

NITSMUN 2021



NIT SILCHAR
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Background Guide

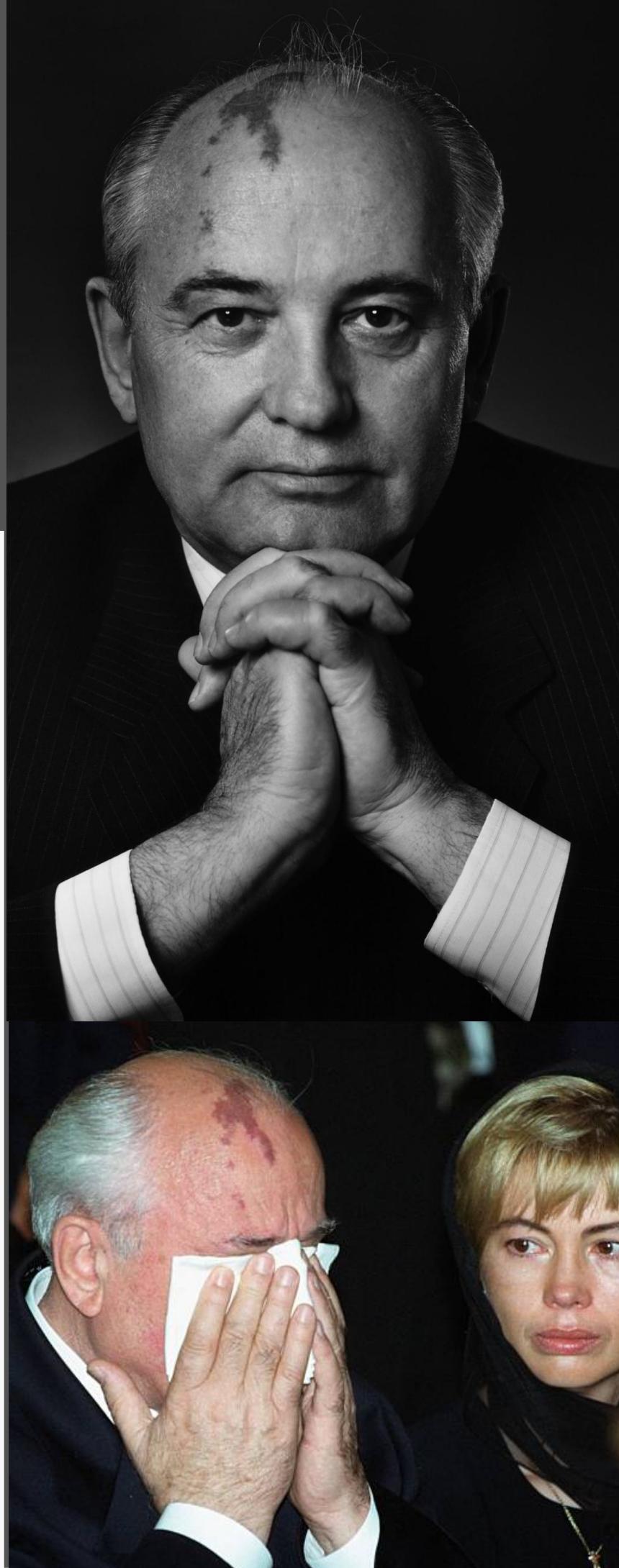
United Nations Historical Security Council

1991-1999: The dissolution of the USSR and the Post Soviet Crisis



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Message from the Secretary General



Dear Delegates,

With utmost honor and pride I, Mayurakshi Chanda, Secretary General of NITSMUN 2021, welcome you to the annual NIT Silchar Model United Nations conference to be held from 26th to 28th February, 2021.

NIT Silchar Model United Nations has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 2014. Due to the relentless efforts of the team every passing year paired with the enthusiastic participants and stellar executive board members, NITSMUN has been able to carve its own place in the mun circuit and now stands out as one of the forerunners amongst the NE India MUNs. Through the simulation of the annual conferences and year-round activity for the MUN enthusiasts, NITSMUN continues to uphold its passion and dedication to engage the youth in MUN culture and bring out the best in them.

Delegates, this will be a golden opportunity to expand your knowledge and utilize it in engaging debates and simultaneously build your critical thinking as well as writing skills. You will be able to connect with talented people and learn immensely throughout the process, all from the comfort of your home.

On behalf of my team, I look forward to welcoming you and hope you will have an enriching experience!

Best Regards,
Mayurakshi Chanda,
Secretary General,
NIT Silchar Model United Nations

Message from the Director General



Dear Delegates,

As the Director-General of NITS MUN, I am elated to welcome you all to our annual conference to be held from February 26th to 28th. The secretariat and I hope that you experience engaging discussions, heated debates, astute problem solving, and above all, enjoy this conference.

The agendas and committees this year are extremely intriguing and interesting, therefore we look forward to an intellectually stimulating and enjoyable conference. To see to that, the committee chairs and the NITS MUN secretariat are present to see that everything runs smoothly and to ensure that you have a pleasurable experience, no matter if it's your tenth or the first conference.

Welcome again, we're looking forward to meeting you all.

Good luck!

Best Regards,

Arnab Das

Director General

NIT Silchar Model United Nations

Rules of Procedure



General Rules

1. Scope: These rules apply to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Regional Bodies, the Security Council, and the Historical North American Treaty Organization, except for modifications provided by the Secretariat, and will be considered adopted in advance of session. Other committees are run according to rules set by the Director.

2. Language: English will be the official and working language of the conference.

3. Delegations: Each member state will be represented by one or two delegates and shall have one vote on each committee. Representatives of accredited observers will have the same rights as those of full members, except that they may not sign or vote on resolutions or amendments. The Secretary-General will provide a list of member states and accredited observers for each committee.

4. Participation of Non-Members: A guest speaker, expert witness, or representative of an entity that is neither a member of the committee nor an accredited observer may address a committee only with the prior approval of the Director.

5. Credentials: The credentials of all delegations have been accepted upon registration. The Secretary-General shall be the final arbiter of the validity of all credentials. Any representative to whose admission a member objects will provisionally be seated with the same rights as other representatives, pending a decision from the Secretary-General.

6. Statements by the Secretariat: The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat whom he or she designates may at any time make either written or oral statements to the committee.

7. General Powers of the Committee Staff: The Director will declare the opening and closing of each meeting the adoption of any procedural motion with no significant objection may be proposed. Subject to these rules,

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the Director will have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting. He will direct discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions, announce decisions, rule on points of order, and ensure and enforce the observance of these rules. The Director may temporarily transfer their duties to another member of the Committee staff. Committee staff members may also advise delegations on the course of debate. In the exercise of these functions, the Committee staff will be at all times subject to these rules and responsible to the Secretary-General.

8. Appeal: Any decision of the Director, with the exception of those matters for which the Committee Rules of Procedure explicitly prohibit appeal, may be appealed immediately by a delegate. The Director may speak briefly in defense of the ruling. The appeal will then be put to a vote, and the decision of the Director will stand unless overruled by a two-thirds majority. The Director has ultimate discretion on any ruling, whether it is



appealed successfully or not.

9. Quorum: The Director may declare a Committee open and permit debate to proceed when at least one fourth of the voting members of the Committee is present. A member of the committee is considered present if at least one delegate representing that member is in the Committee chamber. The presence of a majority of the members will be required for the vote on any substantive motion. A quorum will be assumed to be present unless specifically challenged by a Point of Order and shown to be absent. A roll call is never required to determine the presence of a quorum.

10. Courtesy: Delegates will show courtesy and respect to the Committee staff and to other delegates. The Director will immediately call to order any delegate who fails to comply with this rule.

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Rules Governing Debate

11. Agenda: The first order of business for the Committee, if the Committee has more than one topic area to discuss, will be the consideration of the agenda.

12. Debate: After the Agenda has been determined, one continuously open speakers list will be established for the duration of the topic area, except as interrupted by procedural points or motions, caucuses, discussion of amendments, and introduction of draft resolutions. Speakers may speak generally on the topic area being considered and may address any working paper or any draft resolution currently on the floor. A draft resolution can only be referred to as such once it has been introduced to the committee.

13. Unmoderated Caucus: An unmoderated caucus temporarily suspends formal debate and allows members to discuss ideas informally in the committee room. A motion for an

unmoderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. The delegate making the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the motion and specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty minutes. The motion will be put to a vote immediately, and a simple majority is required for passage. The Director may rule the motion dilatory and his or her decision is not subject to appeal. The Director may prematurely end an unmoderated caucus if the Director feels that the caucus has ceased to be productive, and this decision is not subject to appeal.

14. Moderated Caucus: The purpose of the moderated caucus is to facilitate substantive debate at critical junctures in the discussion. A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. The delegate making the motion must briefly specify a topic, a speaking time, and an overall time limit, not to exceed twenty minutes, for the caucus. Once raised, the motion will be voted on immediately, with a simple majority required for passage. The Director may rule the motion dilatory and his or her decision is not

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subject to appeal. If the motion passes, the Director will call on delegates to speak at his or her discretion for the stipulated time. Only speeches will be counted against the overall time of the caucus, and each speech will be counted as taking up the full duration of the speaking time. If no delegates wish to speak, the moderated caucus will immediately conclude, even if time remains in the caucus. The Director may also decide, subject to appeal, to suspend the caucus early.

15. Closure of Debate: When the floor is open, a delegate may move to close debate on the substantive or procedural matter under discussion. The Director may, subject to appeal, rule such a motion dilatory. When closure of debate is moved, the Director may recognize up to two speakers against the motion. No speaker in favor of the motion will be recognized. Closure of debate requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If the Committee is in favor of closure, the Director will declare the closure of debate, and the resolutions or



amendment on the floor will be brought to an immediate vote. If the speakers list is exhausted and no delegations wish to add their name to the list, debate on the topic at hand is immediately closed.

16. Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting: Whenever the floor is open, a delegate may move for the suspension of the meeting, to suspend all Committee functions until the next meeting, or for the adjournment of the meeting, to suspend all Committee functions for the duration of the Conference. A motion to adjourn will not be in order until three quarters of the time scheduled for the last session have elapsed. The Director may rule such motions dilatory; this decision is not subject to appeal. When in order, such a motion will not be debated but will be immediately put to a vote and will require a simple majority to pass.

17. Postponement and Resumption of Debate: Whenever the floor is open, a delegate may move for the postponement of debate on a resolution or amendment currently on the floor. The motion, otherwise known as "tabling," will require a two-thirds majority to pass and will be debated by two speakers in

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favor and two opposed. No debate or action will be allowed on any resolution or amendment on which debate has been postponed, and if debate on a resolution or amendment has not been resumed before debate is closed, that resolution or amendment may not be voted upon. A motion to resume debate on an amendment or resolution on which debate has been postponed will require a simple majority to pass and will be debated by two speakers in favor and two opposed. Resumption of debate will cancel the effects of postponement of debate.

Rules Governing Speeches

18. Speakers List: The Committee will have an open speakers list for the topic area being discussed. Separate speakers lists will be established as needed for motions to set the agenda and debate on amendments. A delegation present may add its name to the speakers list by submitting a request in writing to the Director, provided that delegation is not already on the speakers list, and may similarly



move their name from the list by a similar request in writing. At his or her discretion (usually only when a new speakers list is opened) the Director may solicit nations to be added to the speakers list by raising their placard.

19. Speeches: No delegate may address a session without having previously obtained the permission of the Director. The Director may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion, or offensive to committee members or staff. Delegates who are absent when recognized by the dais automatically forfeit their time, and debate will continue. 0. Speaking Time: When any speakers list is opened, the speaking time is automatically set to one minute. Delegates may also motion to set a new speaking time at any time when points or motions are in order during formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

21. Yields: A delegate granted the right to speak from a speakers list may, after speaking, yield in one of three ways: to another delegate, to questions, or to the Chair.
• Yield to another delegate: Any remaining time will be given to that delegate, who

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may not, however, then yield any remaining time. To turn the floor over to a co-delegate is not considered a yield.

- **Yield to questions:** Questionnaires will be selected by the Moderator and limited to one question each. Follow Up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the Moderator. Only the speaker's answers to questions will be deducted from the speaker's remaining time.

- **Yield to the chair:** Such a yield should be made if the delegate has finished speaking and does not wish his or her speech to be subject to comments.

The Moderator will then move to the next speaker. A yield to the chair is in order, but not automatic, when a speaker's time has elapsed. Yields are in order only during the Speakers List and not during moderated caucus.

22. Comments: If a substantive speech is followed by no yields, the Moderator may recognize two delegations, other than the initial speaker, to comment for thirty seconds each on the specific content of the speech just completed.



Commenters may not yield. No comments will be in order during debate on procedural motions, moderated caucus, or debate on amendments.

23. Right of Reply: A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may request in writing a Right of Reply. The Reply, if granted, will take the form of a thirty-second speech. The Director's decision whether to grant the Right of Reply cannot be appealed, and a delegate granted a Right of Reply will not address the committee until requested to do so by the Directors.

Points

24. Point of Personal Privilege: Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort which impairs his or her ability to participate in the proceedings, he or she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. While a Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt a speaker, delegates should use this power with the utmost discretion.

25. Point of Order: During the discussion of any

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matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper use of parliamentary procedure. The Point of Order will be immediately ruled upon by the Director in accordance with these rules of procedure. The Director may rule out of order those points that are dilatory or improper; such a decision cannot be appealed. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may only interrupt a speaker when the speech itself is not following proper parliamentary procedure.

26. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: When the floor is open, a delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the Director a question regarding the Rules of Procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker. Delegates with substantive questions should not rise to this Point, but should rather approach the committee staff at an appropriate time. Rules Governing Substantive Matters



27. Working Papers: Delegates may propose working papers for Committee consideration. Working papers are intended to aid the Committee in its discussion and formulation of resolutions and need not be written in resolution format. Working papers are not official documents, and do not require formal introduction, but do require the signature of the Director to be copied and distributed. Working papers do not have signatories.

28. Resolutions: A resolution may be introduced when it receives the approval of the Director and is signed by 25 members in General Assembly committees, 8 members in the Economic and Social Council committees and Regional Bodies, and 5 members in the Security Council and Historical North American Treaty Organization. Signing a resolution need not indicate support of the resolution, and the signatory has no further rights or obligations and may sign more than one draft resolution. There are no official sponsors of resolutions. The Director's decision not to approve a resolution or amendment may not be appealed. Resolutions require a simple majority to pass unless otherwise stated in specific Committee rules. More than one resolution may be on the floor at any one

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time, but at most one resolution may be passed per topic area.

29. Introducing Resolutions: Once a resolution has been approved as stipulated above and has been copied and distributed, a delegate may make a motion to introduce the resolution. This motion requires only authorization by the Director. The dais staff, time permitting, may choose to read the operative clauses of the resolution. Once a draft resolution has been introduced and distributed, the Director may entertain non-substantive clarificatory points, typically used to address typographical, spelling, or punctuation errors. A resolution will remain on the floor until debate is postponed or a resolution on that topic area has been passed.

30. Amendments: Delegates may amend any resolution that has been introduced. An amendment must have the approval of the Director and the signatures of 12 members in the General Assembly, 4 members in the



Economic and Social Council he Security Council and Historical North American Treaty Organization. Amendments to amendment Regional Bodies, and 3 members in tents are out of order; however, an amended part of a resolution may be further amended. There are no official sponsors of amendments and all amendments on the floor must be debated and voted upon:

- An approved amendment may be introduced when the floor is open. General debate will be suspended and two speakers lists will be established, one for and one against the amendment. Debate will alternate between each list.
- A motion to close debate will be in order after the Committee has heard two speakers for the motion and two against, or when one of the speakers lists is exhausted. In accordance with the normal procedure described in Rule 15, the Moderator will recognize two speakers against the motion to close debate, and a 2/3 majority is required for closure of debate on the agenda.
- When debate is closed on the amendment, the Committee will move to an immediate vote. Votes on amendments are substantive votes. After the vote, debate will return to the general speakers list.

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Rules Governing Voting

31. Division of the Question: After debate on a topic area or amendment has been closed, a delegate may move to divide the question on any item which is about to be voted on. Division of the question means that a specified set of operative clauses may be voted on separately from the rest.

Perambulatory clauses may not be removed by division of the question. The motion may be debated to the extent of two speakers for and two speakers against. This motion requires a simple majority to pass:

1. If the motion passes, the Director will accept proposals on how to divide the question. Such proposals may divide the question into two or more parts. After all proposals have been accepted, the Director will arrange them from most severe to least, and each will be voted on, in that order. If no division passes, the resolution remains intact.
2. If any proposal passes, all other proposals are discarded and the resolution or amendment is divided accordingly. A substantive vote must then be taken on each divided part to

determine whether or not it is included in the final draft. A simple majority is required for inclusion of each part. After all divided parts have been voted on, those that were voted to be included are recombined into the final draft resolution, which must then be voted upon under regular rules of procedure. If all of the operative parts of the substantive proposal are rejected, the proposal will be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

32. Reordering Resolutions: The default order in which resolutions are voted on is the order in which they were introduced. After debate on a topic has been closed, a delegate may motion to change the order in which resolutions on the Committee floor will be voted on such a motion must specify a desired order. Once such a motion has been made, the Director will accept alternative proposals for ordering. This motion takes precedence over a motion to divide the question on a resolution. Proposals will be voted on in the order in which they were received and require a simple majority to pass; once a proposal has been passed, all others are discarded and resolutions will be voted on in that order.

33. Voting: Once Committee is in voting

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procedure and all relevant motions have been entertained, the committee will vote on the resolutions on the floor. Voting occurs on each resolution in succession; once a resolution has been passed, no further resolutions will be voted on. In all matters, both substantive and procedural, each country will have one vote. Each vote may be a "Yes," "No," or "Abstain." All matters will be voted upon by placards, except in the case of a roll call vote.

After the Moderator has announced the beginning of voting, no delegate will interrupt the voting except on a Point of Personal Privilege or on a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. A simple majority requires more "Yes" votes than "No" votes; abstentions are not counted toward either total. A 2/3 majority vote requires at least twice as many "Yes" votes as "No" votes. A procedural vote is a vote on any matter besides an amendment or resolution, and requires every country to vote either "Yes" or "No" on the question.



34. Roll Call Voting: After debate is closed on any topic area or amendment, any delegate may request a roll call vote. A motion for a roll call vote is in order only for substantive motions. The Director's decision whether to accept the motion for a roll call vote may not be appealed. Such a motion may be made from the floor and must be seconded by 25 members in General Assembly committees and 8 members in Economic and Social Council committees and Regional Bodies. All substantive votes are roll call votes in the Security Council and Historical North American Treaty Organization. Voting will be at the discretion of the Chair in all other Committee.

- In a roll call vote, the Director will call all countries noted by the dais to be in attendance in alphabetical order starting with a randomly selected member.
- In the first sequence, delegates may vote "Yes," "No," "Abstain," "Pass," "Yes with rights," or "No with rights."
- A delegate who passes during the first sequence of the roll call must vote "Yes" or "No" during the second sequence. The same delegate may not request the right of explanation.

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- A delegate may only vote with rights if he or she votes “Yes” or “No” in the first round of voting and if his or her vote appears to constitute a divergence from his or her country’s policy. After all delegates have voted, delegates who had requested the right of explanation will be granted 30 seconds each to explain their votes.
- The Director will then announce the outcome of the vote.

Precedence of Motions

35. **Precedence:** Motions will be considered in the following order of preference. If a point or motion is on the floor, points or motions lower on this list are out of order.

1. Parliamentary Points

- a. Points that may interrupt a speaker:
 - i. Points of Personal Privilege (Rule 25)
 - ii. Points of Order (Rule 26)
- b. Points in order only when the floor is open:

i. Points of Parliamentary Inquiry

2. Procedural motions that are not debatable:

- a. Adjournment of the Meeting (Rule 16)
- b. Suspension of the Meeting (Rule 16)
- c. Unmoderated Caucus (Rule 13)
- d. Moderated Caucus (Rule 14)
- e. Motion to change the speaking time (Rule 21)
- f. Introduction of a draft resolution
- g. Introduction of an amendment

3. Procedural motions that are applicable to a resolution or amendment under consideration:

- a. Closure of Debate (Rule 15)
- b. Postponement of Debate (Rule 17)
- c. Division of the Question (Rule 33)
- d. Reordering Resolutions (Rule 34)

4. Substantive motions:

- a. Amendments (Rule 32)
- b. Resolution (Rules 29-30)

5. Other procedural motions:

- a. Resumption of Debate (Rule 17)

Introduction to the committee

Abbreviation	UNSC (UNHSC)
Formation	1945
Type	Principal organ
Legal status	Active
Membership	15 states



The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommend methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- 1.to maintain international peace and security;
- 2.to develop friendly relations among nations;
- 3.to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- 4.and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations

UNSC is meant to respond to international crises and maintain international peace and the Historical Security Council (HSC) gives delegates the unique chance to change the course of history while simultaneously regulating the global security dynamic. Delegates immerse themselves in a controversial and influential year, era, or time of importance in history.

Soviet Dissolution

Christmas Day '91 can be referred to as one of the most important days in the history of the world. The most powerful communist country crumbled following the resignation of General Mikhail Gorbachev who was elected back in 1985. The USSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, disintegrated into 15 independent states marking the end of a seven decade-long period of communism, which also resulted in the end of the Cold War between the East-West blocs. [1].

After an era of economic stagnation under former leaders, the election of General Gorbachev was believed to be a sign of relief as he promised a series of reforms and fundamental changes hoping to undo his predecessors' actions.

In 1987, the Soviet Union and America signed an agreement to reduce nuclear arsenals by banning land-based ballistic and cruise missiles. Gorbachev also introduced the concept of **Glasnost** (openness) and **Perestroika** (restructuring).



Through Perestroika, Gorbachev loosened centralized control of many businesses, allowing some farmers and manufacturers to decide for themselves which products to make, how many to produce, and what to charge for them. He allowed parts of the centrally planned economy to be opened up to private enterprise. This incentivized them to aim for profits, but it also went against the strict price controls that had been the bedrock of Soviet economic policies. It was a move that riled many high-ranking officials who had previously headed these powerful central committees [2].

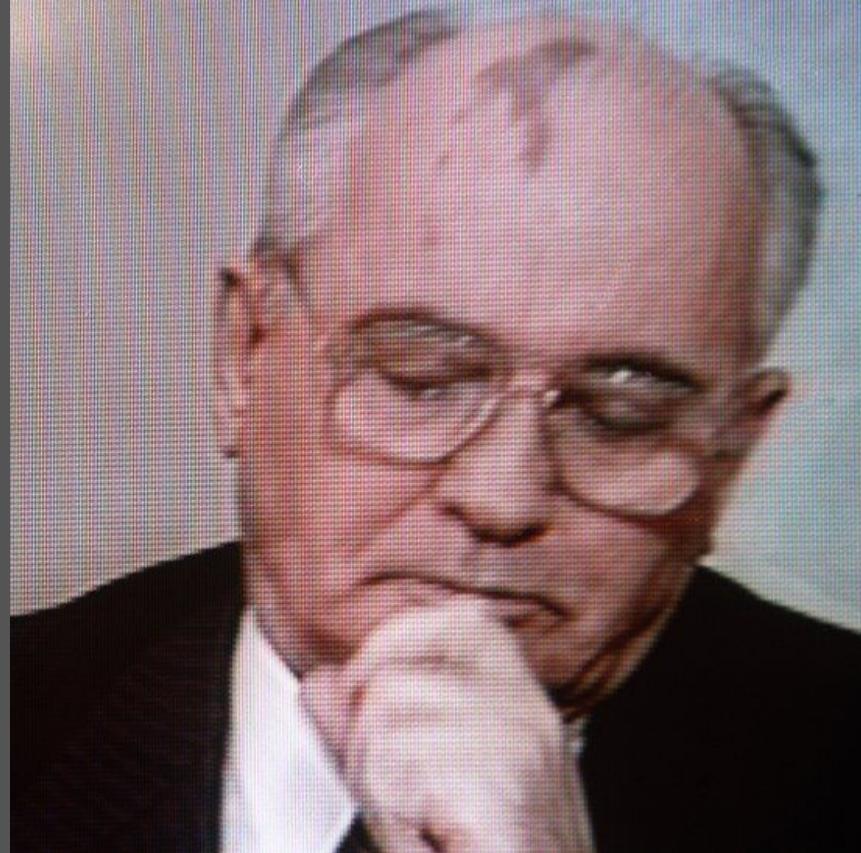
Through Glasnost, Soviet citizens no longer had to worry about people turning them into the **KGB** for whispering something that could be construed as criticism of the government or its leaders. There was no fear of arrest and exile for a negative thought against the State. They were free to voice their opinions on governmental policies.

Soviet Dissolution

The economic reforms under perestroika backfired. Government spending soared (leading to a massive deficit), as did inflation and food prices, as the formerly highly subsidized agricultural sector was now producing food for profit, not at the formerly controlled prices of earlier years. [3]

Along with the leniency that came with Glasnost, there was also considerable backlash from the conservatives. Ultimately, fundamental changes to the political structure of the Soviet Union occurred: the power of the Communist Party was reduced, and multicandidate elections took place. Glasnost also permitted criticism of government officials and allowed the media more dissemination of news and information.

The election along with the abolition of article states in 1990 ended the monopoly of the communist party's power as communist candidates were defeated in the local elections. Boris Yeltsin won the Moscow mayoral election and used this as a platform to



encourage nationalist movements both in the non-Russian Republics and within Russia. Gorbachev also removed the Brezhnev doctrine that was a policy of military intervention whenever satellite states wanted to move away from communism without replacing it with any policy to retain his control. As a result, on March 11 1990, **Lithuania** declared itself an independent nation following which many non-Russian satellite states started holding free elections and with lack of military backup the Soviet regime started collapsing. The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9 1989 and failure of many other Soviet leadership in different places played a role in the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Many blamed Gorbachev and his failed reforms while others viewed this as an inevitable consequence of the negative legacy of Brezhnev.

Global impacts



The aftermath of the soviet dissolution was felt all around the globe, particularly in the former soviet satellite countries. In nations like Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, oil and natural gas exports created prosperity but also paved the way for corruption. Lithuania and Latvia turned to the west by adopting western ideals and political leanings while Armenia and Tajikistan struggled to survive the post soviet days and poverty was widespread.

Outside the soviet bloc, China started emerging as a major world superpower and European Union extended its influence into areas that Moscow once controlled. [4]

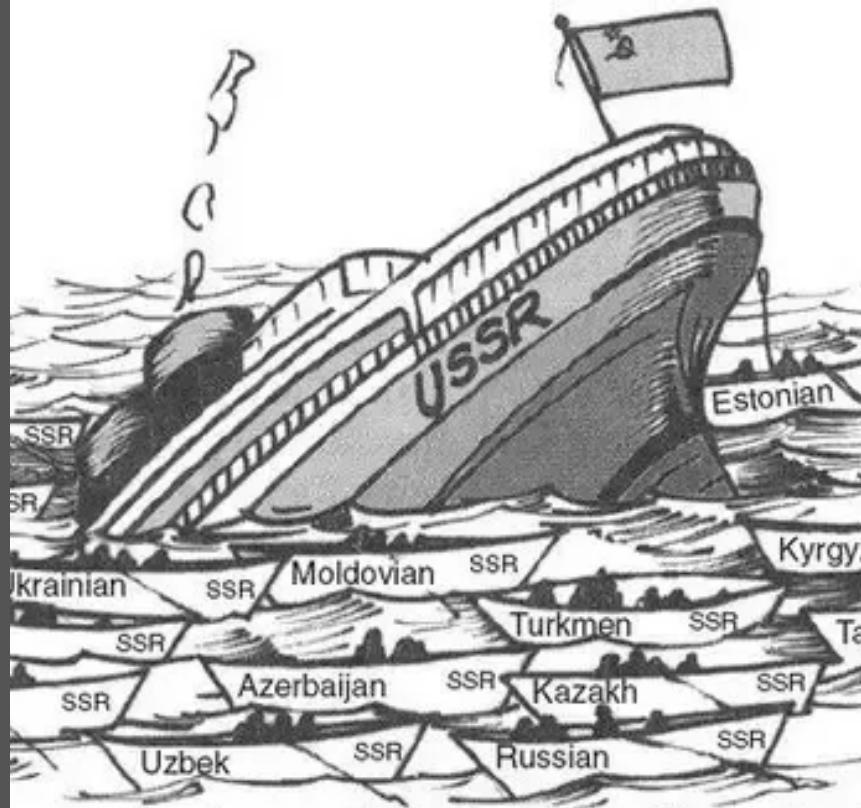
In Russia, The Russian mafia which had struggled during the height of communism, stepped in to take the place of the Soviet government. Public infrastructure had been damaged. As Government payroll service almost completely disappeared, ex KGB officers, police officers, Soviet Army soldiers flooded the mafia's ranks in search of steady employment. [4]



Soviet demise and economic collapse

After an era of economic stagnation, general Gorbachev tried his best to revive the economy. But as we have discussed, that did not end well. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, capitalist regimes started growing in these areas. Wide ranging economic reforms post Soviet era led to economic collapse in many former Soviet states. In Russia, **output fell by 45%** during 1989-1998, as death rates increased from 1% in the 1980s to over 1.5% in 1994, equivalent to over **700,000 additional deaths** annually. In Eastern European countries, output fell less, averaging 20-30% over 2-4 years, whereas growth accelerated in China and Vietnam following reforms. The huge collapse in output, living standards and life expectancy in the former Soviet Union during the 1990s without war, epidemic or natural disaster was unprecedented. [5]

The World Bank's 1996 World Development Report (WDR), From Plan to Market, argued that differences in economic performance were mostly associated with 'good' or 'bad' policies, particularly in terms of economic



liberalisation and macroeconomic stabilisation. [5]

"Consistent policies, combining liberalisation of markets, trade, and new business entry with reasonable price stability, can achieve a great deal even in countries lacking clear property rights and strong market institutions". But one can never be certain if rapid economic liberalisation and macroeconomic stabilisation would have improved post-Soviet economic situation. This is because of a greater depth of recession as compared to the western bloc.

This great depth of recession was due to great distortions in industrial structure and external trade on the eve of transition, the collapse of state and non-state institutions in the late 1980s and early 1990s and poor policies worsening macroeconomic instability. [5]

Ethnic and Political conflicts in former Soviet Union members

The diversity in different ethnic groups across Russia and former Soviet Nations has been the source or instigator of conflict for centuries, and remains a major part of Russian political life. While the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation were each made up of a majority of ethnic Russians, the minority groups have always been present to fight for their own languages, cultures, and religions. Some post-Soviet conflicts ended in a stalemate or without a peace treaty, and are referred to as frozen conflicts. This means that a number of former-Soviet states are left sovereign over the entirety of their territory in name only. In reality, they do not exercise full control over areas still under the control of rebel factions. Rebel groups are essentially left independent over large chunks of the territories they claim.

In many instances, they have created institutions which are similar to those of fully fledged independent states, albeit with little or no international recognition. Notable such cases include **Abkhazia** and **South Ossetia** in Georgia; **Nagorno-Karabakh** on the border between



Azerbaijan and Armenia; Transnistria in land near to Moldova's eastern border with Ukraine; and the **Donetsk People's Republic** and the **Luhansk People's Republic** breakaway areas in Ukraine. Ethnic conflict is a persistent feature of modernity, but the last decade has brought seismic changes in the relations between scores of ethnic communities around the world. [6]

One of major premises of the approach which was taken up is the view that the security arrangements emerging in the region - the military forces and doctrines of the new states, as well as the security agreements between them - have a crucial bearing on the prospects for interethnic and interstate conflict. Russia is clearly the preponderant military power in the region, and the Russian government has been seeking special peacekeeping rights in the "near abroad." At the same time, no other great power is likely to be in a position to send troops to the region. Under the circumstances, it is important to strengthen the role of international organizations such as the OSCE or the United Nations to ensure that Russian military involvement takes place under their supervision, and within the framework of appropriate guidelines, and that it does not become merely an instrument of Russian domination.

Ethnic and Political conflicts in former Soviet Union members



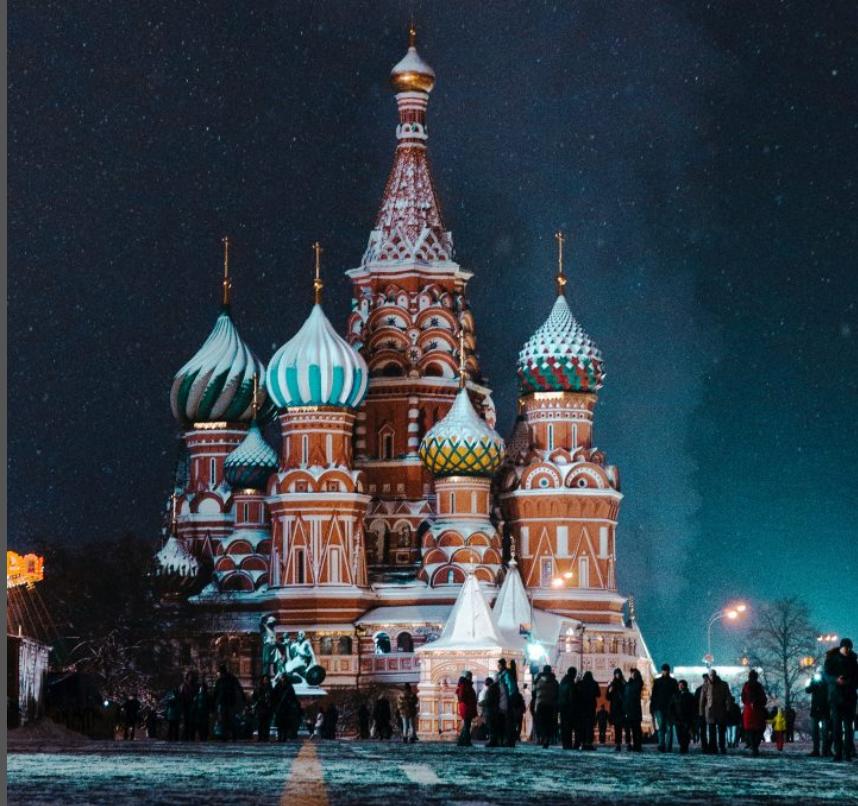
Yeltsin's new position enabled him to pose a serious challenge to Gorbachev. On June 11, 1990, Russia issued its declaration of sovereignty, the first republic to do so after the Baltic states. This move challenged Soviet jurisdiction over the very heart of the union. By the end of November, another nine republics had followed Russia's lead. The last instance of cooperation between Yeltsin and Gorbachev in this period was their effort in the fall of 1990 to draft a common economic policy. However, Gorbachev's desire to protect the favored position of the military-industrial establishment caused the effort to founder and the two men's relationship to deteriorate rapidly.

As the leader of the most populous and richest union republic, Yeltsin became the champion of all the republics' rights against control from the center. However, he did not advocate the breakup of the Soviet Union. Yeltsin originally hoped for the creation of a new federation anchored by bilateral and multilateral treaties between and among the union republics, with Russia as the preeminent member.

When Soviet forces cracked down on the Baltic states in January 1991, Yeltsin went to Estonia in a show of support for the Baltics, signing agreements with the Baltic states that recognized their borders and promising assistance in the event of an attack on them from the Soviet center.

However, Gorbachev already had initiated talks on a new union treaty in June 1990. The Supreme Soviet debated provisions of a draft union treaty throughout 1990 and into 1991. With tensions increasing between the center and the constituent republics, Gorbachev scheduled a national referendum in March 1991. The Baltic states, Armenia, Georgia, and Moldavia refused to participate. In the Russian referendum, Yeltsin included a question on the creation of a Russian presidential post. The overall referendum vote gave approval to Gorbachev's position on preserving the union, but the voters in Russia also approved Yeltsin's call for a president elected directly by the people. On June 12, Yeltsin, whose popularity had risen steadily as Gorbachev's plummeted, was elected president of the Russian Republic with 57 percent of the vote. [7]

Post-Soviet Russia



Upon independence, Russia faced economic collapse. The new Russian government not only had to deal with the consequences of the mistakes in economic policy of the Gorbachev period, but also had to find a way to transform the entire Russian economy. In 1991 alone, gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by about one-sixth, and the budget deficit was approximately one-fourth of GDP. Since the central command economy had existed in Russia for more than 70 years, the transition to a market economy proved more difficult than for the other countries of eastern Europe. [8]

Having played a key role in defeating the attempted coup against Gorbachev in 1991, Yeltsin saw his popularity surge. He was a skillful politician and first elected president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic in 1991 before the collapse of the U.S.S.R, and was reelected in 1996. In the summer of 1993 Yeltsin established a Constitutional Convention to draw up a new post-Soviet constitution. Yeltsin's new constitution gave the president vast powers. By 1993, the budget deficit

financed by the printing of money was one-fifth of GDP. Consequently, the economy became increasingly dollarized as people lost faith in the value of the ruble. In the summer of 1993, the government pulled out of the ruble zone, effectively reducing Russian influence over many of the former Soviet republics. Starved for cash, factories reverted to paying workers and paying off debts to other factories in kind. Therefore, in many areas of Russia a barter economy emerged as both factories and workers tried to accommodate themselves to the economic crisis. Another element of economic reform was the privatization of Russian industries. The reformists, like many Western economists, believed that only by privatizing factories and enterprises and letting them fight for survival would the economy have any hope of recovering. Initially, the government implemented a voucher system according to which every citizen could in theory become a stakeholder in Russian industry and its privatization. The second wave of privatization occurred in 1994–95. During Yeltsin's presidential terms, the weakened Russian state failed to fulfill its basic responsibilities. The legal system, suffering from lack of resources and trained personnel and a legal code geared to the new market economy was near collapse. [8]

Post-Soviet Russia

In 1995 Russia gained control of the capital, Grozny where a fierce resistance was demonstrated by Chechen rebels. In August 1996, Grozny was retaken by the Chechen rebels after a year of Russian occupation, and a cease-fire was declared where Russian forces were pushed out of the capital city. Yeltsin, faced with an upcoming presidential election and great unpopularity because of both the war and economic problems, had Gen. Aleksandr Lebed sign a cease-fire agreement with the Chechens. For several years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Yeltsin placed a high priority on relations with the West, particularly with the United States.

While Moscow was still wary of NATO, it attempted to strengthen its economic and political relations with the European Union (EU).

The collapse of the Soviet Union left the United States as the sole superpower. As a result, the Russian government tried to not only come to terms with the loss of empire and superpower status but also create a foreign policy doctrine reflecting the new global geopolitical reality. [8]



Post-Soviet Ukraine

Ukraine has long played an important, yet sometimes overlooked, role in the global security order. Motivated by many factors, Russia's aggression in Ukraine has triggered the greatest security crisis in Europe since the Cold War. Ukraine was a cornerstone of the Soviet Union, the archrival of the United States during the Cold War. Behind only Russia, it was the second-most populous and powerful of the fifteen Soviet republics, home to much of the union's agricultural production, defense industries, and military, including the **Black Sea Fleet** and some of the nuclear arsenal. Ukraine was so vital to the union that its decision to sever ties in 1991 proved to be a coup de grace for the ailing superpower.^[9] Immediately following the Soviet collapse, Washington's priority was pushing Ukraine – along with Belarus and Kazakhstan – to forfeit its nuclear arsenal so that only Russia would retain the former union's weapons. At the same time, the United States rushed to bolster the shaky democracy in Russia. Some prominent observers at the time felt that the



United States was premature in this courtship with Russia, and that it should have worked more on fostering geopolitical pluralism in the rest of the former Soviet Union. The Russian, Ukrainian, and U.S. presidents signed a statement on January 14, 1994 that reaffirmed Ukraine's commitment to transfer all strategic nuclear warheads to Russia and dismantle strategic launchers in its territory. The statement also confirmed Russian readiness to compensate Ukraine for the value of the highly enriched uranium in the warheads, noted U.S. readiness to assist Ukraine in dismantling the launchers, and specified security assurances Ukraine would receive once it get acceded to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) welcomed Ukraine into its Partnership for Peace, a collaborative arrangement open to all non-NATO European countries and post-Soviet states. Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma defeated incumbent President Leonid Kravchuk on July 10, 1994. The Ukrainian parliament ratified a new constitution in 1996 which theoretically had separation of powers, but the president holds significant sway.^[9]

Russo-American Proxy Conflict



The two main protagonists of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have had a turbulent relationship since 1991. Despite the end of the Cold War, the tensions remain between the two countries even in the 21st century.

Diplomatic relations between these two super powers improved through the 1990s, but in the later years deteriorate towards the end of the decade. [10]

After the collapse of the USSR, many states of the USA assumed that with communism being overthrown, Russia might now join with the Western forces and become more like the Americans and Europeans. But the centuries of Russian and Soviet history had developed a distinct image of Russia in the world, the policies and the form of government it should have and follow. During the 1990s, when Russia was more of a pluralist society, a period remembered as a time of chaos, Russia was "humiliated" by having to accept the agenda largely dictated by the US. Russia's legitimate interests were ignored by the USA, which includes Russia's right to a sphere of

influence in the former Soviet members. Till date, Russia defines its security perimeter not as the borders of the Russian Federation, but as the borders of the former Soviet Union, and demands that the USA and Europe acknowledge it. [11]

There have been periods when these two superpowers coordinated mutually, when their cooperation helped to solve greater problems of the world. But then again there are times when the two countries drifted apart due to disagreements over several issues and policies. This breakdown in US-Russia relations has prompted some commentators to claim that two countries have entered a new 'cold war'.

1991-1999: TIMELINE

1991: Boris Yeltsin wins first presidential election

Yeltsin signs the START II treaty, pledging nuclear arms cut

1994: Chechens campaign for independence

The government, through loans secured from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and through income from the sale of oil and natural gas, succeeds in stabilizing the national currency by establishing a ruble corridor.

1996: Ceasefire agreement with Chechens

Yeltsin resigns in favour of Vladimir Putin, who takes over buoyed by popularity over major military campaign against Chechen rebels.

Following an unsuccessful Communist Party coup, the Soviet Union is dissolved and Gorbachev resigns, cold war comes to an end. With Ukraine and Belarus, Russia forms the Commonwealth of Independent States.

1993: START II Treaty

The leader of the Russian-backed Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic announces his intention to overthrow the Dudaev government. Russian troops invade Chechnya.

1995: Government stabilises national currency

Russian forces pushed out of the capital city. Yeltsin, faces the presidential election and great unpopularity because of both war and economic problems, Gen. Aleksandr Lebed sign a cease-fire agreement with the Chechens.

1999: Yeltsin appoints ex-KGB officer Vladimir Putin

Suggested topics for discussion

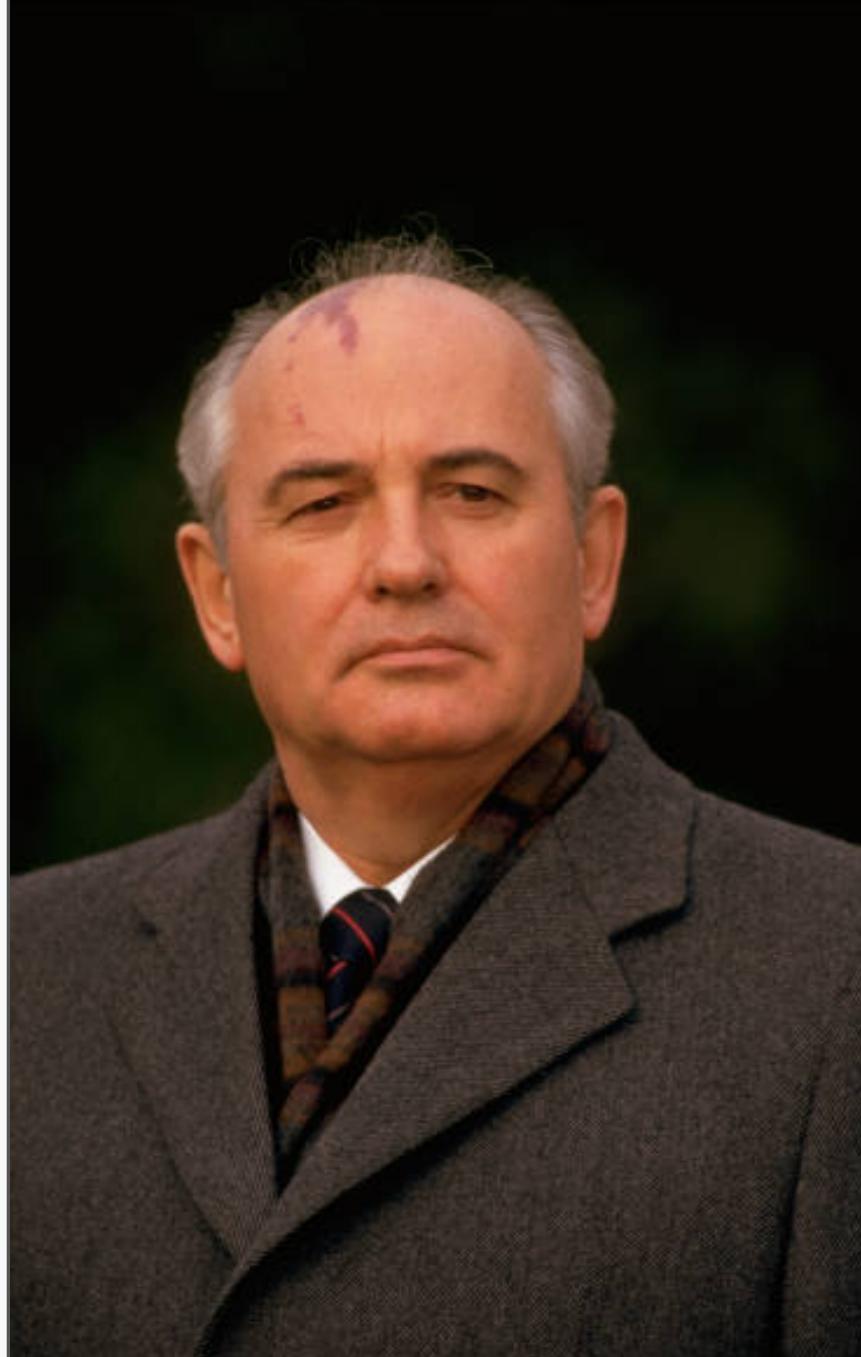
- 1.Rise of China as a superpower after collapse of the USSR
- 2.Analysing the transition from communism to capitalism.
- 3.Involvement of KGB in former soviet countries.
- 4.Unrest in Chechnya
- 5.Rise in power of Russian Mafia
- 6.Conflicts in former Soviet countries after dissolution
- 7.Russia and Olympics
- 8.A possibility of a new Cold War
- 9.Solidarity in Poland (Trade Union) and it's effects in politics
- 10.Russian-Ukrainian friendship Treaty 1997
- 11.Difference in heights of recession



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