

A BRIEF RELEVANT HISTORY

of the **SOVIET UNION**

**MAY 9, 1945**

USSR celebrates victory in World War Two, also known there as The Great Patriotic War.

**MARCH 5, 1953**

Stalin dies and is soon replaced by Nikita Khrushchev as the leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet Union, who rehabilitates thousands of political prisoners and presides over a "thaw" in the totalitarian regime.

**OCTOBER 16-23, 1962**

The height of the Caribbean Crises, during which the Soviet Union and the U.S. threaten each other with a nuclear confrontation.

**OCTOBER 14, 1964**

Khrushchev is ousted and Leonid Brezhnev is installed as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, later renamed General Secretary. Khrushchev-era reforms are scaled back, and, socially, the "thaw" is replaced with the period of "stagnation."

**1970-1980**

More than 250,000 Jews are allowed to leave the Soviet Union and resettle predominantly in Israel, the United States, and Canada.

**MARCH 11, 1985**

Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, pushing forward the agenda of radical social reforms known as *perestroika* and *glasnost*. Later, his title is changed to President.

**NOVEMBER 9, 1989**

The Berlin Wall falls.

**AUGUST 19-22, 1991**

After a failed coup by the conservative wing of the Communist Party, President Gorbachev is succeeded by Boris Yeltsin in Russia, leader of the popular resistance.

**DECEMBER 26, 1991**

Soviet Union is officially dissolved, leaving in its wake fifteen independent States, including Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, and others.

**1992**

American telephone directory "Yellow Pages" begins operations in St. Petersburg.

**FEBRUARY 1988-MAY 1994**

War in Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia's military victory, unfortunately, escalated the country's economic problems and resulted in its longstanding blockade by neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey.

**AUGUST 25, 1998**

Ringo Starr is the first of the Beatles to give a concert in Russia with his All-Star Band.

**MAY 7, 2000**

Vladimir Putin succeeds Boris Yeltsin as the President of Russia.

**MAY 24, 2003**

Paul McCartney comes to Russia for the first time and performs on the Red Square.

**NOV. 22, 2004-JAN. 23, 2005**

Orange Revolution in Ukraine led to a popular victory by Viktor Yushchenko who had been poisoned with chemicals in the lead-up to the election. Later, Yushchenko lost his reelection to a pro-Russian candidate, Yanukovich.

**NOV. 21, 2013-FEB. 23, 2014**

Euromaidan protests in Ukraine ousted pro-Russian President Yanukovich from power, and were followed by Russian annexation of Crimea and an attempt to take over the Donbass region, as well as unrest in Odessa.