



The John Roan School Sixth Form

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Year 11 Bridging Work for History A Level

The Crisis of Communism: The USSR and the Soviet Empire 1953-2000 Week 3 and 4



Complete

Soviet Union, 1922-1953

Complete a detailed and informative timeline of the Soviet Union from 1922-1953.

Information you could include: profiles of the leaders of the USSR, political, economic and industrial developments (e.g. the Great Purge, the Holodomor), key dates (political appointments, deaths etc.). Extension- extend your timeline to 1991. You may wish to start with Wikipedia.

Link: [Wikipedia](#)

Time: 3 hours



Read

Nuclear Fallout

In 1945, the USSR was an ally of the west in the fight against Nazi Germany. But a mere 17

years later the two sides stood poised to obliterate each other in a nuclear apocalypse. David Reynolds describes how a relationship turned ugly.

Link: [History Extra](#)

Time: 15 minutes



Listen

The Berlin Blockade

In 1948 Stalin blockaded Berlin, a city divided into East (under Soviet control) and West (under

British/American/French control). Would Britain and America do anything to help the Berliners, or would they give up West Berlin to the Soviets? Bridget Kendall hears from three Berliners about life under the blockade.

Link: [BBC History](#)

Time: 15 minutes



Listen

Chernobyl with Julie McDowall

The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident near the town of Pripyat, Ukraine in 1986. Dan Snow talks to Julie

McDowall, an expert in all things nuclear, about the disaster. They cover the initial blast, the impact it had on the first responders and the fate of Ukraine and neighbouring countries, whilst also discussing how the legacy of Chernobyl damaged people's faith in the Soviet Union and contributed to its fall.

Link: [Dan Snow](#)

Time: 27 minutes



Read

The Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis, a tense 13-day standoff between the US and the Soviet Union over the

placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba, took place in October 1962. Arguably the most dangerous confrontation the world has faced, the crisis occurred at the height of Cold War tensions. More than 50 years on, Mark White re-examines the conduct of the president John F Kennedy and his brother Robert, attorney general of the United States.

Link: [History Extra](#)

Time: 15 minutes



Watch

The Khrushchev Thaw

In the second half of the 1950s, an attempt was made in the former Soviet Union to partially reform the

Stalinist totalitarian system. The processes that were aimed at the liberalization of social and political life, which went down in history as the Khrushchev Thaw, began.

Link: [YouTube](#)

Time: 15 minutes



Complete

The Eastern Bloc

Create a map of the Eastern Bloc – the USSR and the seven Soviet satellite states in Eastern and

Central Europe. Include key information about each country (e.g. years it was part of the Eastern Bloc, population when they joined, key political events during that time (Hungarian Uprising, Prague Spring etc.) You may wish to start with Wikipedia.

Link: [Wikipedia](#)

Time: 2 hours



Read

A History of the Cold War

A brief history of the Cold War, from its early stages as the US attempted to contain the spread of communism,

through the atomic age and the space race, to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the USSR.

Link: [History Channel](#)

Time: 20 minutes



Complete

Communism in the Soviet Union

Create an information sheet about communism in the Soviet Union. Include definitions of the

following key terms: communism, Marxism-Leninism, USSR, proletarian, Stalinism, Gulag, NKVD/KGB, satellite state. Include images if you wish and be as clear in your definitions as possible. You may wish to start with Wikipedia.

Link: [Wikipedia](#)

Time: 2 hours



Watch

Chernobyl

A Sky original drama about the Chernobyl disaster. Incorporating the causes and the consequences of the

disaster and highlighting the contrasting political and scientific responses, this show won 10 Emmys and is considered a modern classic. Only available on NOW TV, which does require a subscription (seven-day free trial available).

Link: [NOW TV](#)

Time: 6 hours

Any questions/ concerns please email

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