

COMMUNISM – Video Notes: “Google” -- 6_6 Communism - The Promise and the Reality - People Power (52:24 min.)

1. Berlin, Germany – November 9, 1989. East German’s mob the border checkpoints that divide communist East Berlin from West Berlin. For the first time in more than _____, they’ll be able to travel to the other side.
2. Back in the 1970’s the Soviet system was at the height of its power. Each year, on the anniversary of the _____ Revolution, communists celebrated an idea still expected to transform the world.
3. The communist world stretched from the Pacific Ocean in the east to the heart of _____.
4. A socialist superman was creating a better _____; all in the name of Lenin. This fantastic vision inspired new generations of school children.
5. The state planned for everything. People’s _____ were mapped out for them in a system that claimed to provide the care and stability that capitalism never could.
6. Party control of all newspapers and television stations meant that people heard only the good news...the propaganda of _____.
7. Across the Soviet bloc, economic planning wasn’t delivering. Standing in line for hours at the market became a way of life. People spent up to _____ hours a day in line. The wait for an apartment was _____ years. But the Party still tried to persuade them that life was far worse in the capitalist _____.
8. Anything from the West (records, soap, clothing) became a prized item on the black _____.
9. Whatever people might want and think, it was dangerous to speak up. Telephones were bugged. Hotel rooms were filmed. Idle talk could lead to _____ on the street. Fear kept people in check. The secret police held _____ of files on ordinary citizens, full of information supplied by a huge network of paid informers.

10. Hope was brought to the Polish people by the election and visit of the first Polish Pope. But a year after his visit (1980), the shipyard workers of Gdansk, Poland went on _____. The workers issued 21 demands. Many were a direct challenge to the communist party's claim to represent the _____. The workers and their supporters prayed that the army wouldn't be sent in.
11. The Party caved in. The workers were allowed to form the first non-communist trade _____ in the Soviet empire. They took on the full might of the communist state and won. Other communist country governments were afraid that this would spread, so they were put on high alert.
12. Sixteen (16) months after the workers were allowed to form their union with the Gdansk Agreement, the general of the Polish military banned solidarity and declared Marshall _____ (i.e., the military takes over the ruling of the everyday movement of people). Thousands of people were rounded up and arrested.
13. A new-generation leader took over the Soviet Union. Mikhael Gorbachev seemed to understand the _____ of the people on the streets.
14. A new policy of openness, or Glasnost, allowed Soviets to read books or see _____ that were previously censored.
15. Television viewers were transfixed by programs which told, for the first time, how people really _____.
16. Soon the Gorbachev Revolution was _____ out of control.
17. In Eastern Europe, the Party had been kept in power by Moscow's willingness to send in the _____ when the people started to protest the government. When Gorbachev removed that threat, the first cracks appeared.
18. Hungary and Poland began to make changes to their government systems. But a cluster of old-style regimes from Romania to East Germany still seemed firmly in _____.

19. Despite the tactics of beating protesters on October 7, 1989 in East Germany, the demonstrations spread. People, who for years had passively accepted the status quo, felt _____ enough to take a stand.
20. A Czech underground cartoon celebrated the revolutions. Poles, Hungarians, and East Germans had broken free (from Soviet control). Now the Czechs tried to join them. Inspired by a playwright, huge _____ took over the capital every evening.
21. The Czech party leadership, without the threat of the _____ (Soviet Army) to back them up, was floundering.
22. In two weeks, 40 years of _____ rule was swept away in Czechoslovakia.
23. It was called the Velvet _____. But in Romania, nothing changed, with shortages and daily power cuts during temperatures that were well below freezing.
24. In Romania, thousands gathered in the main square of Timisoara to protest against communist control. As the march approached the _____ into the center of town, it became clear that the communist leader was not going to give in like his East German and Czech comrades.
25. The slaughter went on as the troops surrounded the city, but the _____ continued.
26. In the country where it had all begun, the Communist Party still held power. But Gorbachev's reforms had _____ the old certainties.
27. With Gorbachev threatening everything they believed in, communist hardliners in the army and the KGB mounted a pre-emptive strike. Gorbachev was held prisoner as they sought to re-impose (put back) the old _____.
28. The troops didn't know what to do. Unwilling to turn their guns on their own people, the young soldiers were the first to _____ their commanders. The coup began to crumble.
29. For the first time in _____ years, the Russian national flag was unfurled at the Kremlin.

30. All over the Soviet Union, people tore down the symbols of an ideology (Communism) that shaped so much of the 20th Century. People were asked to put their faith in new “gods”:
_____ and Capitalism.

Questions:

1. What sorts of things did communist countries do to keep their citizens in-line and make them obey?
2. What sorts of things happened that led to the Velvet Revolution (non-violent revolution) in many communist countries?
3. How was the change-over for East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia different from the change-over in Romania?
4. How did the Soviet Union’s communist system finally fall apart?