

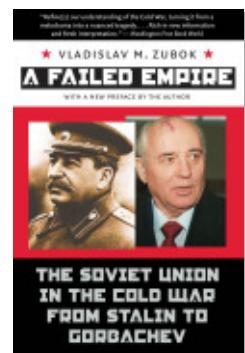


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A Failed Empire

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Soviet Cold War cartoon of 1949. What appears to be Harry Truman and Winston Churchill promoting NATO is actually macabre Pentagon warmongers in disguise. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Josef Stalin and his future apostate Nikita Khrushchev at Lenin's mausoleum, sometime in 1949–50. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Khrushchev heading for work at the Kremlin, flanked by Georgy Malenkov and Anastas Mikoyan, 1954. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Armed and dangerous. Khrushchev liked nuclear brinkmanship, but he also liked shooting ducks. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Heroes of a superpower. First cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, at left, at a reception with Commander in Chief Khrushchev in April 1961. *Left to right:* Defense Minister Marshal Rodion Malinovsky (hidden behind Gagarin), Marshal Andrei Grechko, Khrushchev, Chief of General Staff Marshal Matvei Zakharov, Commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces Kirill Moskalenko, Marshal Vasily Sokolovsky (?), and commander of Moscow's anti-air defense Pavel Batitsky. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Voyage of peace? Khrushchev advertised himself as “the fighter for peace,” but instead he made his reputation by exercising ham-fisted tactics of brinkmanship. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Leonid Brezhnev takes part in the Victory Parade on Red Square, June 24, 1945. Later he attended Stalin's banquet. Twenty years later, as the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, he continued to admire the warlord Stalin. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Brezhnev once said, "Charm can take you a long way in politics." He used it well, as long as his health allowed it. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Protesters denouncing the “Chinese aggressors” who had once been Soviet “friends forever,” 1969. This generation of Soviet people hailed and then denounced Stalin and Khrushchev.
(Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)

“Détente” means “relaxation.” Brezhnev and West German state secretary Egon Bahr after a relaxing hunting trip in Zavidovo, Russia, 1971. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



The Old Guard's exit. Mikhail Gorbachev and the Politburo "elders" at the Moscow train station around 1981. In the front row, left to right, are Gorbachev, Andrei Gromyko, Nikolai Tikhonov, Leonid Brezhnev, Mikhail Suslov, Konstantin Chernenko, Yuri Andropov, Boris Ponomarev, and Brezhnev's son-in-law Yuri Churbanov. Behind Brezhnev are Dmitry Ustinov and Viktor Grishin. (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)



Somber Gorbachev at the end of 1991. After six years of lofty promises of reforms, he presided over the dissolution of the Soviet “empire.” (Courtesy of the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, Moscow)