

Was Putin Inevitable? Russia's Evolution After the Berlin Wall Fell Course Outline
Instructor Diana Smith
5 Week Class - Trinity Campus First Session Fall 2022

Week One - What caused the collapse of Soviet Union on December 25, 1991?

- Video 4 Minutes - Fall of the Soviet Union (https://youtu.be/zadkWw702_M)
- Milestones 1989 - 1992 (Reference <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/collapse-sovietunion>)
- Role of Chernobyl Disaster (Reference How the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster Shaped Russia and Ukraine's Modern History by James Rodger, Forbes Magazine 5/1/2021; How Chernobyl Shook the USSR by Olexiy Solohubenko, BBC News 4/26/2016)

Week Two - Glasnost Succeeded, Perestroika Failed: The Rise and Fall of Gorbachev

- Definitions
- Impact of Glasnost in Russia
- Why did Perestroika Fail

Week Three - Russian Federation - Transition to a Free Market Economy

- Historical Background
- Goals of the Market Reforms
- Shock Therapy - Market Oriented Reforms
- Consequences of Shock Therapy
- Perspectives from Personal Conversations with Russian Citizens

Week Four - Rise of Vladimir Putin

- Biography
- Putin's Impact
 - Economic Reforms
 - Evolution to Sovereign Democracy
 - Oligarchs

Week Five - Would a Marshall Plan Type of Support from the US Have Made a Difference?

- What was the Marshall Plan?
- Similarities/Differences in the Post WW2 / Post Gorbachev Periods
- Class Discussion
- Course Summary