

RichMUNd II

Communist Party of the Soviet Union
1986

Shahzeb Hasan
Chair

Kush Shah
Vice-Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union: 1986. My name is Shahzeb Hasan and I will be your chair throughout RichMUNd II for this committee. I am a dedicated member of the Henrico High School Model United Nations club and have attended 7 conferences since my freshman year. Outside of Model UN I am an avid sports fan, supporting Arsenal FC, the Chicago Bulls, and the Philadelphia Eagles. I play for the Henrico Varsity Soccer team and could go on for days about soccer. Besides sports, I love to read and spend time with my friends. Whether you are a new delegate or experienced veteran, I look forward to seeing you all during committee and listening to some great ideas. Good luck with your position papers and research!

My name is Kush Shah and I am a sophomore in the IB program here at Henrico High School. I will be your vice chair for CPSU 1986. I have participated in Model UN since the eighth grade when I went to my first conference, GSMUN. I have been to four conferences since starting Model UN. Outside of Model UN, I enjoy playing tennis with my friends and coach. I also like hanging out with my friends by going bowling or watching a movie, among other things. I am part of the Future Health Professionals club at Henrico and I will be joining some other clubs this year as well. I enjoy participating in Model UN because it allows me to learn a lot about international relations and politics by participating in the debates. I look forward to meeting all of you at this conference!

Sincerely,

Shahzeb Hasan

Chair

Kush Shah

Vice Chair

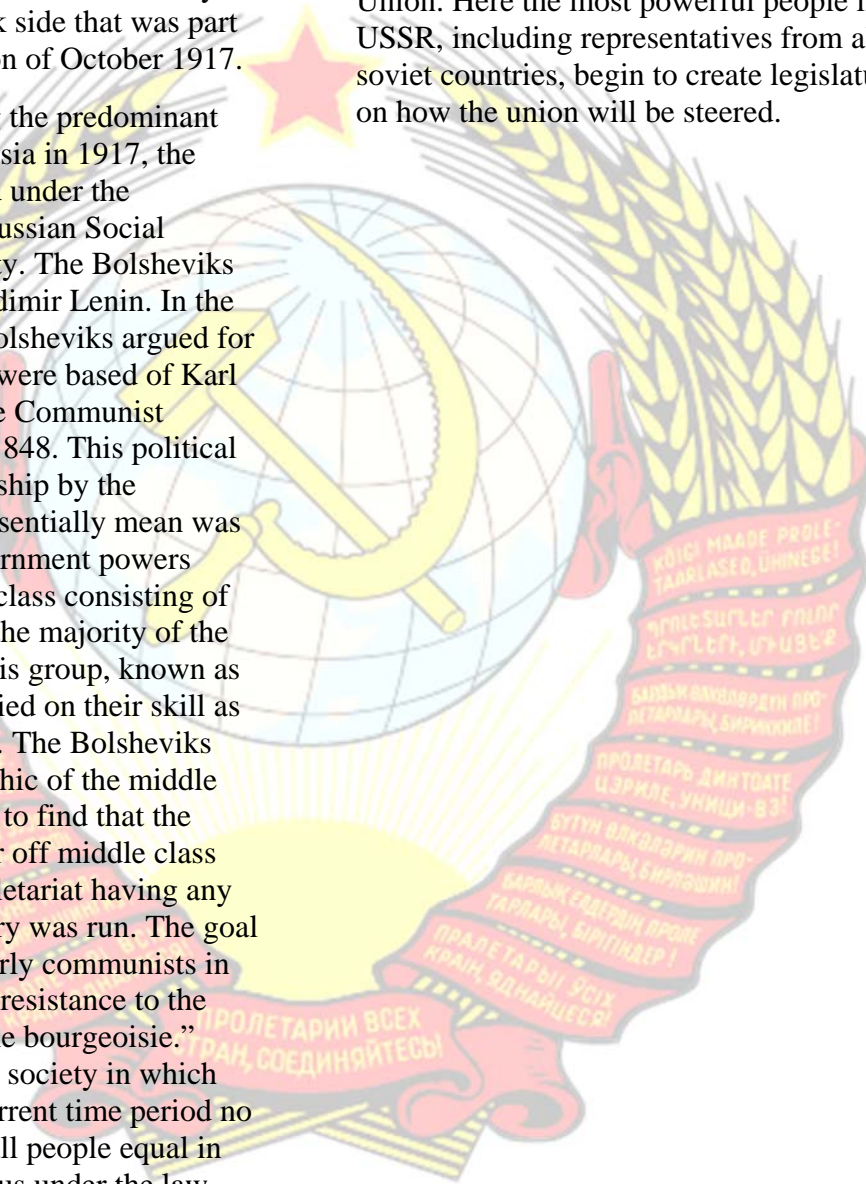
Committee Background

The history behind the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ranges back to the early 20th century. Communism first arose from the writings of Karl Marx, one of the most influential men in the Soviet Union's history. Essentially, the Communist Party arose from the Bolshevik side that was part of the Russian Revolution of October 1917.

Before becoming the predominant political party in the Russia in 1917, the Communist Party started under the Bolshevik wing of the Russian Social Democratic workers party. The Bolsheviks in 1903 were led by Vladimir Lenin. In the early 20th century, the Bolsheviks argued for policies and beliefs that were based of Karl Marx's writings from the Communist Manifesto published in 1848. This political party argued for dictatorship by the proletariat. What this essentially mean was that the majority of government powers were rules by the social class consisting of labor workers that built the majority of the population in Russia. This group, known as the proletariat, solely relied on their skill as labor workers to survive. The Bolsheviks were fond of the work ethic of the middle class but were dismayed to find that the bourgeoisie, or the better off middle class were not fond of the proletariat having any say in the way the country was run. The goal of the Bolsheviks and early communists in Russia was to "suppress resistance to the socialist revolution by the bourgeoisie." Thus creating a classless society in which social relations of the current time period no longer applied, leaving all people equal in social and economic status under the law.

After the October Revolution, the Bolshevik party broke off from Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party and took over as the ruling party of Russia renaming themselves the All-Union Communist Party.

This Communist Party has strived to oppose capitalism and socialism from plaguing Soviet territory. In the 60 or so years since becoming the ruling party, The Communist Party of the Soviet Union now stands under the head of Mikhail Gorbachev ready to serve and preserve the Soviet Union. Here the most powerful people in the USSR, including representatives from all soviet countries, begin to create legislature on how the union will be steered.



Topic One

Gorbachev's Perestroika

The 1980's Soviet Union was wrought with an assortment of maladies. After competing with the Capitalist United States since the end of the Second World War for the duration of the Cold War, the Soviet people were tired of an ineffective and unfair economy that had resulted in only larger class gaps.

After expending millions of lives and a massive sum of money during World War II and then further devoting more time to the space race with the United States, the Soviet Union had become fiscally unbalanced to say the least. The treasury of the country ran low and currency was inflated. Workers were not happy and families starved due to high food prices and low wages. After taking office in 1985, Gorbachev vowed to right the economic ship of the Soviet Union.

Despite Stalin's attempted five year plans to industrialize all of the Soviet Union to be able to compete with the western nations, the old system had become weak and ineffective.

To counter the collapsing economy, Gorbachev plans to unveil his Perestroika plan at the meeting of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1986. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that these new found policies do not fail to reignite the faltering Soviet Economy. Should it fail the results will be disastrous leading to a collapse in the Soviet government. The plan is yet to take effect and it is up to the committee to edit economic policy of the union concerning Gorbachev's plan. The revival of the economy is imperative, without it the leadership of the union cannot exert their power politically.

Gorbachev plans to modernize the soviet economy. Policies such as leasing

land to farmers from the state was used to allot enough land for farmers to make a living and create enough food for the millions of people that resided in the Soviet Union.

In simple terms, the plan is for the Soviet Union to slow down economic development and raise the overall living standards. This would be done by sparking a growth in current industries by stating that state enterprises were free to create product based on consumer demand instead of the quota the state issued for them. In addition to this, to save money, the government would not fund businesses that were failing thereby creating less profit overall but more businesses that provided good products and attracted many customers.

The most radical law proposed by Gorbachev though was the Law on Cooperatives. This law finally permitted private ownership of businesses. Though there were high taxes and employee restriction, the Soviet Union is looking at reforms that lean towards a more Capitalistic approach while remaining under the Communist political view. It is up to the committee to come up with resolutions to address the collapsing economic reform whether this means to accept Gorbachev's current plans, modify them, or do away with them and support a completely new array of policies meant to placate the people of the Soviet Union. Reviving a faltering agricultural and industrial sector is a daunting task but one the committee must address properly to ensure the unity of the Soviet Union.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Should the Soviet Union continue to endorse Communist economic principles, in which the state controls all businesses?

- 2) What are the possible pros and cons of bringing in a semi-free market system that has capitalist characteristics?
- 3) Will the policies of Perestroika that the committee come up with adequately satisfy the population?
- 4) How should the agricultural industry be revived in order to lower food costs?
- 5) How should the industrial industry work in order to maintain effective levels of production and gain profit?
- 6) How will the new reforms work the current political situation of the Soviet Union?



Topic Two

East Germany and the Peaceful Revolution

East Germany, separated from West Germany through the use of the Berlin Wall, is a state within the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. It has been a part of the Soviet Union since the end of World War II when the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union split up Germany between the three of them with the United States and Great Britain gaining control of West Germany and the Soviet Union gaining control of East Germany. As a part of the Soviet Union, East Germany has to follow many Soviet policies, the main policy being communism.

When Germany was defeated in World War II in 1945, the leaders of the three major nations that made up the Allied Forces, Harry Truman (the United States), Winston Churchill (Great Britain), and Joseph Stalin (Soviet Union), got together at the Yalta Conference to discuss the punishment for Germany. The big decision that came out of this meeting was that they decided to split Germany and Berlin up in to four occupied zones. Germany was split up in to East and West Germany with the Soviet Union occupying all of East Germany while West Germany was split up in to three more zones for the United States, Great Britain, and France.

East Germany began to follow the policies of the Soviet Union. One thing that was forced upon them by the Soviet Union was a limit on their freedom of speech. Examples of these limitations and censorship are being required to have a permit before publishing anything, express permission was needed to show any art or to perform, and journalists that were not approved by the government were simply left unemployed. This lack of freedom showcases the Soviets' desire to squash any opposition that they might have.

To help govern East Germany, the Soviet Unity Party of Germany (SED) was formed on October 7, 1949. When Stalin died in 1953, the SED hoped to improve the standard of living by encouraging a change from heavy industry to a greater availability of consumer goods. This plan was called the New Course. This increased opposition to Walter Ulbricht and the East German government and led to the Uprising of 1953. The workers participated in strikes and called for economic reformation. The Soviet Army squashed the uprising and approximately 100 people were killed.

When Nikita Khrushchev rejected Stalinism in 1956, the Second Five-Year Plan was presented by Ulbricht. The plan called for a concerted effort made towards nationalization and agricultural collectivization, however it was met with difficulties and was replaced with the Seven-Year Plan. That plan's goal was to achieve the success seen in West Germany by 1961. The only form of protest at this time was the East German people fleeing to West Germany.

When Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power in 1985, he implemented a new foreign policy that meant East Germany would no longer receive aid from the Soviets. When Gorbachev implemented his other policies of glasnost and perestroika, the East Germans started to actively protest the Soviet rule because they finally had the freedom to do so. These protests led up to the Peaceful Revolution. Also part of the protests are movements across the Berlin Wall and street demonstrations.

Questions to Consider

1. Should the Soviet Union use force to crush the Peaceful Revolution? Why or why not?
2. How could the Soviet Union peacefully resolve issues with East Germany to

prevent the Peaceful Revolution from escalating?

3. Is leadership an issue in the Soviet Union? Why or why not?
4. What could the Soviet Union do to improve relations with East Germany to prevent another Peaceful Revolution?



Topic Three

The First Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact Protests

It is well-known that during World War II, Josef Stalin and Adolf Hitler created a non-aggression pact between themselves to ensure that Russia would be allowed to build itself without facing attacks from Germany and that Germany would not have to worry about a western front during the war.

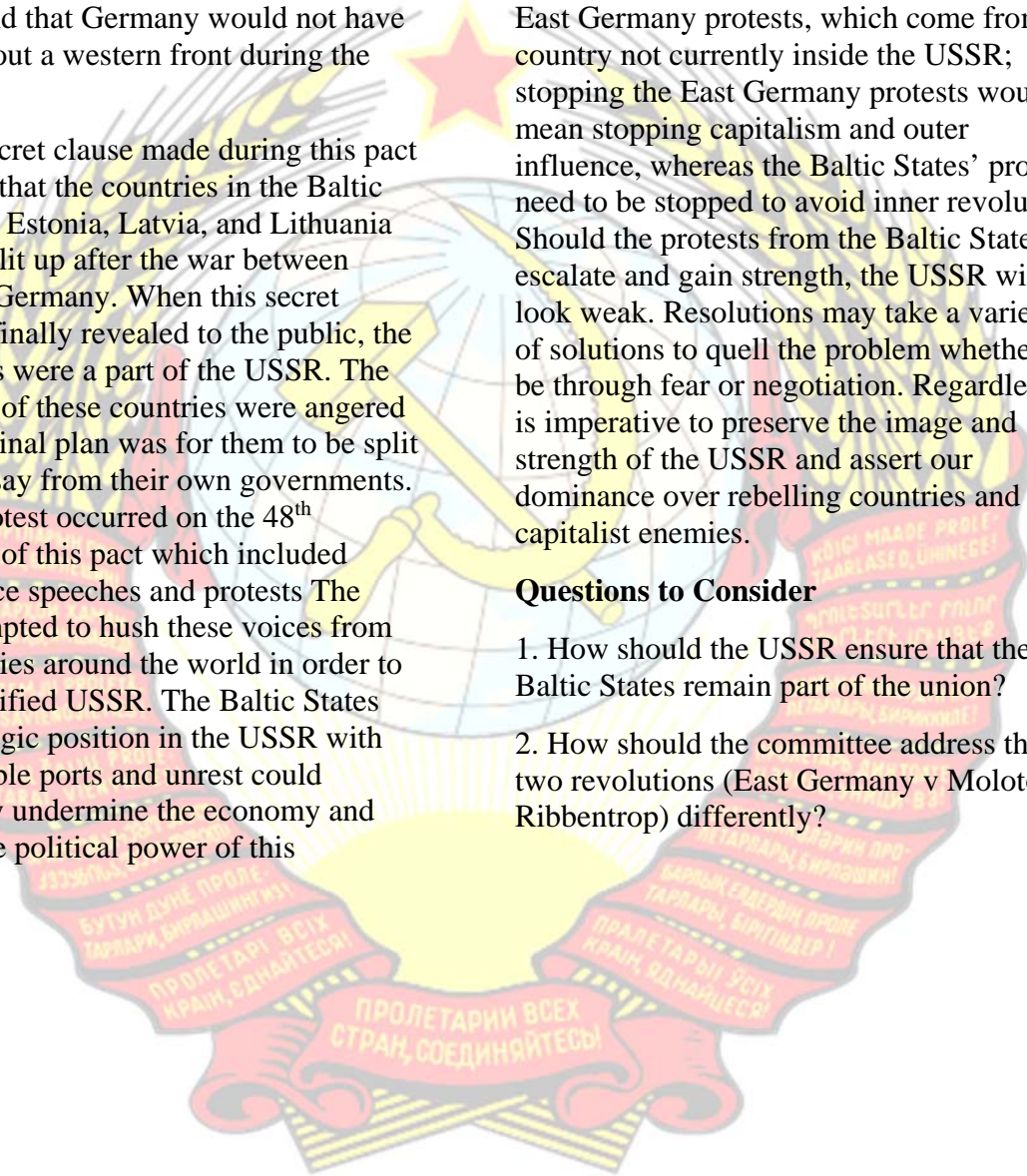
A secret clause made during this pact though was that the countries in the Baltic area such as Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would be split up after the war between Russia and Germany. When this secret clause was finally revealed to the public, the Baltic States were a part of the USSR. The populations of these countries were angered that the original plan was for them to be split up without say from their own governments. The first protest occurred on the 48th anniversary of this pact which included independence speeches and protests. The USSR attempted to hush these voices from other countries around the world in order to present a unified USSR. The Baltic States hold a strategic position in the USSR with many valuable ports and unrest could significantly undermine the economy and therefore the political power of this

committee. It remains to be seen whether or not the protests are due to dislike with communist rule or if it is simply old scars that are resurfacing.

It is the committee's goal to ensure that these inner state protests do not spark an inner revolution. This is different from the East Germany protests, which come from a country not currently inside the USSR; stopping the East Germany protests would mean stopping capitalism and outer influence, whereas the Baltic States' protests need to be stopped to avoid inner revolution. Should the protests from the Baltic States escalate and gain strength, the USSR will look weak. Resolutions may take a variety of solutions to quell the problem whether it be through fear or negotiation. Regardless, it is imperative to preserve the image and strength of the USSR and assert our dominance over rebelling countries and capitalist enemies.

Questions to Consider

1. How should the USSR ensure that the Baltic States remain part of the union?
2. How should the committee address the two revolutions (East Germany v Molotov Ribbentrop) differently?



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