

THE COLD WAR 1950-1991 INTERACTIVE

The End of the Soviet Union

The break up of the Soviet Union

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe lead to the dramatic crumbling of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union Collapses

The Soviet Union consisted of 15 separate republics. Some had been independent nations before World War II and wanted their freedom.

Government in Crisis

In August 1991, hard-line Communists tried to end Gorbachev's reforms in a coup. They failed due to the opposition of Boris Yeltsin, leader of Republic of Russia. Yeltsin wanted more radical changes than Gorbachev and did not want to see hard-liners take over the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev's Power Gone

Although the coup failed, Gorbachev's power had largely gone. Republic after republic declared independence from the Soviet Union. The mighty Soviet Union, once one of two superpowers in world, no longer existed.