

DCYP 2019

STUDY GUIDE

COMMITTEE: Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union

AGENDA: Preventing the Dissolution of the Soviet Union

FREEZE DATE: 1990



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Letter from the Executive Board –

Greetings Delegates!

I welcome you all to the DCYP 2019. You are going to be a part of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union for this MUN. As the Chair Person; I would like to ensure that this committee offers you all, a value addition and great learning experience during the three days of the conference. I believe that as the Executive Board, it is our primary responsibility to ensure that the proceedings are as flexible and productive as possible. Delegates are encouraged to research on all aspects of the negotiations and deliberations that leads us towards and up for the discussion related to the agenda.

The following pages intend to guide you with the very basics of the agenda are in no way a complete representation of the agenda. The Guide chronologically touches upon all the different aspects that are relevant and will lead to fruitful debate. However, it has to be noted that the background guide only contains certain basic information which may help you start your research. It is our hope that you put in wholehearted efforts to research and comprehensively grasp all important facets of the diverse agenda. Questions at the end of the guide should help you through this. All the delegates should be prepared well in order to make the debate productive. We encourage you to go well beyond this background guide and the links provided and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge.

We have provided you with a freeze date.

We have also mentioned events that have taken place after the freeze date only for your reference. They will have no importance in the committee as they have not taken place yet.

This is a unique committee where you represent your own views. You are not bound by the policies of the country however, it is expected from you to research the problems in your region and

reasons why it wanted to split from the Soviet Union and tackle them in the committee.

Again it is very important to note that the guide is just the intended to help you start your research and only covers few very basic topics in brief. The links and questions provided at the end of the main content serve the same purpose. The executive board expects you to come up with your own sub-topics and ideas to discuss in the committee.

If you have any questions or concerns about the committee or the agenda, please free to contact us at supremesoviet.dryp@gmail.com

Executive Board,

Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union

About the Committee:

The **Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union** was the most authoritative legislative body of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) beginning 1936, and the only one with the power to approve constitutional amendments. It elected the Presidium, served as the collective head of state of the USSR, and appointed the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court, and the Procurator General of the USSR.

The seats of the Soviet of the Union are proportioned based on the population of the subjects of the Soviet Union and are chosen through the direct election by the citizens of the USSR.

CrisisStatement

The cold war has ended and a wave of chaos has hit the Soviet Union. People from various parts of the country are revolting against the government as American propagandais spreading like flu. All other communist states are also on the verge of fallingand

enemies of the state are plotting to end the great Soviet Union as the idea of dissolution becomes more ubiquitous around the rest of the world. The economy is struggling, with the Soviet Union on the verge of bankruptcy. Industries around the country are failing or leaving. Unemployment is soaring as the country starves. Commanders and captains of the army around the country are abandoning their posts. The state is getting filled with corrupt politicians. The ominous grey cloud of melancholy is engulfing the country as the administration crumples. Pessimism is high even among the leaders.

You are the newly elected members of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. All of you are from humble backgrounds from around the country. You are members of the government that the people support. You are their last hope. You are patriotic and devoted supporters of the Soviet Union holding a highly secretive meeting to discuss reforms that would save the country. With the help of the people, once you have decided the reforms, the existing corrupt officials will be removed from their posts and the country will be reinforced with people like you and your sound policies. America and the powerful politicians of your country should not get word of your actions before the plan of action and reforms are decided. It is up to you save your great country from its demise. However, you have to remember that even though you represent your own views, you should echo the voice of your region and their belief on their role in the Soviet Union and on necessary reforms.

Note:

For the purposes of the committee, the events of the cold war happened differently and at a different time period. The committee is held when the cold war has ended and the Soviet Union is about to collapse. The committee will only deal with socialist allies of Europe. The eastern bloc still exists but revolts there have begun.

About the Agenda:

Soviet Union

After overthrowing the centuries-old Romanov monarchy, Russia emerged from a civil war in 1921 as the newly formed Soviet Union. The world's first Marxist-Communist state would become one of the biggest and most powerful nations in the world, occupying nearly one-sixth of Earth's land surface, before its fall and ultimate dissolution in 1991.

History of the USSR

The Russian Revolution

The Soviet Union had its origins in the Russian Revolution of 1917. Radical leftist revolutionaries overthrew Russia's czar Nicholas II, ending centuries of Romanov rule. The Bolsheviks established a socialist state in the territory that was once the Russian Empire.



A long and bloody civil war followed. The Red Army, backed by the Bolshevik government, defeated the White Army, which represented a large group of loosely allied forces including monarchists, capitalists, and supporters of other forms of socialism.

In a period known as the Red Terror, Bolshevik secret police—known as Cheka—carried out a campaign of mass executions against supporters of the czarist regime and against Russia's upper classes.

A 1922 treaty between Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Transcaucasia (modern Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) formed the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The newly established Communist Party, led by Marxist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, took control of the government. At its peak, the USSR would grow to contain 15 Soviet Socialist Republics.

Joseph Stalin

Georgian-born revolutionary Joseph Stalin rose to power upon Lenin's death in 1924. The dictator ruled by terror with a series of brutal policies, which left millions of his own citizens dead. During his reign—which lasted until his death in 1953—Stalin transformed the Soviet Union from an agrarian society to an industrial and military superpower.

Stalin implemented a series of Five-Year Plans to spur economic growth and transformation in the Soviet Union. The first Five-Year Plan focused on collectivizing agriculture and rapid industrialization. Subsequent Five-Year Plans focused on the production of armaments and military build-up.

Between 1928 and 1940, Stalin enforced the collectivization of the agricultural sector. Rural peasants were forced to join collective farms.



Those that owned land or livestock were stripped of their holdings. Hundreds of thousands of higher-income farmers, called kulaks, were rounded up and executed, their property confiscated.

The Communists believed that consolidating individually owned farms into a series of large state-run collective farms would increase agricultural productivity.

The Great Purge

Amid confusion and resistance to collectivization in the countryside, agricultural productivity dropped. This led to devastating food shortages.

Millions died during the Great Famine of 1932-1933. For many years the USSR denied the Great Famine, keeping secret the results of a 1937 census that would have revealed the extent of loss.

Stalin eliminated all likely opposition to his leadership by terrorizing Communist Party officials and the public through his secret police.



During the height of Stalin's terror campaign, a period between 1936 and 1938 known as the Great Purge, an estimated 600,000 Soviet citizens were executed. Millions more were deported or imprisoned in forced labour camps known as Gulags.

The Cold War

Following the surrender of Nazi Germany at the end of World War II, the uncomfortable wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States and Great Britain began to crumble.

The Soviet Union by 1948 had installed communist-leaning governments in Eastern European countries that the USSR had liberated from Nazi control during the war. The Americans and British feared the spread of communism into Western Europe and worldwide.

In 1949, the U.S., Canada and its European allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The alliance between countries of the Western bloc was a political show of force against the USSR and its allies.

In response to NATO, the Soviet Union in 1955 consolidated power among Eastern bloc countries under a rival alliance called the Warsaw Pact, setting off the Cold War.

The Cold War power struggle—waged on political, economic and propaganda fronts between the Eastern and Western blocs—would persist in various forms until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Watch these videos for better understanding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I79TpDe3t2g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIYy32RuHao>

Khrushchev and De-Stalinization

After Stalin's death in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev rose to power. He became Communist Party secretary in 1953 and premier in 1958.

Khrushchev's tenure spanned the tensest years of the Cold War. He instigated the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 by installing nuclear weapons just 90 miles from Florida's coast in Cuba.

At home, however, Khrushchev initiated a series of political reforms that made Soviet society less repressive. During this period, later known as de-Stalinization, Khrushchev criticized Stalin for arresting and deporting opponents, took steps to raise living conditions, freed many political prisoners, loosened artistic censorship, and closed the Gulag labour camps.

Deteriorating relations between the Soviet Union and China and the food shortages across the USSR eroded Khrushchev's legitimacy in

the eyes of the Communist party leadership. Members of his own political party removed Khrushchev from office in 1964.

Sputnik

The Soviets initiated rocketry and space exploration programs in the 1930s as part of Stalin's agenda for building an advanced, industrial economy. Many early projects were tied to the Soviet military and kept secret, but by the 1950s, space would become another dramatic arena for competition between the duelling world superpowers.

On October 4, 1957, the USSR publicly launched Sputnik 1—the first-ever artificial satellite—into low Earth orbit. The success of Sputnik made Americans fear that the U.S. was falling behind its Cold War rival in technology.



The ensuing “Space Race” heated up further in 1961 when Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space.

U.S. President John F. Kennedy responded to Gagarin's feat by making the bold claim that the U.S. would put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The U.S. succeeded—on July 16, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.

Mikhail Gorbachev

A long-time Communist Party politician, Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985. He inherited a stagnant economy and a crumbling political system. He introduced two sets of policies



he hoped would reform the political system and helps the USSR become a more prosperous, productive nation. These policies were called glasnost and perestroika.

Gorbachev's glasnost plan called for political openness. It addressed personal restrictions of the Soviet people. Glasnost eliminated remaining traces of Stalinist repression, such as the banning of books and the much-loathed secret police. Newspapers could criticize the government, and parties other than the Communist Party could participate in elections.

Perestroika was Gorbachev's plan for economic restructuring. Under perestroika, the Soviet Union began to move toward a hybrid communist-capitalist system, much like modern China. The policy-making committee of the Communist Party, called the Politburo, would still control the direction of the economy. Yet the government would allow market forces to dictate some production and development decisions.

Collapse of the Soviet Union

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Communist Party elite rapidly gained wealth and power while millions of average Soviet citizens faced starvation. The Soviet Union's push to industrialize at any cost resulted in frequent shortages of food and consumer goods. Bread lines were common throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Soviet citizens often did not have access to basic needs, such as clothing or shoes.

The divide between the extreme wealth of the Politburo and the poverty of Soviet citizens created a backlash from younger people who refused to adopt Communist Party ideology as their parents had.

The USSR also faced foreign attacks on the Soviet economy. In the 1980s, the United States under President Ronald Reagan isolated the Soviet economy from the rest of the world and helped drive oil prices to their lowest levels in decades. When the Soviet Union's oil and gas

revenue dropped dramatically, the USSR began to lose its hold on Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev's reforms were slow to bear fruit and did more to hasten the collapse of the Soviet Union than to help it. A loosening of controls over the Soviet people emboldened independence movements in the Soviet satellites of Eastern Europe.

Political revolution in Poland in 1989 sparked other, mostly peaceful revolutions across Eastern European states and led to the toppling of the Berlin Wall. By the end of 1989, the USSR had come apart at the seams.

An unsuccessful coup by Communist Party hard-liners in August 1991 sealed the Soviet Union's fate by diminishing Gorbachev's power and propelling democratic forces, led by Boris Yeltsin, to the forefront of Russian politics.

On December 25, Gorbachev resigned as leader of the USSR. The Soviet Union ceased to exist on December 31, 1991.

Watch this video for better understanding:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SZG_zPDdwo

Revolutionary Ideologies that Shaped the USSR

In the lead up to the revolution, Russia was enveloped by a number of revolutionary ideologies. Which helped catalyse the Russian revolution? These survived with the people even after the formation of the USSR and helped caused separation amongst the people.

Marxism:

This is the political theory of the development of society. Man's existence in society is predetermined to a logical succession, each stage succeeding the other. The mechanism of change is predetermined by economic functions. Change is brought about by

economic suppression, which leads to revolution. The history of Man, stated Karl Marx, is one of economic class conflict.

Populism:

Populism was the alternate route to a socialist state, and it was applicable to a society with a large peasant population. It had its origins in Russia with the Narodnik movement and the key men in its original state were Herzen and Chernishevski. It was a belief characterised by private enterprise and a hatred of capitalism and a hatred of an industrial society, which controlled people's lives. Populism believed that the path to socialism lay in the toil of peasants. Populists believed that a free and prosperous community where everybody helped one another out would overthrow autocracy. Populism had support in England by men like William Cobbett.

Revisionism:

Revisionism is sometimes known as Economist. Those who supported Revisionism believed that a socialist society could be achieved with a revolution. It could be achieved by education and by using the masses to support an economic struggle for the workers interest. Revisionists believed that the ultimate truth of their belief would eventually lead to a socialist state and that people would support it when they realised that it was a good belief. Revisionists were strong in Western Europe but not in Russia, possibly because it ruled out the use of violence in an effort to get change, and Russia post-1850 was experiencing frequent violence by the workers. Revisionism's most powerful offshoot was the belief that struggle should be conducted by the workers themselves who knew best their own interests – and not by the bourgeois intellectuals who believed that they knew best what the working class wanted.

Permanent Revolution:

Permanent Revolution envisaged the missing out of the bourgeois state on the Marxist road to socialism. It recognised that certain

societies were backward and did not have an advanced political structure. Therefore, the workers could not grasp or understand the political beliefs of the intellectual bourgeois who claimed to represent the workers on their behalf. Therefore, Permanent Revolution simply cut out this part of the revolutionary dream. As society itself was bound to develop as a revolution advanced, the best way to deal with this development was for the revolution itself to be sustained – i.e. be permanent.

Permanent Revolution believed that the road to true democracy had to include a phase of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is missing in Marxism. Permanent Revolution believed that power had to pass from the autocracy to the workers in order to forcibly form a socialist – what Lenin referred to as “giving History a push”. Permanent Revolution also believed that revolution had to occur throughout Europe so that all the workers of Europe could support one another, and that no nation existed that posed a direct threat to the workers after the revolution. The workers would unite to support those in another nation who might be under threat from entrenched powers in that nation.

Terrorism:

Terrorism was common in Russia after 1850. It was a very simple belief. Those in power would not voluntarily change a society that so enriched them. Therefore, they had to be forced to change and only violence could do this. Terrorism targeted any feasible target – though the nobility and rulers was the most favoured target as their deaths had a bigger impact. Hence the assassination of Alexander II. Terrorism hoped to spark off a spontaneous uprising – which the death of a prominent figure would spur on the workers to go for more. It also succeeded if there was repression after an assassination (such as Alexander II’s and Stolypin’s), as this would be blamed on those who imposed such oppression – those in power. In this sense, terrorism could not fail – it killed people who were anti-change, so in

the minds of the terrorists this was a positive move, and it also brought them support when, as invariably happened, repression followed such murders.

In 1862, the Young Russian group was formed by Zaichnevsky. Its principle belief was the murder of the royal family. “Any revolutionary afraid to go too far is not a revolutionary.”
(Zaichnevsky)

In Russia, the People’s Freedom was the most important terrorist group in the late C19th. Ironically, it officially ceased to exist after 1883, but those who followed this belief did not know this because of the secrecy within the movement! In 1902, Sypagin, the Minister of the Interior, was assassinated by Balmashev, a member of the People’s Freedom. In 1904, Plehve was assassinated. Terrorism reached a peak in 1905 when a number of Jews were killed in Bialystok and Odessa – 350 in total.

Small terror cells could not be infiltrated, and groups were established to take on the terrorists using like-minded tactics. The Black Hand targeted all non-Russians, Jews and Freemasons as being enemies of Russia and supporters of socialist revolutionary groups.

Types of economies

Traditional Economy:

A traditional economy, as the name suggests, is based on a traditional approach. These economies are based on ancient rules and are the most basic type of economy. The focus in a traditional economy is only on the goods and services that match their customs, beliefs, and history.

Such traditional economies tend to focus primarily on agriculture, cattle herding, fishing etc. A traditional economy will use the barter system and has no concept of currency or money. Their economies centre on their tribes or families. Such economies believe in only

producing what and how much they require. They find no need to produce any market surplus. There is no concept of trading.

Command Economy:

In a command economic system or planned economy, the government controls the economy. The state decides how to use and distribute resources. The government regulates prices and wages; it may even determine what sorts of work individuals do. Socialism is a type of command economic system. Historically, the government has assumed varying degrees of control over the economy in socialist countries. In some, only major industries have been subjected to government management; in others, the government has exercised far more extensive control over the economy.

Market Economy:

In market economies, economic decisions are made by individuals. The unfettered interaction of individuals and companies in the marketplace determines how resources are allocated and goods are distributed. Individuals choose how to invest their personal resources—what training to pursue, what jobs to take, what goods or services to produce. And individuals decide what to consume. Within a pure market economy the government is entirely absent from economic affairs.

Mixed Economy:

A mixed economy is a perfect marriage between a command economy and a free market economy. So, by and large, the economy is free of government intervention. But the government will regulate and oversee specific sensitive areas of the economy like transportation, public services, defence etc. Such an economy is known as a dual economy.

Such a mixed economy allows private businesses the freedom to operate in the economy with minimum oversight. At the same time,

the government can regulate the economy so it does not adversely affect the public interests. Both public sector and private sector can co-exist peacefully in one economy. It is the perfect blend of socialism and capitalism.

This is only for better understanding of the delegates.

Aftermath:

The dismantling of the Soviet Union had many long-lasting effects on the global economy and the region's foreign trade. Its downfall increased the United States' influence as a global power and created an opportunity for corruption and crime in Russia. It also prompted many cultural changes and social upheavals in former Soviet nations and smaller neighbouring communist countries. Between 1989 and 1991, the gross national product in Soviet countries fell by 20 percent, ushering in a period of complete economic breakdown.

The fall of the Soviet empire also had far-reaching effects on the world as a whole, particularly among its former Soviet satellite nations. For some countries, such as Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, oil and natural gas exports have created prosperity but have also enabled corruption. Countries such as Lithuania and Latvia underwent dramatic transformations by quickly turning to the West, adopting Western ideals and political leanings, while other countries, such as Armenia and Tajikistan, have struggled to flourish in the post-Soviet era and many citizens remain poverty-stricken while the states and their politics remain in flux.

Five years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, two of three Russians asked said they thought the break-up did more harm than good. In a poll in 2001, 74 percent of Russians said they regret the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Suggestions:

-It is advisable to analyse the information and present this analysis as statements in the Committee in a rational and structured manner.

-We expect you to think critically (clearly listing pros and cons, by testing and retesting your assumptions, observations and conclusions through research and questioning) and come up with your own arguments and structure, which will lead to more productive deliberations.

- We expect you to be thoroughly researched on the agenda and have a fruitful debate.

- Make sure to be clear on your stance.

- The main objective is to form the ruling body for Russia so make sure you know what all options you have.

- Please go through the links of the videos present in the guide. They will help you in the better understanding of the agenda.

Questions for discussion:

1. What kind of economic systems and political systems would be best for the Soviet Union?
2. What rights should be given to the people of the USSR?
3. Should countries of the Eastern Block be controlled using a system like the **one country, two systems** (used by present day China for Hong Kong)?
4. How should the east and West Berlin situation be take care of?
5. What kind of power should be given to the territories of the Soviet Union that want to split?
6. Should any part of the Soviet Union be allowed to leave?
7. Should the state continue to respond aggressively to revolts?
8. Should the socialist countries form a union such as the European Union to ensure trade?
9. Should the Eastern Block be allowed to introduce reforms?

10. What policies could help prevent an arms or space race in the future?
11. Should the state continue to invest large sums of money in the arms and space races?
12. How should USSR deal with the exporting and importing of valuable goods such as oil to prevent dependence on other states and ensure that USSR doesn't become vulnerable to changes in prices?
13. Which of the ideologies of the people should be embraced by the new state and how and which one should be removed?

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