

## Undeniably Useful Information #7 Cold War Politics & Decolonization

### Some important political moments, 1950s-1980s

- 1957 Saar region is reunified with Germany<sup>1</sup>
- 1957 Soviets launch *Sputnik*, first artificial satellite, into space
- 1958 Fall of France's Fourth Republic; return of Charles de Gaulle
- 1959 German SPD's Bad Godesberg programme: rejection of Marxist doctrine  
Revolution in Cuba
- 1961 Construction of Berlin Wall (the "Anti-Fascist Protection Wall")  
Albania criticizes Khrushchev, accepts Chinese economic & technical assistance  
Soviets send first man, or *cosmonaut* (Yuri Gagarin), into space
- 1962 France concedes independence to Algeria after bloody war  
Britain restricts immigration from West Indies & Asia  
Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1963 New telephone "hot line" links White & Kremlin directly
- 1964 China condemns USSR as an imperialist power; Albania joins Chinese  
Romanian "declaration of independence"<sup>2</sup>
- 1965 Nicolae Ceausescu becomes top man in Romania
- 1966 "Grand Coalition" in Germany brings SPD into gov't for first time since 1930  
De Gaulle withdraws France from NATO's integrated command  
Willy Brandt becomes West German Chancellor (until 1974)
- 1967 Military coup in Greece to prevent left-wing electoral victory  
West Germany establishes diplomatic relations w/ Rumania & Yugoslavia (1968)<sup>3</sup>
- 1967-8 Student and left-wing demonstrations in West Germany
- 1968 Student Demonstrations & general strike in France  
Forceful suppression by Soviets of "Prague Spring" (Czech socialist reform)<sup>4</sup>  
Articulation of "Brezhnev Doctrine"  
Albania leaves Warsaw Pact  
Introduction of "New Economic Mechanism" in Hungary
- 1969 Soviet-Chinese military skirmishes along Ussuri River  
US begins significant troop reductions in Vietnam
- 1970 West Germany signs treaty with USSR & Poland  
Polish workers revolt against price increases
- 1971 Quadripartite Treaty on Berlin  
British gov't introduces internment without trial in Northern Ireland  
Romania enters General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
- 1972 Willy Brandt receives Nobel Peace Prize for *Ostpolitik*
- 1972 Last US ground combat units leave Vietnam  
Nixon signs arms control agreements with Brezhnev in Moscow (SALT I)  
East & West Germany sign "Basic Treaty" confirming their common frontier

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<sup>1</sup> This coal-rich region had been separated from Germany in 1946 at French insistence.

<sup>2</sup> This declaration took the form of an articulated refusal to subordinate national needs to a supranational planning body after a Soviet proposal to restructure trade within the Eastern bloc.

<sup>3</sup> Up until this point, the FRG's policy had included a refusal to deal with countries that recognized the GDR (the socialist states of Europe reciprocated).

<sup>4</sup> Ceausescu notably refused to send Romanian troops to aid in repression of Prague Spring. Hooray for Ceausescu!

1972-3	Extensive strike activity in Britain, led by Mineworkers' union
1973	Oil crisis pushes European economies into recession Yom Kippur War: Israel vs. Arab states Jackson-Vanik amendment deeply compromises prospects of US-Soviet trade
1974	Turkish invasion of Cyprus precipitates end of Greek military regime "Carnation Revolution" in Portugal
1975	Romania attains most-favored-nation status with US Communist forces take power in South Vietnam, Laos, & Cambodia Apollo-Soyuz space mission
1977	Helsinki "Final Act", signed by 35 Euro-states plus Canada & US
1978	Establishment of "Charter 77" (on human rights) in Czechoslovakia
1978	Karol Wytola elected Pope as John Paul II
1979	Pope John Paul II visits Poland Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister in Britain (until 1990) Sandinistas oust Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua Carter & Brezhnev sign SALT II in Vienna. <sup>5</sup> Islamic Revolution in Iran (leads to America hostage crisis) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
1980	US boycotts summer Olympic Games in Moscow. <sup>6</sup> Polish attempts to raise price leads to protest & creation of Solidarity union Ronald Reagan elected US President (sworn in 1981) Declaration of martial law in Poland (to counteract Solidarity trade union)
1981	Wojtech Jaruzelski declares martial law (Dec); suspended in Dec, 1982
1981-2	Further market reforms in Hungary: an attempt at "regulated market"
1983	Solidarity's Lech Walesa receives Nobel Peace Prize
1984	Jaruzelski proclaims general amnesty to those imprisoned under martial law
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of CPSU
1986	Nuclear disaster in Chernobyl

### Terms & Concepts:

"stagflation"	Keynesian economics
EC (European Community)	"Common Market" (=EC)
"the Six"	Bad Godesberg program
Consensus politics	Charles de Gaulle
Konrad Adenauer	Willy Brandt

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<sup>5</sup> This treaty did not go into effect, since Carter withdrew it from the US Senate (1980) when he realized that it did not have the votes for ratification.

<sup>6</sup> US boycott was joined by Canada, Norway, Turkey, and West Germany. The USSR and several of its allies reciprocated in 1984 by not sending athletes to Los Angeles. But not Romania. Hooray for Ceausescu!