

DISCONTENT AND REBELLION IN THE SOVIET SATELLITE

Key Questions

What effect did Khrushchev's process of desalinization have on the Russian satellites in Eastern Europe?

How did Russia respond to the wave of revolts?

What action was taken by the United States to counteract Russia's blatant use of force?

Content Recap

The end of the Stalinist era

Until recently the nations that formed the Iron Curtain had been subject to repressive controls from Moscow. The relationship between them and the Soviet Union had been a tenuous one. Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia Poland and Hungary to objected to Soviet interference in their domestic affairs. During Stalin's reign of terror, communist satellites were exploited for the benefit of the Soviet Union. Each satellite had a feared secret police and a comprehensive network of labour camps. No one dared speak out in opposition for fear of retribution. Eastern European appeared downtrodden and resentful.

In 1953, Stalin died. After two years of collective leadership, Khrushchev emerged as undisputed leader of the Soviet Union. Unlike Stalin he loved to travel abroad and boast of Soviet achievements. In 1956 Khrushchev launched a vicious attack on Stalin and his legacy, condemning him for his brutality, intolerance and narrow-mindedness. He spoke of 'peaceful co-existence' with the West and conceded that there could be 'different roads to socialism'. No one was sure whether these policies signified a 'thaw' in the Cold War, or whether the grim tyranny endured by the satellites was over.

Dissension and disorder

People in the satellites saw hope rather than desperation. They demanded a higher standard of living, greater control of their economy and more political freedom. Would the USSR release its vice-like grip and allow change in her areas of influence?

The Soviet Union tried to reduce the volume of discontent by allowing the production of more consumer goods, relaxing censorship and curbing the powers of the secret police. At the same time attempts were made to strengthen the bond of the communist world by 'encouraging' the satellites to sign the Warsaw Pact. Protest and upheaval continued. In Poland workers took to the streets, demanding better wages and a reduction in prices for consumer goods. Since Poland neither wished to sever ties with the Soviet Union nor sought dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Moscow allowed her a degree of internal independence. But events in Poland soon triggered more acute disturbances in Hungary. Mass demonstrations in Budapest for more liberal reform developed into anti-Soviet revolt. One eye witness

commented. 'Tempers were running high. A few thousand went to the city park and surrounded the gigantic statue of Stalin. They got a rope around the neck and began to pull it... then it toppled slowly forward. Laughter and applause greeted the symbolic the fall of the former tyrant.'

Brutal clashes erupted between Hungarian rebels and the security police. Russian tanks rolled in, but were unable to quell the rising. After negotiations with Imre Nagy, the new Hungarian Prime Minister, the Russians withdrew their tanks. On November 1, Nagy demanded greater liberalisation. He wanted multi-party system elected by universal suffrage and Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw pact. The Hungarians were overjoyed, believing they were at last free from Russian domination. The Russian could not ignore this, for acceptance of Hungary's demands would signal the collapse of the Iron Curtain and with it Russia's buffer zone against the West. Khrushchev decided to crush the revolt by armed force. Six thousand tanks and armoured vehicles poured into Hungary on November 4. After a week of fierce fighting the rebellion was suppressed. Thirty thousand Hungarians and 3500 Soviet troops lay dead. Many Hungarians fled.

Russia tightens her grip once more

The American Time magazine reported that 'the steel-shod Russian jackboot heeled down on Hungary this week, stamping and grinding out the young democracy'. John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, had spoken of '**rolling back**' communism. But military help from the West, which Hungarian patriots expected as a result of sympathetic radio broadcasts, never came. President Eisenhower reflected, 'I feel with the Hungarian people', but he was not willing to risk open war with Russia in order to liberate them.

Key Terms

DESTALINISATION: Khrushchev attacked Stalin, accusing him of mass repression and brutality. Overnight Stalin's personality cult was destroyed.

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE: formed the backbone of Khrushchev's foreign policy. His aim was to secure a peaceful 'working' relationship with the capitalist West.

TYRANNY: rule by oppressive means.

ROLL BACK: policy initiated by Dulles stating that America should assist the peoples of Eastern Europe if they revolted against their communist oppressor.

USING EVIDENCE

Khrushchev's account of what happened

*We learned from our Ambassadors that the tensions which had been building up had boiled over. Anti-Soviet demonstrations had broken out at factories in some cities. Some Poles were saying the treaty signed after World War II was unequal and that the Soviet Union was taking advantage. In particular they complained that Poland was being forced to supply coal at prices lower than those in the world market. The demonstration also demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Polish territory. They said nothing about how much Soviet blood had been shed and how many Soviet lives have been sacrificed for the liberation of Poland. No one mentioned how much bread the Soviet Union has given Poland, bread taken from the mouths of the Soviet people to feed the Poles. Some of the criticisms against us were justified, but many were fabricated. The propaganda machine of our enemies began churning out slander against us. We began to calculate which Polish regiments we could count on; the situation looked somewhat bleak. We didn't want to resort to use of our own troops if at all avoidable. On the other hand, we didn't want Poland to become a **bourgeois country**, hostile to the Soviet Union.*

a. Why, according to Khrushchev, did unrest occur in Poland?

b. Khrushchev accuses his enemies if using propaganda. Do you think Khrushchev himself is guilty of such a charge? Explain your answer.

c. How does Khrushchev view the Poles?

d. What does Khrushchev mean by a 'bourgeois country'?

Use named events to explain reasons for the discontent and rebellion in the Soviet satellites related to the8

a) Destalinization process.

- ❖ Death of Stalin in 1953
- ❖ Emerging of Khrushchev as the new leader



Khrushchev

Destalinization process is when Khrushchev attacked Stalin, accusing him of mass repression and brutality.

- Khrushchev came with a new policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with the West and there could be different road to socialism.
- Hungarians went to the city park and pulled Stalin's statue and it toppled lowly forward. People laughed and applauded the symbolic fall of the former tyrant



1. Whose statue is toppled to the ground?
2. Explain why was the statue pulled down?
3. Describe the reaction of the Russians?

b) Polish and Hungarian Crisis

- The destalinization process initiated by Khrushchev brought hope to the Russian satellites.

Their discontentment was based on these reasons;

- Soviet interference in their domestic affairs as they were exploited during Stalin's era for the benefit of the Soviet.
- Poor standard of living
- Less political freedom
- Less economic freedom

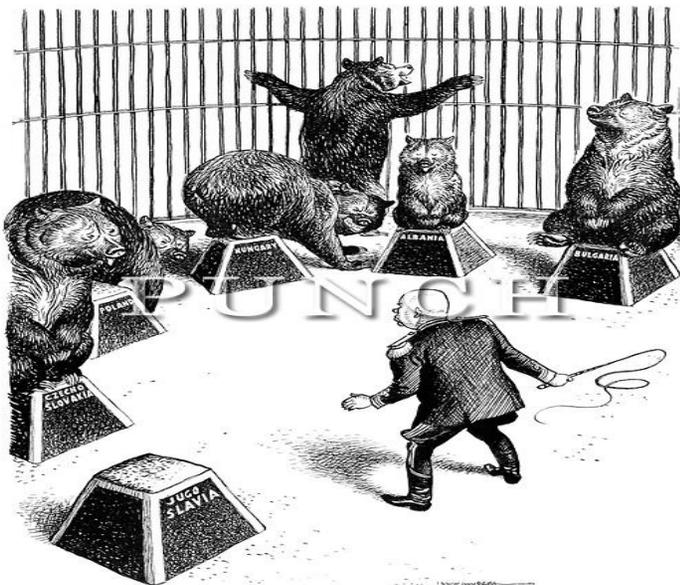
Polish

- Poor wages
- High prices of consumer goods

Hungarian

- Need more liberal reform
- Wanted multi-party system elected by universal suffrage
- Need to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact

CARTOON INTERPRETATION



1. According to the cartoon, name the man cracking the whip and identify the country he is the leader of?
2. Describe the expression of the bears' faces and what it tells us about their attitude to the man with the whip?
3. Discuss whether this cartoon is the accurate view of the events which took place in the Soviet Satelites?

INTELLIGENCE and COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Key Questions

What are the objectives of superpower spying organisations?
In what way did the U2 incidents stifle the spirit of cooperation between the Great Powers?
Did the incident signal an end to the 'thaw'?

Content recap

Gaining the upper hand

One of the most fascinating and intriguing by-products of superpower rivalry was the creation of a sophisticated network of intelligence-gathering organizations. As the United States and USSR sought to increase their spheres of influence, their spying operations expanded. Each side desired to outwit the other. Winston Churchill described the world of spying as 'the battle of conjurers' a war between experts in deception.

The American intelligence organisation the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) formed by President Truman in 1947 'to perform the functions and duties relating to intelligence affecting the national security'. The Russian spying agency the KGB came into existence in 1953. It evolved from Stalin's infamous secret police. Its primary objective was 'to gather information required to protect the Soviet Union from the evil from the West and to enable effective preparation for defence'. Both these organisations involve an **intricate** web of agents and double agents. Superpower spying operations also serve as an instrument for **covert** action in sensitive areas of interest. Intelligence agencies provide assistance to friendly countries and put pressure on hostile ones. For example in 1954 CIA operatives played a crucial role in the overthrow of the communist-backed government in Guatemala, Latin America.

The Paris summit and the 112 incident

In September 1959, Khrushchev travelled to the United States to hold talks with Eisenhower. Both leaders agreed to a **summit** conference, to convene in Paris on May 16 1960, the main item on the agenda being Berlin. So as a new decade dawned in January 1960 the *New York Times* expressed the general hope that the year 1960 would be remembered as 'one in which the Cold War entered a stage of earnest and almost continuous conversation'.

But all hope of negotiation was destroyed when on May 1 an American U2 **reconnaissance aircraft** piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over Russia by Soviet missiles. When Khrushchev arrived in Paris he announced that Russia could not be among 'the participants in negotiation where one of them made treachery the basis of his policy with regard to the Soviet Union'. The United States government acknowledged that a U2 aircraft had strayed into Soviet airspace, but said it was carrying out weather research. On May 7 Khrushchev announced that Francis Gary Powers had been captured. He had admitted that he was on a spying mission and had in his possession a 'suicide needles' and film of Russian aerodromes and naval installations. Eisenhower responded by publicly justifying photo reconnaissance flights as necessary for safeguarding national security. Powers was tried in open court and found guilty of **espionage**. He was sentenced to 10 years' **incarceration**. Ironically, just two Years later Powers was released in exchange for a Russian master spy.

Key Terms

INTRICATE: complex and entangled.

COVERT: concealed and secret.

SUMMIT: a conference involving diplomats from leading world powers.

U2 RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT: half glider, half jet plane; could fly at immense height, thus avoiding detection by radar and Russian fighters.

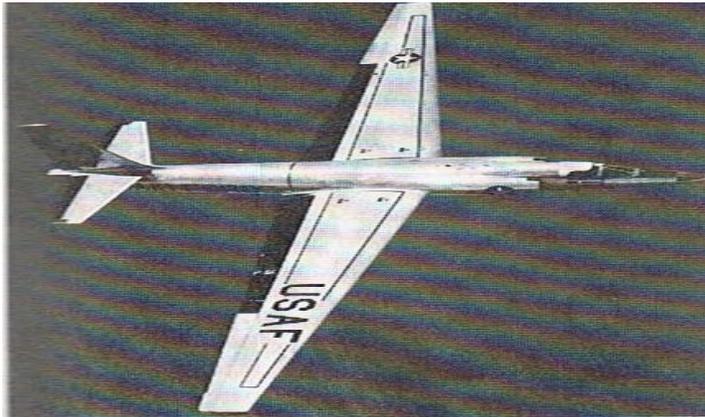
ESPIONAGE: the act of gathering information from a potential enemy.

INCARCERATED: imprisoned or detained for a period of time.

Describe events related to the Intelligence and counter intelligence incidents between the Soviet Union and the United States.

• **U2 Incident**

- An U2 aircraft was caught and shot down by Soviet missiles over Russia's airspace
- The pilot Gary Power had been captured and admitted that he was on a spying mission while President Eisenhower of USA said he was carrying out a weather research.
- Power was tried in an open court and found guilty of espionage (the act of gathering information from a potential enemy). He was sentenced to 10 years' incarceration (imprisoning). Two years later Power was released in exchange for a Russian master spy.



The U-2 aeroplane

1. Identify the primary objective of flying this U2 plane over Russia?
2. Describe how the US fabricated the story when the USSR caught and shot down the U2 plane
3. Explain how this kind of activity may affect the spirit of cooperation between the Superpowers

Explain the purposes/objectives for the establishment of superpower spying organizations.

CIA's primary mission is to collect, analyze, evaluate, and assist in foreign intelligence to help the President and senior US government policymakers in making decisions relating to national security.

SPYING ORGANIZATION	PURPOSES/OBJECTIVES
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Central Intelligence Agency ▪ Formed by President Truman of USA in 1947 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform the functions and duties relating to intelligence affecting the national security
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>KGB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established in 1953 ▪ Evolved from Stalin's secret police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gather information required to protect the Soviet Union from the evils of the West. ▪ Enable effective preparation for defense

These two powers sought to increase their spheres of influence so both organizations involve an intricate/complex/entangled of agents and double agents and it serve as an instrument for **covert/secret** action in sensitive areas of interest.

Discuss the effects of the establishment of spying organizations on the spirit of cooperation of Superpowers.

- Retarded the growing spirit of co-operation
- Spying organization is dealing with lies, deception, covert actions, espionage and all sort of manners like that. Their untrusted words and actions would deteriorate any attempt of co-operation as nothing is purely true.

For example - E.g. U2 incident- The US U2 aircraft secretly strayed into Soviet airspace on a spy mission but was denied by Eisenhower using a pretext of carrying out weather research. However, the pilot told the truth which made Khrushchev left the Paris Summit embittered by this treachery. The spirit of co-operation is dead when players are untrusted and unfaithful as carried out by spying organizations.

The termination of co-operation

The U2 incident seriously retarded the growing spirit of co-operation between the USSR and the United States. Khrushchev left the Paris summit embittered. Eisenhower was to face increased criticism from the American people who condemned his deceit. Many people that America had ruined all chance of cementing a working relationship between East and West, and had threatened world peace. China had frowned on Khrushchev's policy of peaceful coexistence, believing America could never be trusted. The events of 1960 gave weight to China's stand.

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Statement by Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, May 16 1960

On May 1 a US military reconnaissance aircraft invaded the Soviet Union while executing a specific espionage mission to obtain information on military and industrial installations on the territory of the USSR. After the aggressive purpose of its flight became known the aircraft was shot down by units of the Soviet rocket forces. Unfortunately, this has not been the only case of aggressive and espionage actions by the US air force against the Soviet Union. This means that if the US government is really ready to co-operate with the governments of the other powers in the interests of maintaining peace and strengthening confidence between states it must, first, condemn the inadmissible, provocative actions of the US air force with regard to the Soviet Union; and secondly, refrain from continuing such actions and such a policy against the USSR in the future. Until this is done, the Soviet government sees no possibility for fruitful negotiations with the US government at the summit conference. It cannot be among the participants in negotiations where one of the parties has made treachery the basis of its policy with regard to the Soviet Union.

United States President Dwight Eisenhower, May 16 1960

The position of the United States was made clear with respect to the distasteful necessity of espionage activities in a world where nations distrust each other's intentions. We pointed out that these activities had no aggressive intent but rather were to assure the safety of the United States and the free world against surprise attack by a power which boasts of its ability to devastate the USA and other countries by missiles. Most other countries are constantly the targets of elaborate and persistent espionage of the Soviet Union... These [reconnaissance overflights] were suspended after the recent incident and are not to be resumed. I have come to Paris to seek agreements with the Soviet Union which would eliminate the necessity for all forms of espionage, including overflights. I see no reason to use this incident to disrupt the conference. My words were seconded and supported by my Western colleagues, who also urged Mr. Khrushchev to pursue the path of reason and common sense and to forget propaganda Mr. Khrushchev brushed aside all arguments of reason; he came all the way from Moscow to Paris with the sole intention of sabotaging this meeting on which so much of the hopes of the world have rested.

a. According to Khrushchev, what is the main purpose of the 'U2 program'

b. How does Eisenhower justify the programme's existence?

c. What two ultimatums does Khrushchev deliver to the United States, in order for her to take her position as a peace keeper?

d. Why do you think Eisenhower announced the suspension of U2 flights?
