Iron Curtain' had fallen separating the communist and capitalist world and initiating the Cold War.

The Decolonization Movement

In the aftermath of the world wars, a war-ravaged Western Europe realized that it could no longer maintain its hold on its colonies. Thus throughout the second half of the twentieth century, new nations emerged, primarily throughout Africa but also in East Asia and in the Middle East³. Due to the way in which these new countries were established and left, as well as the resource plundering that had occurred under occupation, several countries were vulnerable to the whims of the competitive global powers.⁴ The newly established world was yet another battleground for the combative US and USSR. Influence over these new states would mean additional resources, the spread of political and economic ideology, allies in the event of war, more opportunities to engage in proxy wars, and above all, greater standing over the competitor.

The Importance of Proxy Wars

Proxy wars were key aspects of the Cold War conflict. Not only did they demonstrate how set the powers were on spreading their economic and political ideologies and block all others, but they were also essential to preventing direct war between the US and the USSR which likely would have led to the use of each nation's quickly growing nuclear arsenal and thus mutually assured destruction (MAD). Notable proxy wars include Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan.

The State of USSR's Foreign Influence in 1960

² A satellite state is a nation that is formally independent but exists under the authority of another government. Examples in this context include Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany, ect. These were nations where the soviet army remained after WWII and exerted control post-war.

³ These new nations were primarily the result of the fall of the Ottoman Empire which was in part caused by the world wars.

⁴ It is important to also note that not all countries came under the influence of one of the global superpowers, and the non-aligned movement was a strong group committed to warding off the advances of either power.

1960 was a relatively quiet and peaceful time within the USSR with no notable revolutions, rebellions or uprisings. The Soviet Union also had allies and connections outside of Eastern Europe at the time including, Egypt, Iraq, North Vietnam, Mongolia, and Syria. There were also many tense points of foreign influence at this time with the US supporting Israel against contention from the Arab nations who were being supplied weaponry by the USSR. Additionally, both the USSR and China took it upon themselves to aid communist Vietnam in their fight against the US. The USSR provided primarily weaponry and minimal troops.

The Deterioration of Sino-Soviet Relations and Communist Conflict

Both China and the Soviet Union had been major communist powers and examples in the world for decades and were often viewed by adversaries as congruent structures. For a period of time the two had a strong diplomatic relationship. 1950 saw the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance. However, shortly thereafter a split emerged between the powers with China looking to continue aggression against the US and its capitalism, whereas the USSR was moving towards coexistence and peace. This policy rift then led to further contest over who should bear influence over the communist satellite states and competition over territory. By 1960 the tensions between the two nations had grown bitter and public without the veil of diplomacy.

Questions to consider:

- How can the USSR strengthen its foreign influence and spread communism?
- How can the USSR repair its relationship with China?
- How can the USSR navigate the ongoing Vietnam War?
- How can the USSR bring decolonized states under their influence, and take away from US influence and non-aligned influence?
- When should military versus diplomatic action be taken?
- What costs are associated with the spread of soviet ideology and how should this be taken into account?
- How should we instruct our diplomats to interact with other nations?

Works Cited:

- Kimball, Jeffrey P. "Russia's Vietnam War." *Reviews in American History*, vol. 25, no. 1, Mar. 1997, pp. 157–62. *muse.jhu.edu*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/rah.1997.0016>.
- Mass Uprisings in the USSR* | *Social History Portal*.
<https://socialhistoryportal.org/news/articles/109844>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.

Milestones: 1953–1960 - Office of the Historian.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/warsaw-treaty>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.

Milestones: 1961–1968 - Office of the Historian.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/arab-israeli-war-1967>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.

Robert W. Strayer and Eric W. Nelson. *Ways of the World; a Global History with Sources*. 4th edition, Bedford/St. Martins, 2019.

“Satellite Nations During the Cold War | Definition & States - Video & Lesson Transcript.”

Study.Com, <https://study.com/academy/lesson/satellite-nations-definition-the-cold-war.html>.

Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.

Sino-Soviet Border Disputes | American Experience | PBS.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/china-border-disputes/>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023.

“The Differences in Communism in Russia & China.” *Kennedale Independent School District*,

<https://www.kennedaleisd.net/cms/lib/TX21000356/Centricity/Domain/2120/China%20The%20Differences%20in%20Communism%20in%20Russia%20and%20China%20Handout%20.pdf>.

“What Countries Were Part of the Soviet Union?” *HISTORY*, 9 Aug. 2023,

<https://www.history.com/news/what-countries-were-in-soviet-union>.

“Which Countries Were Involved in the Vietnam War?” *HISTORY*, 3 Aug. 2023,

<https://www.history.com/news/vietnam-war-combatants>.