

Ontario Model United Nations III



Fall of the USSR (1985), Background Guide

April 7th to April 8th, 2018
omun.ca

Letter from the Chair

Privet Delegates,

Congratulations on entering the highest echelons of power in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic! It is a difficult period of time for the Soviet Union, both domestically and internationally, but we will surely endure and thrive if we work together and make the right decisions.

We, Charlie Hughes, Cooper Mendelson-Grasse, and David Niddam-Dent, are your Chair and Crisis Directors, respectively. We're Grade 12 students at Upper Canada College and are excited to be a part of this historical committee. This committee will be run largely as a typical crisis. Delegates are expected know the background guide and come to the conference with original and interesting ideas. At the same time, the most important part of a crisis is responding dynamically to the ever-changing situation; knowledge is pointless unless put to good use. An example of responding to geopolitical crises is Henry Kissinger. Walter Isaacson's biography, *Kissinger*, is an excellent read and a great example of Model UN in real life -- while it is by no means required for the committee, we highly recommend it if you are interested.

A note on committee specifics: The committee will start in the year 1985. Konstantin Chernenko is on his deathbed, which means a new leader will need to be elected or the leadership-structure reformed entirely early in the committee. Instead of splitting the committee sessions into two distinct topics, we will focus on international and domestic issues interchangeably; this should help make debate and crisis more interesting and realistic. Finally, while we encourage delegates to look towards established history (including post-1985) to draw inspiration, please note that we will be simulating an *alternate* history -- doing the same things as reality will not necessarily have the same result.

We're very excited for this committee, and hope you are too. We'll see you there!

Charlie Hughes
Chair of Committee
ussr@omun.ca

Cooper Mendelson-Grasse & David Niddam-Dent
Crisis Directors
ussr@omun.ca

History

The USSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was established in 1922. Composed of fifteen constituent Union Republics and numerous autonomous regions, its population numbered 293 million by its dissolution in 1991.

It started in revolution, when Vladimir Lenin and other communists overthrew the Tsarist government. After Lenin's death in 1924, Joseph Stalin seized absolute power and instituted a political agenda referred to as 'Stalinism'. Stalinism meant centralized, state control of the economy -- codified in five-year plans -- as Russia sought to rapidly industrialise. Stalinism also promoted class warfare, as 'enemies of the proletariat' (effectively anyone who opposed Stalin) were purged from society. These purges, accompanied by famines which were the consequence of state control, lead to death on the order of nine- to fifty-million people.

After Stalin died in 1953, came Nikita Khrushchev, who effectively 'de-Stalinised' Russia and began a very gradual liberalisation of domestic policy. His reforms were unsuccessful at effectively improving daily life -- though the Soviet economy continued to expand -- and he was replaced by Leonid Brezhnev in 1964. Brezhnev was hostile to reforms, except to increase military spending. His tenure marked a dramatic increase in Soviet military presence (and, subsequently, political presence), though it saw widespread economic stagnation. This began an "Era of Stagnation", which persisted through Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov (1982-84), and Konstantin Chernenko (1984-85). Their tenures all marked a continuation of traditional, stagnant Soviet policy that extends until the start of committee.

Topic 1: International

The Cold War is on! After a period of *detente* (easing relations), Ronald Reagan has labelled the USSR an “evil empire” and begun to rapidly increase and reprioritize US military spending:

- US military spending has increased by nearly 40%.
- The navy conducted the largest exercise since World War II, using 40 ships and 23,000 personnel.
- The B-1 Lancer program was revived; the military procurement budget approximately doubled.
- NATO, at the direction of the US, deployed Pershing missiles in West Germany.
- In 1983, Reagan announced the creation of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). This planned missile defence system would protect the US and NATO from any nuclear-missile launch, which would effectively win the Cold War for America.

The Soviet Union, up until 1985, is likewise expanding their military. The Warsaw Pact continues to function as the Soviet antithesis to NATO. Currently, the US and USSR engage in military deadlock: whatever one nation does, the other matches (e.g. the USSR deploys SS-20s and, in response, the US deploys Pershing missiles). The buildup of forces is primarily extant in Europe, but non-nuclear proxy wars have occurred all over the globe. The most important aspects of USSR foreign policy are:

- The Middle East contains valuable oil resources, but is highly volatile. The Soviet-Afghan war is being waged currently, at significant cost to Soviet reputation. Should the war be expanded or should the Soviet Union admit defeat and retreat? What happens in Afghanistan has important implications for the USSR’s complete territorial ambitions.
- Geopolitical imperialism is the de facto goal of Soviet foreign policy. This means the expansion of diplomatic ties with important nations through aid and political support, so that they support the USSR (versus the USA). Likewise, military ties are important; the Warsaw Pact is but one tool of Soviet expansion. Soviet military bases all over the world help to assert and project the strength of the Union. The projection of Soviet power is important to its reputation, but also increases tension and the risk of war with the US.
- Nuclear weapons are both a great asset and great threat to world peace. The USSR talks about its willingness to engage in nuclear reductions, as does the US. However, despite the limited disarmament progress made, the Soviet Union continues to increase its nuclear capabilities -- its most significant military advantage over the US, with a 2:1 total ratio of nuclear weapons. Should the Soviet Union work to intimidate the US with continued build up, or seek real disarmament progress?

Nuclear Stockpiles

At the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, 35,000 nuclear weapons were distributed across the nation. The vast majority of these weapons were held in silos within the Russian SFSR, however, 3,200 strategic nuclear warheads were deployed in the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, and Kazakhstani republics. Of particular concern are the 22,000 tactical nuclear weapons, which were distributed across the Soviet Union in a more secret manner. Your challenge as a committee is to figure out how to deal with these nuclear weapon stockpiles. Do you fight over them in order to retain a nuclear deterrent? Or do you strive for a world without nuclear weapons, and aim for disarmament?

The Crumbling of the Warsaw Pact

As the Soviet Union enters its terminal era, the formerly subservient eastern European satellite states begin to drift beyond the USSR's orbit. Beginning in 1968 with the Albanian secession from the Warsaw Pact, and the rift that developed during the early 80s between Romania and the USSR, the Pact is no longer the solid Iron Curtain Soviet military planners depend on it to be. Growing Chinese influence in the communist world, and a widening wealth gap between western capitalist nations, and Pact nations has begun to drive Pact nations into NATO's embrace. As a committee you must observe developments within the pact, and you must decide how it affects your own status as a union republic. Will you follow the example of nations within the Warsaw Pact, and gradually drift away from the USSR? Or will you rebuke their actions, and endeavour to remain united with the Soviet Union?

The Bear Trap

Beginning in December of 1979, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan sparked a decade long conflict that would damage the Soviet's reputation on the world stage. However, by the time this committee begins in 1985, the war has largely stagnated. Soviet forces occupy cities and other urban localities, while the Mujahideen continue roam the countryside largely unmolested. However, due to the financial and military support the Mujahideen receive from the United States and the Arab Gulf Monarchies, the tide of the unwinnable war was gradually turning against the Soviet Union. Moreover, a great many of the soldiers belonging to the formation deployed into Afghanistan, the Soviet 40th Army, were drawn from the Central Asian military district, making the conflict far more relevant to some republics than to others. The war and its developments will be an important consideration for members of this committee, who will have to respond to any actions the Soviet Union may take in regards to the conflict, including an intensification of Soviet occupation.

Topic 2: Domestic

The USSR is currently facing a severe period of economic stagnation. Ever since Khrushchev's reforms, the subsequent three leaders of the Soviet Union have done little to change the political or economic structure of the Soviet Union, which still derives its principles from Marxism-Leninism. Political oppression is still widespread, with entities such as the KGB stifling all dissent -- by any means necessary. At this point, the leadership of the USSR has to carefully consider their next steps forward and how to evolve as an entity, which include the following topics and more.

Russian Minorities in the Soviet Union

The internal policies of the Soviet Union have been defined by one word: russification. Throughout its tumultuous history, the leadership of the Soviet Union has sought to russify the entire union, removing any trace of USSR's unique cultures and peoples. Though the Soviet Union sought to enforce linguistic and cultural assimilation through its policies of russification and sovietization, these policies were never as successful as the central government hoped, and consequently it switched to settling Russians throughout the union. This policy was known as the "Virgin Lands Campaign". Though some settlers originated from the Ukraine, the vast majority came from the Russian SFSR, and rapidly populated the farmland towards which they had been directed. The Virgin Lands Campaign resulted in significant Russian minorities appearing in almost all of the SSRs within the Union, with the Russian population in Kazakhstan being larger than the native Kazakhs from the 1930s to the early 1980s. As a committee you will have to decide how to deal with these significant Russian populations, as they may not have the same interests and desires as your republic and its native peoples. In addition to this, you must be very careful with them, as the most powerful of the Soviet republics, Russia, may respond poorly to any maltreatment of Russians, whether actual or perceived.

Economic Reforms

The Soviet economy was beset by problems mostly originating from the rigid structure of the planned economy and the nationalisation of all enterprises. The lack of any incentives to achieve industrial and productive efficiency meant that many Soviet industries were highly inefficient. Moreover, due to the requirements of government industrial and agricultural "plans" many farms and factories produced goods either unfit for local consumption or already obsolete. For instance, Khrushchev's plan to grow corn across the Soviet Union was disastrous, as the crop was cultivated in regions whose climate was completely unsuitable for that type of plant. In addition, this plan focussed on increasing the amount of land that was cultivated, reaching 37,000,000 hectares in 1962, as opposed to the efficiency of harvesting and growing corn. Similar inefficiencies persisted across the Soviet Union, and as the decades of the Cold War

passed, the difference in the quality of life between the inhabitants of Soviet Union and of the United States widened. Moreover, due to the legacy of the five year plans, much of the Soviet economy is geared towards heavy industry, and the production of military equipment. Though this guarantees Soviet martial security, it does little to provide in consumer goods for the citizens of the Soviet Union, who, as the years pass, become more aware of what their counterparts in western nations have access to. Additionally, one of the biggest stumbling blocks of the soviet economy is its almost complete lack of international trade. Although the Union has significant natural resources with which to fuel its economy, it doesn't have the markets to sell what it produces, resulting in massive surpluses of industrial products, and consequently, the sale of these manufactured goods on the black market, further hurting the economy. All nations represented within this committee have been affected differently by the Soviet economic downturn. The European SSRs, owing to their industrialization have been hurt significantly by the inefficiency and corruption that plague the economy, and, as a result, have developed large criminal underbellies, where their goods are sold on the black market. In contrast, many of the Central Asian SSRs, whose economy is primarily oriented towards the production of raw resources have not been negatively affected. Therefore, as a committee, you will be challenged to respond to the problems inherent in the Soviet economic system. Will you liberalize the economy, and allow for private ownership of industry? Or will you stick to the rigid planned economy and not break away from communism?

Political Reforms

In 1985, Soviet Premier began his programs of Perestroika and Glasnost, with the intent of bridging the gap between the Soviet Union and the highly successful capitalist nations of Japan and the United States. One of the goals of Perestroika was to decentralize the state's control over the economy, and permit self financing as well as gradually democratizing the soviet political system, initially by increasing governmental transparency and holding elections for certain governmental positions. However, these reforms present several challenges, both seen and unseen. First, many of these reforms face considerable opposition from the entrenched bureaucratic structures of the Union, who fear losing their power. Moreover, many hardliners view Gorbachev's proposed reforms as heretical, and are intent on opposing him with any means necessary, in order to preserve the communist order. Another important consideration with regards to democratizing the process revolves around the minorities and constituent republics of the union. Though Russia dominates the Soviet Union, it is held in check by assemblies requiring representatives from all the SSRs, with the number of delegates each republic has being equal, and not determined by population. Russians, the largest ethnic group of the Soviet Union, make up over half of the nation's population, and, were increased democratization be implemented, they would have considerably more influence on the nation's politics, as the unelected quota assemblies would be weakened. Unfortunately, this committee has little flexibility with regards to how they respond to soviet reforms, as they are spearheaded by the Premier himself. As a result, your options are fairly limited. Do you embrace these reforms and side with Gorbachev, or do you align with the hardliners, and seek to resist the tide of democratization?

Country Matrix and Country Bios

Soviet Federalism

The government of the USSR is both hierarchical and extensive. For the sake of committee, many powers that generally are federal (e.g. Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union or Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) will be determined by the committee itself -- which is composed of the individual Soviet Republics, and the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic. It is important to note, however, that the Russian SSR will not be a delegate, and will instead be represented in the committee by the chair and crisis staff. Individual delegates will, primarily through crisis, be responsible for the individual capabilities of their respective governments. The committee's capabilities as the *All-Union* (federal) government are comparable to the United States federal government:

- Issue currency
- Declare war
- Regulate external trade
- Develop a plan for the economic development of the Soviet Union

The notable exception is the last point (as the USA does not have five-year plans!). Due to the complicated and often-ambiguous nature of the Soviet governance, the committee will simplify (to a limited degree) the Soviet state.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Arable, populous, and large, the Ukrainian SSR finds itself amongst the most powerful soviet republics in the union. As one of the westernmost socialist republics, there exists a significant Red Army presence, intended primarily to keep the Warsaw satellites in line. Moreover, as it was a founding member of the United Nations, the Ukraine, alongside Byelorussia, sends a representative to the United Nations, and, at least nominally, possess the capacity for independent foreign relations. However, the Ukraine also faces challenges. A significant Russian minority in eastern Ukraine and in Crimea has consistently stymied attempts by the regional government to keep the country "Ukrainian". Additionally, unlike the other republics with significant Russian minorities, Ukrainian russians are the majority in some of the regions they inhabit, like the Donetsk, and Crimea. Moreover, Ukraine, like Russia, is home to an autonomous republic, somewhat affecting the efficiency and unity of the state. In addition, many Soviet infrastructure projects, like the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, pose a significant threat to Ukrainian farmland and infrastructure, should the crumbling soviet union be unable to maintain it properly...

Russian Minority Percentage: **21.1%**

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

Sandwiched between the Russian SFSR and the communist satellite of Poland, Byelorussia is in an intriguing situation. Alongside the Ukraine, Byelorussia is one of two soviet republics with a seat on the United Nations, having been one of its original founders. Consequently, Byelorussia has, on paper, the ability to conduct foreign relations with other countries. Moreover, Belarus is an important location for Red Army due to its important strategic location, putting the soviet army within striking range of the Warsaw Pact. Byelorussia is also an important industrial centre, being one of the most industrialized in the USSR, manufacturing automobiles, tractors, and tools for much of the soviet union. However, the nation is also heavily dependent on the importation of raw resources from the Russian SFSR, as the small republic lacks any significant deposits of natural resources.

Russian Minority Percentage: **11.9%**

Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic

Rising from the ashes of the Armenian Genocide, the SSR resides in a portion of the historic homeland of the Armenian people. Small, and industrious, the Armenian economy is a mixture of agriculture, and heavy industry, which is heavily reliant on raw resources from the Russian SFSR. Armenia is also the site of heavy soviet repression. Following the re-immigration of members of the Armenian diaspora, the country was marked by a heavy KGB presence, as the central government was concerned these returning Armenians were nationalists or anti-communists. In the present, certain restrictions have been lifted, allowing for communication between native Armenians, and the diaspora. However, Armenia's biggest troubles comes from its relation to the fellow Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. The discontent between the two republics stems from the Nagorno-Karabakh region, inhabited mostly by Armenians, which, though promised to Armenia by Lenin, was instead given to Azerbaijan.

Russian Minority Percentage: **2.1%**

Azerbaijani Minority Percentage: **5.3%**

Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

Bordering the black sea, Georgia is a transit point for the soviet union. Home to several oil pipelines, much of the fuel sold by the Soviet Union is shipped through Georgia, making the country's infrastructure essential for Soviet economic success, as the sale of oil remains one of its only methods of acquiring valuable foreign currency. In addition to this, Georgia is host to many thousands of rivers, making it a valuable sight for future hydroelectric developments. However, Georgia also has problems. In fact, Georgia has two autonomous republics, the second highest number in the soviet union, as well as one autonomous oblast. In addition to this

internal strife, Georgia is well known for its corrupt officials, with many in Moscow deeming the state of affairs in the republic a national embarrassment.

Russian Minority Percentage: **7.4%**

Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic

Once one of the wealthiest republics of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has since fallen into decline. During the second world war, the Azerbaijani oil industry produced the bulk of the nation's oil, and, earlier, during the 1930s, was awarded the Order of Lenin. However, as time went on, soviet oil production was shifted out of the republic, and to other regions of the Soviet Union, as much of Azerbaijan's land oil resources were believed to be depleted, and its offshore deposits were considered too expensive to drill. However, moderate economic recovery has occurred, with a greater focus on the growth of cotton in the incredibly fertile lands of Azerbaijan, accounting for over 50% of the republic's territory. Yet, a great deal of disquiet originates from the Nagorno Karabakh region, which, though administered by Azerbaijan, is mostly Armenian. This issue has caused severe stress in the relationship between Azerbaijan, and neighbouring Armenia.

Russian Minority Percentage: **7.9%**

Armenian Minority Percentage: **7.9%**

Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

Illegally occupied in 1940 by the Soviet Union following the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact, Lithuania is a soviet republic characterized most clearly by its desire for independence, and its almost universal resistance to remaining part of the Soviet Union. Resistance to the regime, stemming from organisations like the Lithuanian Freedom League, and from clandestine operations by the catholic church remains prevalent. Lithuania has an economy consisting of a mixture of small scale agricultural activities and varying types of industry. However, Lithuania remains reliant on the importation of raw resources from the Russian SFSR, including oil, gas, and metals, all of which are essential to its industrial sector. Lithuania also enjoys an odd status in international diplomacy, as many western aligned nations view it as an independent nation, and choose not to recognize its annexation into the soviet union in 1940, labeling it as illegal under both international and Lithuanian law.

Russian Minority Percentage: **8.9%**

Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic

The Latvian SSR is an interesting paradox in the soviet union, being both one of its most successful republics, but also one of its most heavily militarized. Latvia is home to a highly developed industrial sector, however this industry is integrated very closely to the Soviet

economy, and is consequently dependent on the importation of raw resources and certain machine components to furnish it. In addition to this, Latvia is also home to the Soviet Union's Baltic Command, and is home to upwards of 350,000 soldiers. Moreover, Riga, and other regions of the republic have proven to be popular retirement destinations for Soviet military officers, this being one of the causes of Latvia's high number of Russians. The other cause for this is Latvia's industrial sector, which, under Russian direction was developed so greatly, and so quickly, that Latvia lacked the labour force to fully man these manufactories. Ergo, the Soviet Union moved thousands of workers into the SSR, many of whom were Russian, contributing to the "russification" of the republic. Latvia, like Lithuania and Estonia, is recognized as an independent nation by western aligned countries, who view its annexation in 1940 as illegal, and therefore has a odd standing in international politics.

Russian Minority Percentage: **32.8%**

Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

Estonia is the Soviet Union's gateway to the west. In contrast to the other Soviet republics, Estonia is connected, albeit minimally, to the outside world, with a ferry running from Tallinn to Helsinki. This ferry allows Estonians to visit, with great state supervision, Scandinavian states, but also brings in western tourists, who stay in Soviet run resorts, providing the Soviet Union with a source of foreign currency. In addition to this, much of northern Estonia is in the range of radio and television signals broadcasted from Finland, allowing the Estonian population to remain current on the goings on of the outside world, and to educate themselves without the interference of Soviet propaganda. Like neighbouring Latvia, Estonia, due to its strategic position is heavily militarized, though not to the degree of its sister republic. Estonia also has significant deposits of shale oil, accounting for a great deal of energy production. However, the republic is not entirely energy independent, and is still dependent on the importation of fuel from the Russian SFSR. Estonia, like the other Baltic republics, is recognized as an independent nation, illegally occupied by the Soviet Union, by western aligned states, and therefore has an unclear international standing.

Russian Minority Percentage: **27.9%**

Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic

Comprised of territory annexed from Romania in 1940, Moldavia is the smallest of all Soviet Socialist Republics. Inhabited predominantly by Romanians, the question of re-unification with Romania has remained a contentious topic between the Soviet Union and the breakaway Warsaw Pact state of Romania. Moldavia's economy is a pairing of a small and highly developed agricultural sector and a small but able industrial sector. Moldavia is also the beneficiary of a massive amount of Soviet investment, with significant Soviet subsidizing being directed towards the small state ever since the Brezhnev era. However, like other Soviet republics, Moldavia's economy is linked closely to the economy of the Russian republic, and is

dependent on foreign imports of raw resources. As the soviet orbit weakens, and the constituent republics begin to explore the possibility of independence, opinions regarding this idea are polarizing in Moldavia, with some vehemently opposing any action to break away from the soviet union, especially in the region of Transnistria.

Russian Minority Percentage: **12.8%**

Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic

The Kazakh SSR is the second largest republic in the union following the Russian SFSR, and boasts significant natural resources, and impressive infrastructure. Owing to its massive size, and situation in the Eurasian steppe, a great deal of Kazakh land is arable, and able to sustain impressive agricultural and pastoral activity. Moreover, the Kazakh republic possesses a great deal of petroleum resources, which received considerable investment from the Soviet Union. In the realm of infrastructure, the SSR has a large amount of the Union's space infrastructure, being situated in the republic, including launch pads. However, the Kazakh SSR is not without its problems. A popular destination for Soviet deportations, native Kazakh's are the majority, but not the plurality. Consequently, the Russian population of the republic is slightly smaller than the population of Kazakhs, while significant minorities of Germans, Ukrainians, and Tartars exist. In addition to this, a massive stockpile of Soviet nuclear weapons is in the Kazakh SSR, presenting both a danger and an opportunity for the republic.

Russian Minority Percentage: **38.8%**

Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic

The Kirghiz SSR is amongst the poorest in the union, occupying a position along the Union's periphery. The republic is host to a great deal of unexploited natural resources, including significant uranium and gold deposits, as well as a significant amount of Hydropower potential. To the Kirghiz SSR's detriment, a great deal of these resources remain unexploited. The republic is also home to a significant amount of Red Army troops, owing to its long border with China, a nation with which the Soviet Union does not have particularly good or consistent relations. The Kirghiz people are also subject to significant soviet repression, owing largely to their muslim faith, a faith the Soviet Union tries its hardest to diminish, or at least sideline.

Russian Minority Percentage: **25.9%**

Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic

The Uzbek SSR is a republic of contrasting mineral and agricultural wealth, and extreme environmental degradation and soviet repression. Following efforts by the Soviet Union to massively increase Uzbek cotton production, the republic was intensively irrigated, to the extent that the Aral Sea, a major source of water for the SSR, has suffered one of the worst ecological

collapses in history. Despite environmental damage, agricultural production in the Uzbek SSR remains significant. In addition to this, a small industrial sector, though larger than average for a central asian SSR, is found in Uzbekistan, owing to the evacuation of industry during the second world war. Uzbekistan is also home to significant mineral reserves, and serves as an important transportation point for soviet troops travelling in and out of Afghanistan. However, Uzbekistan has been a popular location to which the soviet union deports “dissidents”, giving it a significant number of minority groups. Moreover, like other muslim nations in the Soviet Union, anti-islamic action by the union has contributed significantly to the suppression of the religion in the republic.

Russian Minority Percentage: **10.8%**

Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic

The last territory to be incorporated into the Russian Empire, the Turkmen people have suffered greatly at the hands of Soviet authorities. Forced relocation to urban centres and towns has destroyed the pastoral way of life of many Turkmen. Moreover, soviet repression, represented most clearly by its heavy handed subjugation of Islam has largely broken the republic’s will to resist. However, by the 1980s, Turkmen resistance has begun to re-emerge. Rich in natural gas and oil, as well as fertile, the Turkmen SSR’s industry has grown with a particular focus on two industries, fuel refinement and cotton processing. In fact, the Daultebad gas field is the world’s largest gas field outside of Russia and the Middle East. In addition to this, the draining of the Amu-Darya river benefitted the republic greatly, as it massively increased agricultural capacity. Unfortunately, the draining of the river also contributed to the collapse and mass retraction of the Aral Sea, though this environmental disaster has not greatly affected the Turkmen SSR. Though the growth in these two industries has benefitted the Turkmen republic, it has been to the detriment of industrial development in other sectors, which is almost non-existent.

Russian Minority Percentage: **12.9%**

Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic

The largest issue faced by the Tajik SSR is that Tajik, the general designation for the majority population of the republic, is a generalized term used to refer to a wide range of peoples. Therefore, despite the plurality of Tajiks in the republic, the SSR is filled with numerous ethnic divisions. In addition to this, the Tajik SSR is one of the poorest in the union. However, the republic has a great deal of economic potential, due to its significant hydropower potential, and wealth of natural mineral resources. Tajik industry is similarly neglected, with minimal industrial capacity primarily geared towards processing the minerals mined in the republic. The SSR also boasts minimal agricultural activity, with most cultivation focused on cotton. Consequently, food production in the Tajik SSR remains quite low, and the republic is forced to import grain and cereals from other regions of the Soviet Union.

Russian Minority Percentage: **10.4%**

Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic

The Chechens are amongst the most anti-soviet groups in the Union. Following an initial period of support for communist rule, positive relations between the two entities have largely disappeared, replaced instead by heavy-handed soviet repression. Chechen resistance to communist rule was so widespread and enmeshed, that in 1940, Hasan Israilov founded a guerrilla movement that fought against the Soviet Union, and was temporarily aligned with Nazi Germany. Such resistance to the soviet union was met with the mass deportation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples, whose homes and property were declared forfeit by the state, and given to other groups inhabiting the autonomous republic. Only in the 1950s, under the Kruschchev period of de-stalinization, were many of the deported Chechens and Ingushian peoples allowed to return. Soviet repression, and mass deportations have damaged the ASSR's economy, which boasts minimal industrial and agricultural output. As the soviet union begins to weaken, Chechen nationalism and resistance to the soviet union once again begins to rear its head.

Russian Minority Percentage: **30.6%**

Bibliography

Allison, Graham. "What Happened to the Soviet Superpower's Nuclear Arsenal? Clues for the Nuclear Security Summit." *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, Mar. 2012, pp. 1–40., www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/3%2014%2012%20Final%20What%20Happened%20to%20Soviet%20Arsenals.pdf.

Weeks, Theodore R. "Russification / Sovietization." *European History Online*, European History Online, 12 Mar. 2010, ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/models-and-stereotypes/russification-sovietization.

Siegelbaum, Lewis. "Virgin Lands Campaign." *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*, Macalester College / Michigan State University, 1 Sept. 2015, soviethistory.msu.edu/1954-2/virgin-lands-campaign/.

von Geldern, James. "Corn Campaign." *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*, Macalester College / Michigan State University, 17 June 2017, soviethistory.msu.edu/1961-2/corn-campaign/.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, The Editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Perestroika." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 22 Aug. 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/perestroika-Soviet-government-policy.

Washington Post, "Reagan's Defense Buildup Bridged Military Eras" 8 June 2004, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26273-2004Jun8_2.html

Mark Harrison, Warwick, "The Soviet Union's military budget: secrets, lies and half-truths," 2 Nov. 2008, <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/research/centres/eri/bulletin/2008-09-2/harrison/>

Lane, David. *State and Politics in the USSR*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1985.