

**Useful Information and Data #12**  
**on *Perestroika* & the Collapse of the USSR**

**Terms, People, Institutions:**

Iurii Andropov	Konstantin Chernenko	Mikhail Gorbachev
<i>Perestroika</i> (Restructuring)	<i>Glasnost</i> (Openness)	Democratization
KGB	Yegor Ligachev	Boris Yeltsin
Supreme Soviet	Congress of People's Deputies	Nagorno-Karabagh
August coup ( <i>putsch</i> ) of 1991	Novo-Ogarevo accords	Belovezhskii meeting
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)		

**A Basic Chronology:**

1985	March	Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party (CPSU)
1986	April	Nuclear disaster at Chernobyl (Ukraine)
1987	Nov	Boris Yeltsin dismissed as Moscow party chief
1988	June	Televised 19th Party Conference shows divisions within CPSU
1989	Feb	Ethnic conflict erupts in Nagorno-Karabagh (in Caucasus)
	March	Congress of People's Deputies elected in partly democratic elections
	April	Gorbachev announces plan to withdraw from Afghanistan Soviet troops brutally crush Georgian demonstration for independence
	June	Formation of first non-communist government in Poland
	Nov	<i>Sajudis</i> , first national movement, forms in Lithuania Fall of Berlin Wall
1990	June	Formation of Communist Party of the Russian Federation
	March	Lithuania declares independence
	June	Russia declares its sovereignty (now Russian "independence day")
	Sept	Yeltsin and his supporters leave the Communist Party
	Oct	Formal reunification of Germany (FRG & GDR)
1991	Jan	Soviet troops attack TV center in Vilnius, killing 14
	March	Referendum on future structure of USSR (76.4% vote <i>for</i> the union)
	June	Yeltsin elected President of the Russian Federation
	Aug	Completion of negotiations on new union structure (Novo-Ogarevo accord)
	Aug	Attempted coup by conservative communists
	Aug-Sep	Declarations of independence by Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and Azerbaijan
	Nov	Yeltsin ends financing for all-union (Soviet) government institutions
	Nov	Chechnya declares independence as "Ichkeriia"; separates from Ingushetiia
	Dec	Belovezhskii meeting: Russia, Ukraine & Belarus agree to form CIS Eight other former union republics join the new CIS <sup>*</sup> Resignation of Gorbachev; formal dissolution of USSR

<sup>\*</sup> Thus of the 15 union republics of the USSR, eleven joined the CIS. Four—the Baltic republics & Georgia—did not.