



## Fall of the Soviet Union Timeline



- 1983                    President Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative.
- 1985                    Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power in Soviet Union.
- 1986                    Oil prices fall to almost half of their 1985 average, and stay low for the rest of the decade. Soviet oil production falls steeply from 1987 onward.
- Gorbachev ends economic aid to Soviet allies.
- 1989                    Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan. Casualties: 15,000 dead (official total, although the real total has been estimated as up to 75,000), from a maximum troop strength of 150,000, with some 600,000 having seen service.
- Solidarity movement in Poland wins congressional elections.
- Berlin Wall falls, as do communist governments in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Rumania.
- 1990-91                USSR pulls out its nuclear and conventional forces from Warsaw Pact nations.
- 1990                    Solidarity leader Lech Walesa elected as Polish President.
- East German communist party loses congressional elections; East Germany re-unites with West Germany.
- Soviet Union passes a law allowing republics to break away with a 2/3 majority in a referendum.
- Boris Yeltsin (Russian President) leads its congress to declare its sovereignty over Russia (removing the largest SSR from the sphere of the USSR).
- 1991                    Belavezha Accords (signed by Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus) declare the USSR dissolved.