

Chapter 1 : Lithuanianâ€“Soviet War - Wikipedia

The Soviets used about 60 remote-controlled robots, most of them manufactured domestically within the U.S.S.R. Although several designs were eventually able to contribute to the cleanup, most of the robots quickly succumbed to the effects of high levels of radiation on delicate electronics.

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If we don't change them now we won't be able to change them later. And you've seen what they're like, The Dirty Bearded Horde. And you've seen what they're like, The Dirty Bearded Horde. All the free women will become hounded foreigners, getting Qurans hucked at their Toyotas while just driving down to the Frogurt Ka-Boom! on the.

Reddit Flipboard The following is a script of "Chernobyl" which aired on Nov. Bob Simon is the correspondent. Michael Gavshon and David Levine, producers. Some tragedies never end. Ask people to name a nuclear disaster and most will probably point to Fukushima in Japan three years ago. The nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl in Ukraine was 30 years ago, but the crisis is still with us today. After the explosion in , the Soviets built a primitive sarcophagus, a tomb to cover the stricken reactor. Engineers say there is still enough radioactive material in there to cause widespread contamination. For the last five years a massive project has been underway to seal the reactor permanently. But the undertaking is three quarters of a billion dollars short and the completion date has been delayed repeatedly. With funds from over 40 different countries, 1, workers are building a giant arch to cover the damaged reactor like a casserole. It will be taller than the Statue of Liberty and wider than Yankee Stadium -- the largest movable structure on Earth. You know when you think about it, you have this massive project going on. All these people working here. Billions of dollars being spent because of one day 30 years ago. It was the biggest disaster of the nuclear industry, yes. The Soviets drafted over half a million troops to put out the fire and clear the nuclear debris. Thousands got seriously ill from radiation exposure. Today, three decades later, the cleanup continues. But as this recent video shows, the reactor is still packed with poison: When finished, the arch will be slid into place around the Sarcophagus, then sealed up. We will push it in once, the average speed it will be around 10 meters an hour. But the construction itself will have to move a lot quicker. The old plant and sarcophagus are falling apart. Just two years ago, a snow storm caused the roof of one of the buildings to collapse, forcing workers to be evacuated and raising fears of further contamination. Radiation is not subject to the usual rules of life and death. It is virtually eternal. When Caille took us on a tour of the site, we were fitted with dosimeters to tell us how much we were being exposed to. Building the arch under these conditions is challenging enough. But some of the biggest obstacles have nothing to do with radiation. The project is also million dollars short, and it has been plagued by repeated delays. This is the city of Pripyat, two miles from the reactor. Thirty years ago, the population was 50, Today it is zero. Nine-story apartment buildings lined this boulevard. The forest has taken over. A vision perhaps of what the whole world might look like were people to just disappear. It was springtime in Pripyat that day in , and an amusement park was due to open in a few days. Andre Glukhov lived here then. So, that Ferris wheel never had any kids in it? Never had any kids. These bumper cars, on your left, had never kids on it, too. When you talk to your former neighbors, what do you call it? We just call it 26, which was the date of the accident. He took us on a tour through a part of the plant that had not been destroyed. He was off duty that night, but what he saw when he drove past the damaged reactor was like nothing he, or anyone else, had ever seen. This is the control room This was a terrifying picture. It looked like a sunset in the distance, about , yards from you. And this was the glowing core of the reactor. That was the first and the only time you saw it? No, that was the first time when I realized the scale of the disaster. Glukhov told his family in Pripyat to stay inside and close the windows. Soviet authorities covered the area with secrecy, told people they had nothing to worry about. But 36 hours later, over a thousand busses were sent in to evacuate everyone. Authorities told people it would only be for three days -- one of many lies. The people never came back, and Pripyat is being overwhelmed by the elements. One of the only things still recognizable is that old Soviet iconography. A row of simple markers has been planted with the names of each one. But amidst this wilderness, the strangest sight of all. People, just a few. Today, there are three other people living in this village When you decided to come back to live here, did anyone tell you it was dangerous? You know, when I lived in that apartment block, I got sick all the time. But when I came back here, I was fine. You should never leave home. Despite the danger, Tim Mousseau also chose to be here. Yeah this is an opportunistic lab. Some of these mice have on the order of 10, times more radioactivity in their bodies than in

clean areas. The human toll has been profound as well. Thyroid cancer and leukemia affected thousands -- though the exact number of deaths is still being debated. There certainly is evidence that some of the genetic damage that occurs at the level of the DNA can be transmitted from one generation to the next. So a nuclear disaster is never over? There will be areas that will be contaminated for thousands, if not millions, of years. Check out the apocalypse? How did your friends react when you told them you were coming on vacation to Chernobyl? They thought it was very strange, you know. But, I mean, people have been coming here for a while, so you know, I guess it must be safe. You guess it must be safe. Thousands of workers flood into the Zone every day, to look after what remains of the plant. Others live here year-round, in one of the few places safe enough for inhabitants: Yevgen Goncharenko was our guide. He lives here too. Why are you living here and not in Kiev? Because I like this place. He spends much of his time writing music on his bass guitar. Music as desolate as the landscape surrounding him. As desolate as the remains of this empire that has long since disappeared. A decade after the disaster, workers here built a monument honoring their colleagues whose lives had been destroyed. The workers and the firemen made the monument themselves? And what does it say? But when the reactor exploded in , radioactive dust and debris were carried as far away as Italy and Sweden. Until the arch finally seals up that stricken reactor, and no one knows when that might be, something like that could happen again. Unlike other historic relics, Chernobyl does not belong to the past; its power will never die. He has contributed to 60 Minutes since

Chapter 3 : The Black Russians and the Black Horses - Polyus

Instead Soviets planned a coup to overthrow Lithuanian government and establish a Soviet republic. However, Soviets lost the Battle of Warsaw and were pushed back by the Poles. Some historians credit this victory for saving Lithuania's independence from the Soviet coup.

Background[edit] Bolshevik forces advance following retreating German troops red arrows. The red line shows the Soviet front in January Lithuania became part of the Russian Empire after the final partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in Lithuania soon began organizing basic institutions, and established their first government led by Augustinas Voldemaras. They saw Baltic states as a barrier or a bridge into Western Europe, where they could join the German and the Hungarian Revolutions. Lithuanian government[edit] Augustinas Voldemaras , the first Prime Minister of Lithuania , did not believe that forming the military was a priority and advocated Lithuanian neutrality. Some Lithuanians, who had served in the Russian army during the World War, returned to Lithuania and started organizing battalions in Kaunas , Hrodna , Alytus. At the end of December, with the Bolsheviks already in the country, Lithuania was left leaderless. On December 29, he issued the first mass appeal in four languages calling for volunteers for the Lithuanian Army. They further negotiated direct German support in the war against the Soviets. However, the soldiers were tired and demoralized and wanted to return home as soon as possible. The volunteers were paid 30 marks per month plus 5 marks per day and had to sign up for three months. By the end of January, German volunteers numbered 4, There were several attempts at a coup against the Lithuanian government. In April-May German forces were reorganized into the South Lithuania Volunteer Brigade composed of three regiments 18th, 19th, and 20th and a separate battalion in Raseiniai. On May 23, the Paris Peace Conference reacting to these events asked Germany to withdraw its troops from both Latvia and Lithuania as soon as local forces could defend themselves. Between December 31, and January 1, , the German garrison withdrew from Vilnius and passed authority over the city to a local Polish committee, against the pleas of the Lithuanian administration. The Lithuanian government withdrew to Kaunas , the temporary capital of Lithuania. Kapsukas and his government arrived in Vilnius from Daugavpils on January 7. In the occupied territory the Soviets created revolutionary committees and soviets based on structures developed in Russia. The land was to be used for collective farming instead of being redistributed to small farmers. Pskov division later renamed Lithuanian Division , International Division later renamed 2nd Latvian Riflemen Division; included 39th, 41st, 47th, and 60th Regiments , and 17th Division later renamed Western Division; included 5th Vilnius Regiment. The soviets also recruited partisan groups behind the front lines. Red Army captured one town after another: The operation to take Kaunas began on February 7. The 3rd and 4th Riflemen Regiments about 2, men attacked Alytus on February On the night of February 14-15, German forces and one company of the Lithuanians returned to Alytus and retook the city. Soviets were ordered to abandon the offensive and maintain defensive position. The blue line shows the Polish front in May Its objective was to reach the Baltic Sea and cut off German supplies to Latvians in their war against the Soviets. Their main purpose was to demoralize the enemy forces and boost confidence of local residents and Lithuanian volunteers. Lithuanian forces entered the city on March 26, but the Red Army retook it on April 4. On March 5, Lithuanians announced mobilization of men born By May 3 the official headcount reached officers and 10, privates. Lithuania also received new shipments of arms and munitions. Soldiers received first uniforms. Lithuanians decided to take advantage of large Polish attacks against the Soviets in Hrodna area in order to test enemy strength and capture Vilnius. Both regiments were initially successful, but Soviets gathered their forces and stopped the advance. As Lithuanian flanks were not defended, they decided to abandon to offensive. Soviets also accused Germans of violating the demarcation line set on January 18 and pressured them to retreat. They pushed east and north, entering Vilnius Region , the territory claimed by Lithuanians. Between April 19 and 21, Poles captured Vilnius during the Vilna offensive and by May secured their positions. Polish advance significantly shortened the Lithuanian-Soviet front line and allowed Lithuania to concentrate its forces for operations in northeastern Lithuania. At first, both Poles and Lithuanians cooperated against the Soviets, but

soon the cooperation gave way to increasing hostility. The Polish-Lithuanian relations were not immediately hostile, but grew worse as each side refused to compromise. Dates indicate when the town was taken by Lithuanian forces. Pink line marks the border of Lithuania since Polish advances against the Soviets necessitated changes in Lithuanian strategy. Its first commander Kazys Ladiga was ordered to push along the Utena - Zarasai line. The Ministry of Defense and the Staff were also reorganized. The initiative was met by a Soviet counterattack, and the Lithuanian forces retreated. Another Soviet push came on June 20 and the front stabilized. Between July 6 and 12, Lithuanians with some Latvian assistance attempted to drive out the Bolsheviks. The Soviets gathered their forces from calmer fronts and forced Lithuanians to retreat to their former positions. Poland ignored both lines [26] and continued to advance up to the orange line. Railroads are marked by black stitched lines. Direct negotiations between May 28 and June 11, collapsed as neither side was inclined to compromise. Two major modifications were made: Instead, the Lithuanian government itself needed to be replaced by a party more willing to negotiate a compromise. There were minor incidents involving scouts or outpost guards. Lithuanians had two infantry regiments and five separate battalions; the Soviets had six regiments and one separate battalion. The Lithuanian main forces could be redeployed elsewhere, including protection of the demarcation line with Poland and planned attacks against the Bermontians in northern Lithuania. The Lithuanians did not participate in these operations.

Chapter 4 : Soviet Official Admits That Robots Couldn't Handle Chernobyl Cleanup | The Scientist Magazine

MOSCOW, April 28, (UPI) - A nuclear accident damaged a reactor at a giant atomic power plant in the Ukraine, the Soviet Union said Monday, sending a radioactive cloud more than 1, miles to.

Apr 09, However, because of the nonstandard work of its onboard systems mock-up to the designated orbit did not leave and was given in the water area of Pacific Ocean ". After this communication its history. During planning of the structure of rocket, sent for the first flight, the persistent thought prevailed: Prompted the logic of the experimental finalizing of complex technical systems, i. Simple computations on the basis of the principle of the smallest damage spoke for the simplified load for the first flight. It represented the cylinder with the ogive nose cone with a diameter of 4 m and with length about 25 m. Mock-up was made from heavy-gauge steel. Internal sortings supplemented and was collected weight. Inside the mock-up - void. According to the flight program it had to be brought together with the second step of "Energia" in the water area of Pacific Ocean. However, our opinion did not converge with the plans of the management of ministry and design project leader V. During July-August To o. Khrunicheva set the problem of developing of automatic spacecraft with the necessary systems, which ensure his injection into orbit and existence on it in the course of the month, with the possibility of conducting the number of experiments. Delivery time to the range is not later than August of critical Of d. It was decided to the maximum degree to use the prepared sections and an instrument composition TKS transport ship of supply and "Scythian- dm" promising automatic spacecraft of ton class. As early as KB "Salyut" created automatic spacecraft - station "Scythian", equipped with laser weapon according to the program of antisatellite defense of the type "anti-SOI" with the subsequent improvement - it was intended to equip with the laser system of defeat the nuclear head parts of the rockets. The laser onboard complex of the armament of "Scythian" was created in NPO "astrophysics". The analog of "Scythian" without the complex combat systems, for the evaluation of dynamic characteristics had an index "Scythian- D". Mock-up under the index "Scythian- dm" had the length of 37 m, a diameter of 4,1 m and a mass of approximately 80 T. It were assumed otstrel targets and their defeat from the board "Scythian- dm". Each Thursday Of o. Shishkin carried out operational conferences at The khrunichevskoye plant. During July the plant under the management Of a. Kiseleva fulfilled its obligations. All sections of automatic spacecraft were set in Baikonur. All systems of apparatus passed the complete cycle of autonomous and complex tests. In the beginning of it was solved the demonstration of the combat capabilities of automatic spacecraft not to produce. During February of the same year "Scythian- dm" it arrived for the jointing with the "Energia" to the maintenance area already with the corrected program of its flight. On board "Scythian- dm" capital letters on the non-machined surface wrote its new name "Polyus". The maneuver of the turning of automatic spacecraft "Polyus" to on the pitch and to the same to 90 along the bank, as it was provided by the program of the orientation of ship, it was executed regularly. However, the calculated process of "revolution" because of the error, placed in the flight program of mock-up, did not cease, but it continued. In connection with the fact that the unwinding continued, automatic spacecraft, without having reached necessary speed, accomplishing complex somersault relative to ballistic trajectory, it cut into the waters of Pacific Ocean. Was this vehicle testing a type of radar absorbing "stealth" material? If this is true then what of the lettering on its side? Was this lettering permanent or was this lettering itself a visual target? Was it also black? Many, many questions David Andrey Suvorov It is added: Apr 10, Black color will prevent dangerous reflection of sun light from body of satellite. Does anyone know of any other instance where any previous satellite has used this black color? This is very contrasting against the black. Was this just decorative or was there an intention here? Pn Apr 12, I have been informed by Dr. Lukashevich of NPO Molniya that the station in this image is from the artist imagination. David AAA It is added: Apr 23, It was separated from the "Enrgia", having an inclination of 65 degrees. How, strictly, is determined the selection of inclination 65 or 51 degree? Konstantin Lantratov Wrote In a article in "Novosti Kosmonavtiki" that the payload was targeted for a km circular orbit at Interestingly, Boris Gubanov chief designer of the Energiya rocket now says in his memoirs that it was Two possibilities were studied: However, that would have decreased the mass of the payload by 5 tons and would

have required all sorts of other modifications. According to Gubanov a launch into a 65 degree inclination orbit would also have made it impossible to fly the mission from mid-May to August, because that would have placed the impact zone of the strap-ons and the payload fairing right in the middle of the nesting area of the pink flamingo a level of concern for the natural environment usually not displayed by the Russians with other launch vehicles. Because of all these factors and the fact that a launch failure resulting in an impact on foreign territory was considered unlikely, it was decided to stick with the I should caution that Gubanov only talks about the planned inclination while describing the events leading up to the launch of Energiya. There seem to have been several delays in the launch that could have given the time to make the necessary modifications required for the inclination change. This page contains copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Pegasus Research Consortium distributes this material without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. We believe this constitutes a fair use of any such copyrighted material as provided for in 17 U. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond fair use, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

Chapter 5 : soviets " like sick horses

The Soviets on the other hand struggled to keep up and went bankrupt trying to match the US power. What was regains attitude toward detente He saw it as a weak policy that the soviets ignored.

Western diplomats feared a high death toll at the accident site. It was impossible to immediately assess the number of casualties independently. An unprecedented statement acknowledging the accident was issued by the official Tass news agency after Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark reported higher than normal levels of radioactivity believed to be from a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, where many nuclear plants do not have radiation containment walls as are required in the United States. Scandinavian officials said the radiation levels carried by wind currents 1, miles from the site of the accident -- believed to have occurred during the weekend -- were low enough that they were not believed to pose any immediate threat to their citizens. The levels were expected to return to normal over the next few days, the officials said. The cloud could reach the U. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the United States apparently was not notified through diplomatic channels of the accident. Measures have been undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the accident. It is not unreasonable to speculate about deaths. The brief statement from the Soviet Council of Ministers was read on the nightly television news program, Vremya, watched by millions of people, in a further indication that casualties were extensive. No further details were provided. Muscovites expressed concern over the health of Ukrainians, but said they did not worry about their own health. The Soviet Union has 50 nuclear plants, including 28 of the graphite-moderated reactor types such as at the Chernobyl facility, U. Graphite technology is an older method of controlling the speed of nuclear reaction. There is no similar plant in the United States. Olof Hermander, chief of the Swedish nuclear inspection board, said the discharge probably resulted from a Soviet reactor overheating to let radioactive material escape into the atmosphere, a process he said can lead to reactor meltdown. Western diplomats and nuclear experts said the Chernobyl plant had four or five 1,megawatt reactors. The plant went into operation in , and the fourth reactor went on line in . Authorities quickly evacuated employees, but experts could not explain the occurrence until radiation readings were taken in other parts of Sweden. About , people evacuated during the crisis, which later was blamed on human and mechanical failures. No one was injured.

Chapter 6 : Operation 'Barbarossa' And Germany's Failure In The Soviet Union | Imperial War Museums

By mid-June the Lithuanians reached the Latvian border and cornered the Soviets among lakes and hills near Zarasai, where the Soviets held out until the end of August. The Soviets and Lithuanians, separated by the Daugava River, maintained their fronts until the Battle of Daugavpils in January.

During the Russian Revolution, Stroganov fled to Paris where he remained with his family until he died in Soviet-era Arabian horse program[edit] Arabians were re-introduced to the new Tersk Stud in [9] and the first French Arabian imports arrived in . These included the stallion Kann and six mares, most notable of which was Carabine. In , a shipment of 25 horses came from Crabbet Arabian Stud in England , [5] some of which were descended from horses that had lived at the Stroganov and Shcherbatov stud and perished during the revolution. There were six stallions in the purchase, of which Naseem a son of Skowronek and great-grandson of Mesaoud was the most influential. Among the mares, Rissalma, Rixalina, and Star of the Hills left a significant impression on the breed. He had already left his mark on the breed by siring the famous "three Ws" in Poland: However, they returned to Tersk in with few losses. The Poles sought a stallion of the Ibrahim sire line, and had hoped to purchase Negativ from Tersk but were unable at the time, but were satisfied to own his son Nabor instead. Nabor was exported to the U. Nabeg can also be found in Trakehner pedigrees through some of his sons and daughters. Nil sired only 16 foals [23] before his untimely death in , [31] but still left a lasting impression on the Tersk program. His loss was unfortunate because, based on his structure and brief siring record, Nil could have been as significant to Tersk as his successor. In , the Egyptian government gave another stallion to the Soviet Union , Raafat by Nazeer , who was renamed Aswan by the Soviets in honor of the dam project. Aswan as a young stallion in Egypt Aswan had a profound influence on the Tersk breeding program. As a whole, the broodmare band at Tersk had generally good structure but lacked some elements of Arabian type. Aswan introduced a more extreme dished head with large nostrils, large expressive eye, long level croup, and high tail carriage. He also had obvious faults, such as offset front knees, post-legged back legs, a long low back , a "wasp-waist," and a thick neck and throatlatch. Aswan excelled at siring broodmares. Balaton became one of the youngest stallions to become a head sire at Tersk at just three years of age, and Tersk Director Alexander Ponomarev called him "the horse of the century at Tersk" [37] after his first foal crop arrived. This is undesirable and should be eliminated by selection. Influence of American buyers[edit] By the mids, Russian Arabians were viewed as an exotic and profitable business in the U. Prices began to come down at the annual Tersk auction starting in and the values of all big-investment Arabian horses dropped dramatically after the U. After that point, breeding "straight Russian" Arabians, or horses that were descended only from Tersk-bred horses, was not as common in the U. Some American breeders increasingly crossed Russian-bred horses with other lines to produce more exotic type and movement, while Arabian sport horse breeders outcrossed to Russian lines for their athletic ability. The reason given by the Registry in a letter to Mr. The nearby town, Mineralnye Vody , means "mineral waters" and is renowned as a spa town. The abundant natural mineral springs and beautiful scenery draw visitors from around the world. The weather is mild, ranging from 40 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter to nearly 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. There are no fences around the stud, so mounted watchmen follow and monitor the herds night and day. The horses are brought into the barn twice each day to be fed and checked, but otherwise they are free to enjoy the open spaces. Tersk Arabians are sent to the Pyatigorsk racetrack at the age of two and may race one or two seasons. The best performers race on Sundays, with two-year-olds running 1, meters and older horses running 1, and 1, meters. Many others will be sold at the age of three. Excellent runners which deviate from breed type may be used for limited breeding or else they are eliminated from selection. Horses that receive lower grades are sent to other studs or sold.

Chapter 7 : Ronald Reagan | HistoryNet

Since , he had been trying to convince his superiors that the Soviets would soon develop high-speed submarines that could change the equation in the next war at sea.

Kindle Edition Verified Purchase I really enjoyed this short nonfiction book, with a couple of exceptions. Talty is not a horseman. He does not understand the difference between Thoroughbred and purebred. The two terms are not interchangeable. Purebred is purebred, plain and simple, and Thoroughbred is a breed. He also does not understand their gaits, using one sentence to announce that the horses galloped and trotted simultaneously as they departed on the road for Germany. The horses were in Hostau, Czechoslovakia, and needed to make the transit into German territory in order to clarify any possible claims of ownership in the future, as the Russians would have gladly taken them, for dinner as well as for use. He was not describing a mixed group of horses doing different gaits, but wrote the sentence as though it were possible for a horse to both gallop and trot simultaneously, and while some wretchedly-gaited horses can do a variation of this, it does not occur in classically schooled horses, or unbroken horses. Other than the occasional equestrian clanger, the story is very well researched and written. Two American GIs lost their lives in the military action that retrieved the horses, and are recognized for their heroism. The Brits went back to their army, and the Czechs began rebuilding their lives. Talty did get one idea right - that the rescue of the Lipizzaners was comparable to the work of the Monuments Men. The only difference was that this cultural wealth was alive and performing, yet just their history went back just as far as the Renaissance artworks that the Monuments teams sought to preserve. There are links in the story that enable further research, which I did not do at this time, but appreciate the chance. They may also be links to pictures. I just wanted to read this and enjoy the result. The participants who led this adventure, including Colonel Reed, were never really recognized for what they accomplished in achieving the freedom of the POWs, various refugees, and negotiating the release of the horses without a shot being fired. It was made abundantly clear that either the gate would open, or there would be a very large boom. Fortunately the partisans decided that opening the gate was the best choice. Had it been necessary to fire, there would have been horses and riders scattered all over Eastern Europe! The operation transported some mares and foals by truck, many in small herds guarded by outriders and jeeps, and though Talty does not discuss this, some were lost. Fortunately enough were saved to preserve the breed and the fine bloodlines.

Chapter 8 : calendrierdelascience.com - Wheel Horse lawn tractors

Afghan boys orphaned by the war between Kabul's Soviet-backed government and Muslim rebels salute visitors at the Watan ('Homeland') Nursery in Kabul on January 20,

The blue line shows the Polish front in May. Its objective was to reach the Baltic Sea and cut off German supplies to Latvians in their war against the Soviets. Their main purpose was to demoralize the enemy forces and boost confidence of local residents and Lithuanian volunteers. Lithuanian forces entered the city on March 26, but the Red Army retook it on April 4. On March 5, Lithuanians announced mobilization of men born after 1918. By May 3 the official headcount reached 10,000 officers and 100,000 privates. Lithuania also received new shipments of arms and munitions. Soldiers received first uniforms. Lithuanians decided to take advantage of large Polish attacks against the Soviets in Hrodna area in order to test enemy strength and capture Vilnius. Both regiments were initially successful, but Soviets gathered their forces and stopped the advance. As Lithuanian flanks were not defended, they decided to abandon the offensive. Soviets also accused Germans of violating the demarcation line set on January 18 and pressured them to retreat. They pushed east and north, entering Vilnius Region, the territory claimed by Lithuanians. Between April 19 and 21, Poles captured Vilnius during the Vilna offensive and by May secured their positions. Polish advance significantly shortened the Lithuanian-Soviet front line and allowed Lithuania to concentrate its forces for operations in northeastern Lithuania. At first, both Poles and Lithuanians cooperated against the Soviets, but soon the cooperation gave way to increasing hostility. The Polish-Lithuanian relations were not immediately hostile, but grew worse as each side refused to compromise. Dates indicate when the town was taken by Lithuanian forces. Pink line marks the border of Lithuania since Polish advances against the Soviets necessitated changes in Lithuanian strategy. Its first commander Kazys Ladiga was ordered to push along the Utena - Zarasai line. The Ministry of Defense and the Staff were also reorganized. The initiative was met by a Soviet counterattack, and the Lithuanian forces retreated.

Chapter 9 : Soviet-Afghan War: 48 Photos From The Conflict That Birthed Al Qaeda

The Soviets noticed the inflated prices that westerners were willing to pay for their horses and accordingly set high reserves on their auction lots. Prices began to come down at the annual Tersk auction starting in and the values of all big-investment Arabian horses dropped dramatically after the U.S. tax laws were changed in

Ronald Reagan was the 40th president of the United States. He was born in Illinois in . He attended Eureka College on an athletic scholarship, and received a job as a sports announcer for a radio station in Iowa. Reagan joined Warner Brothers Studios in under a seven year contract. He appeared in more than 50 movies, and he also served as a Screen Actors Guild president for several years. As an actor he is considered to have had a good career among B-list movies. As he aged and became interested in politics, Reagan became increasingly more conservative. In , Regan ran as the Republican candidate for governor of California, and the won the election. He was re-elected in and served a second term. Reagan was not successful in winning the Republican nomination in the elections of or , but he was successful in . He defeated Jimmy Carter in the election, and at the age of 69, became the oldest elected president. In , an assassination attempt was made by John Hinckley, Jr. During his first term, Reagan was kept busy with the Cold War, and created the Strategic Defense Initiative to develop weapons based in space to protect the United States against Soviet attacks. He also took a strong stance against labor unions as well as ordered the Granada invasion. Reagan ran for re-election in and beat Walter Mondale. He is often seen pictured with his dogs as well as his horses in casual settings. Reagan died in . By itself this would have been an insignificant military action: Grenada is a tiny island of little geopolitical significance. But in reality the liberation of Grenada was a historic event, because it signaled the end of the Brezhnev Doctrine and inaugurated a sequence of events that brought down the Soviet empire itself. The Brezhnev Doctrine stated simply that once a country went Communist, it would stay Communist. In other words, the Soviet empire would continue to advance and gain territory, but it would never lose any to the capitalist West. In , when Reagan was elected president, the Brezhnev Doctrine was a frightening reality. Between and , while the United States wallowed in post-Vietnam angst, 10 countries had fallen into the Soviet orbit: Never had the Soviets lost an inch of real estate to the West. The liberation of Grenada changed that. For the first time, a Communist country had ceased to be Communist. Surely the Politburo in Moscow took notice of that. These sound like words from a very different era, and in a sense they are. With the sudden and spectacular collapse of the Soviet Union, we find ourselves in a new world. But how we got from there to here is still poorly understood. Oddly there is very little debate, even among historians, about how the Soviet empire collapsed so suddenly and unexpectedly. One reason for this, perhaps, is that many of the experts were embarrassingly wrong in their analysis and predictions about the future of the Soviet empire. They showed a very poor understanding of the nature of communism. The hawks or anti-Communists had a much better understanding of totalitarianism, and understood the necessity of an arms buildup to deter Soviet aggression. But they too were decidedly mistaken in their belief that Soviet communism was a permanent and virtually indestructible adversary. Buckley urged Reagan to reconsider his positive assessment of the Gorbachev regime: Consequently there has been in the past decade a determined effort to rewrite the history of the Cold War. This revisionist view has now entered the textbooks, and is being pressed on a new generation that did not live through the Soviet collapse. There is no mystery about the end of the Soviet Union, the revisionists say, explaining that it suffered from chronic economic problems and collapsed of its own weight. This argument is not persuasive. True, the Soviet Union during the s suffered from debilitating economic problems. But these were hardly new: The Soviet regime had endured economic strains for decades, on account of its unworkable Socialist system. Moreover, why would economic woes in themselves bring about the end of the political regime? Historically, it is common for nations to experience poor economic performance, but never have food shortages or technological backwardness caused the destruction of a large empire. The Roman and Ottoman empires survived internal stresses for centuries before they were destroyed from the outside through military conflict. Gorbachev was undoubtedly a reformer and a new kind of Soviet leader, but he did not wish to lead the party, and the regime, over the precipice. In his book *Perestroika*, Gorbachev presented himself as

the preserver, not the destroyer, of socialism. Consequently, when the Soviet Union collapsed, no one was more surprised than Gorbachev. Ronald Reagan Presidential Library The man who got things right from the start was, at first glance, an unlikely statesman. He became the leader of the Free World with no experience in foreign policy. Some people thought he was a dangerous warmonger; others considered him a nice fellow but a bit of a bungler. Nevertheless, this California lightweight turned out to have as deep an understanding of communism as Alexander Solzhenitsyn. This rank amateur developed a complex, often counterintuitive strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union, which hardly anyone on his staff fully endorsed or even understood. In he told an audience at the University of Notre Dame: It will transcend communism. It will dismiss it as some bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages are even now being written. How did Reagan know that Soviet communism faced impending collapse when the most perceptive minds of his time had no inkling of what was to come? Over the years Reagan had developed an extensive collection of stories that he attributed to the Soviet people themselves. He is informed that he will have to put down his money now, but there is a year wait. The man fills out all the various forms, has them processed through the various agencies, and finally he gets to the last agency. What difference does it make? What is striking, however, is that his jokes were not about the evil of communism so much as they were about its incompetence. At the same time, he saw that it was also basically foolish. Reagan did not need a Ph. Sick bears, however, can be very dangerous. They tend to lash out. What resources they cannot find at home, they seek elsewhere. Moreover, since we are not discussing animals but people, there is also the question of pride. The leaders of an internally weak empire are not likely to acquiesce to an erosion of their power. They typically turn to their primary source of strength: Thus he agreed with the anti-Communist strategy for dealing firmly with the Soviets. But he was more confident than most hawks in his belief that Americans were up to the challenge. At a time when no one else could, Reagan dared to imagine a world in which the Communist regime in the Soviet Union did not exist. It is one thing to envision this happy state, and quite another to bring it about. The Soviet bear was in a ravenous mood when Reagan entered the White House. In the s the Soviets had made rapid advances in Asia, Africa and South America, culminating with the invasion of Afghanistan in Moreover, the Soviet Union had built the most formidable nuclear arsenal in the world. Finally, Moscow had recently deployed a new generation of intermediate-range missiles, the giant SSs, targeted at European cities. Reagan did not merely react to these alarming events; he developed a broad counteroffensive strategy. At the same time, Reagan did not eschew arms control negotiations. Indeed, he suggested that for the first time the two superpowers drastically reduce their nuclear stockpiles. The administration supported such guerrillas in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola and Nicaragua. Gorbachev was indeed a new breed of Soviet general secretary, utterly unlike any of his predecessors, but few have asked why he was appointed by the Old Guard. The main reason is that the Politburo had come to recognize the failure of past Soviet strategies. The Pershing and Tomahawk deployments were, to the Soviets, an unnerving demonstration of the unity and resolve of the Western alliance. Indeed, one small nation, Grenada, had moved back into the democratic camp. Clearly the Politburo saw that the momentum in the Cold War had dramatically shifted. After , the Soviets seem to have decided to try something different. It was Reagan, in other words, who seems to have been largely responsible for inducing a loss of nerve that caused Moscow to seek a new approach. Gorbachev was widely admired by Western intellectuals and pundits because the new Soviet leader was attempting to achieve the great 20th-century hope of the Western intelligentsia: A socialism that worked! Yet as Gorbachev discovered, and the rest of us now know, it could not be done. The vices Gorbachev sought to eradicate from the system turned out to be essential features of the system. The hard-liners in the Kremlin who warned Gorbachev that his reforms would cause the entire system to blow up were right. But Gorbachev had one redeeming quality: He was a decent and relatively open-minded fellow. Gorbachev was the first Soviet leader who came from the post-Stalin generation, the first to admit openly that the promises of Lenin were not being fulfilled.