

- What was **USSR-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**
- Russian Revolution of 1917
- Formally established in 1922



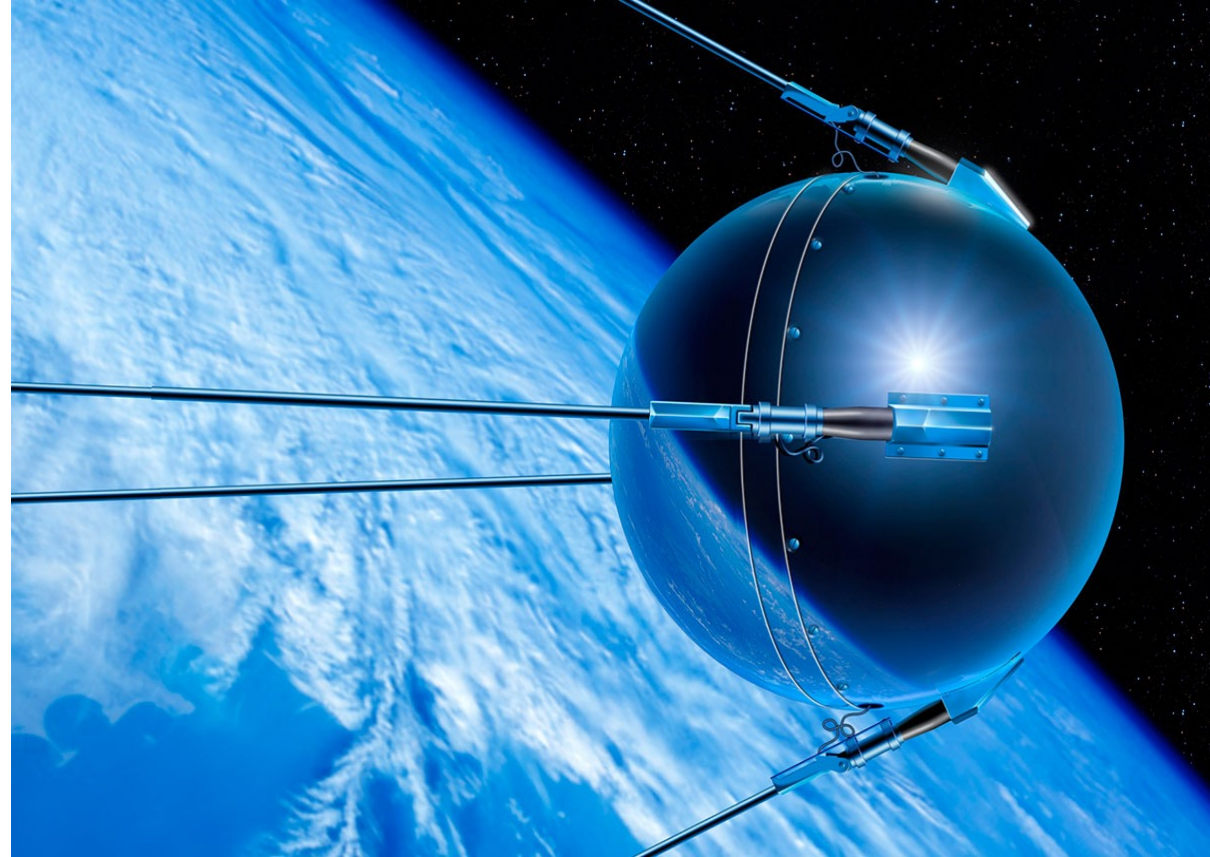
- 15 Sub-National Soviets
- Centralized economy and planning
- One Party Rule

☐ CAUSES FOR DISINTEGRATION

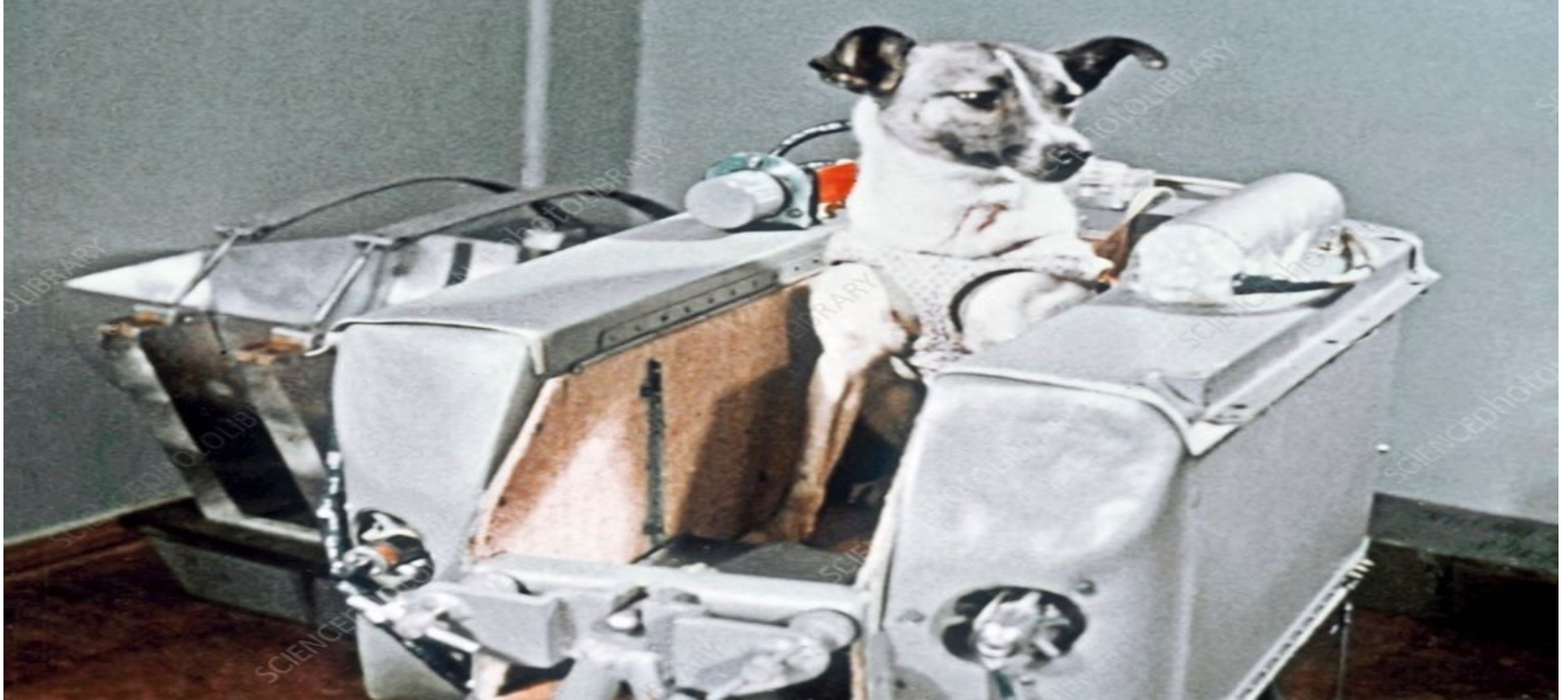
1. SPACE RACE

- Billions spent to compete with USA
- First-
 - ✓ Satellite (Sputnik)
 - ✓ Animal in Space (Lyka)
 - ✓ Cosmonaut (Yuri Gagarin)
 - ✓ Woman in Space (Valentina Tereshkova)

Sputnik launched April 4, 1957



Laika-the Cosmonaut Dog Nov 3, 1957



April 12, 1961



June 16, 1963



2.ARMS RACE

- ✓ Nuclear arsenal largest in the world
- ✓ Billions spent on huge army
- ✓ Mutually Assured Destruction (**MAD**)

- 3. **COLD WAR: 1945-91**
 - ✓ To increase communist influence, support to **Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, China** and many other communist nations/parties
 - ✓ **Material and technology** spent on these countries cost a lot of money

IV. AFGHAN WAR:1979-89

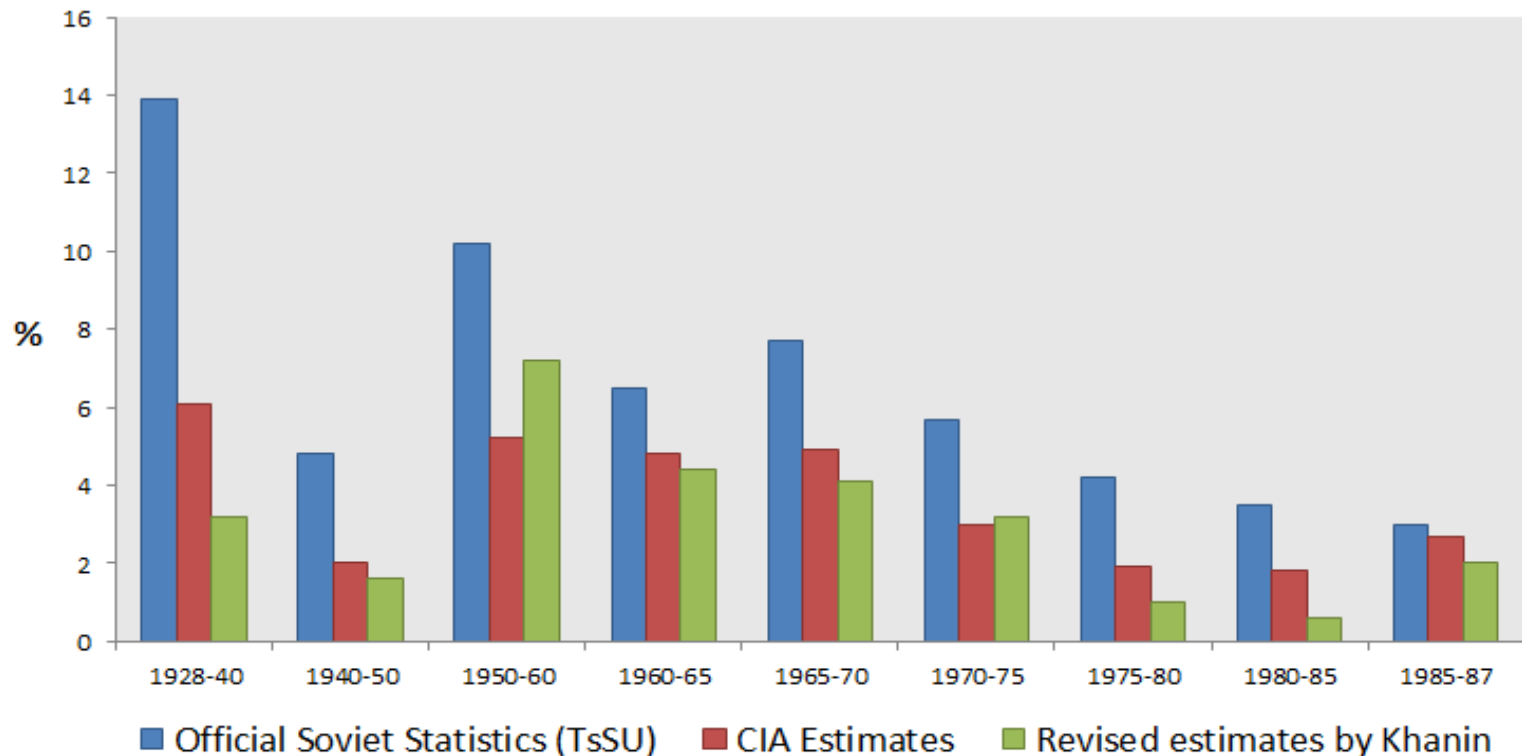
- ✓ 15,000 soldiers killed
- ✓ 50,000 wounded
- ✓ Vital resources drained
- ✓ Prestige received a set back



V. DECLINE IN ECONOMY:

- ✓ Tight state control over economy and absence of free market economy was draining the USSR'S economic strength

Soviet National Income Growth, 1928-1987



Based on Harrison, M. (1993), "Soviet Economic Growth since 1928: The Alternative Statistics of G. I. Khanin", *Europe-Asia Studies* 45(1), 141-167.

- USSR had become a **totalitarian state** under **Stalin**
- **Non-Russian ethnic people** did not assimilate as had hoped for.

EVENTS:

- MIKHAIL GORBACHEV
- **1985**: General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.(was aged 55 yrs)
- To make **Socialism more efficient** and **bring economy out of stagnation** he launched 2 policies in 1985-**GLASNOST & PERESTROIKA**

Mikhail Gorbachev



- **GLASNOST:**
- Openness
- Freedom of Speech
- Easing of media censorship
- Earlier records de-classified

- **PERESTROIKA:**
- Restructuring/Reformation
- Soviet political and economic structure
- Elections, foreign investment, privately owned businesses

EASTERN EUROPE

- Relaxed policies lead to demands for sovereignty and independence in Eastern and Central Europe and also in the 15 sub-national soviets.

1989: YEAR OF REVOLUTIONS

- From summer of 1989 to 1991 revolutions in Poland, Hungary, E. Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia
- **Nationalist Movements** to gain independence from USSR influence and communist puppet govts.
- Gorbachev did not send army to suppress any of the protest movements

- **Nov 1989**: Fall of Berlin Wall
- **Dec 3, 1989**: George Bush (Sr) & Gorbachev announce end of Cold War



- **DOMINO EFFECT**
- Beginning from **1987** these soviet states declared sovereignty or Independence.
- ESTONIA
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA

Baltic States



- Between 1990-91 one by one all the 15 sub-national soviets became independent.

AUGUST COUP:

- Aug 19, 1991: A group of senior party leaders attempted a **coup d'état** by placing Gorbachev under house arrest and demanding the restoration of USSR.
- It failed as the people in cities were against it and the majority of the Red Army refused to support the coup leaders.



BORIS YELSTIN

- Leader of the Moscow unit of the Communist Party
- He advocated for an independent Russia
- Leader of the public in the coup
- July 1991: Became the 1st elected President of Russia

Boris Yelstin on a tank



AFTER THE FAILED COUP:

- Break up process accelerated
- **December 8, 1991**: Presidents of **Russia, Ukraine, Belarus** signed the '**Belovezha Accords**' which dissolved the USSR and established the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** in its place.

Belovezha Accords Dec 8, 1991



- **Dec 21,1991:Alma-Ata Declaration**
- **Dec 25,1991:Gorbachev resigned** as President of the USSR
- **Dec 26,1991:Supreme Soviet dissolved the Union**

Alma-Ata Declaration **Dec 21,1991**



AFTERMATH:

- Severe economic contraction and catastrophic fall in the living standards in post-soviet states
- Increase in poverty, crime, corruption, unemployment, disease and income inequality
- Decrease in life expectancy, adult literacy and income

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)



- **Dec 8, 1991**: Belovezha Accords: **RBU**
- **Dec 21, 1991**: Alma Ata Protocol (all joined except the Baltic States)
- Most (9+2) of the former Soviet Republics joined to form the CIS on Dec 21, 1991 on the signing of the Alma Ata Protocol.
- **Baltic States** and **Georgia** are not part of it (Georgia left the CIS in 2008)

- Initially 10 countries signed the Alma-Ata Protocol. Later Georgia left it reducing them to 9. Though 2 others signed it, their Parliaments are yet to ratify the same (those 2 are **Ukraine and Turkmenistan**-they are only **Associate members**)

Oct. 15, 1990

Mikhail Gorbachev

is awarded Nobel
Prize for Peace

