



ERÜNAL SOCIAL SCIENCES HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2025

STUDY GUIDE

DISSOLUTION OF SOVIET UNION

AGENDA ITEM

Dissolution of the Soviet Union

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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I. Letter from the Secretary-General

Honourable participants of ERUNALMUN'25; as the secretariat of this glamorous conference, we are highly welcoming you to this journey. And extending appreciation of ours by thanking all of you one by one for choosing The Legacy of Legend.

Our marvelous academic and organization teams worked intensively, spend months to prepair you the best MUN experience that you could ever seen.

Throughout this journey; you will have the chance to debate your ideas by being the part of discussion, improve your negotiation skills, learn new diplomatic terms, enchance your leadership and communication qualifications. And most importantly you will be able to Lead the Light of our future.

We hope you all wonderful committee experience, if you have any issues you are free to contact us

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Kind regards, Selin Esin & Ramazan Rahmi Özcan
Secretariat of ERUNALMUN'25

II. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Esteemed Delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to ERÜNALMUN'25, I am utterly fraught with the opportunity to serve you in this spectacular conference as Under-Secretary-General responsible for our committee.

As you may know, your decisions in this committee will be substantial in terms of designating the fate of the Soviet Union in a historical context, so I would like to underline the fact that your preparation and effective discussion are essential for our committee to rewrite the history.

In other words, I encourage all participants to read this study guide thoroughly and fully comprehend the main subjects of discussion as well as key policies, so that you will not experience any difficulties regarding the process.

The floor is yours,

Çağın Taylan ÖZGÜN
Under-Secretary-General
responsible for the
Dissolution of the Soviet
Union Committee

III. Introduction to the Committee: The Dissolution of the Soviet Union

“The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest catastrophe of the century”

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation

The collapse of the Soviet Union is one of the most significant events in human history. The world order established after WW2 had two sides: the American-led western bloc and the Soviet-led eastern bloc. The collapse of the Soviet Union upset this balance of power and left the world in a 20-year long western domination. It weakened leftist political thought and redrew the world map. In 1.5 years, about 20 regions with no identities, flags or even anthems have become independent countries, some of which have been trying to put themselves back on track for 30 years.

This committee will make you, dear delegates, relive the collapse of the Soviet Union. All of you will be deputies and we will recreate the sessions of the Soviet parliament. You will try to save the country from dissolution by making new laws and reforms. For every reform you make, a new event will come to the committee and you will start working on new moves. At the end of 4 days, everything you have done will be evaluated and we will give you a final update on whether you have saved the country and our committee will be complete.

We wish you all the best.

IV. Retrospective Study

A. USSR's Stagnation and Decline

The stagnation and decline of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is a pivotal chapter in modern history, marked by the erosion of the USSR's political, economic, and social structures. These issues emerged during the later years of the Cold War and culminated in the dissolution of The USSR in 1991.

The period of stagnation (known as *the period of developed socialism*) is often associated with the leadership of Leonid Brezhnev (1964–1982). This era was characterized by a combination of factors, economic inefficiency, lack of technological development, nonexistent political reforms and corruption are the prominent problems of this period. Despite the appearance of stability and military strength, deeper systemic problems were emerging, largely due to the rigidity and lack of innovation of the centrally planned economy.

The Soviet economy was a centralized, monopolized system in which production targets were determined by the state and there was no free market. Due to the lack of competition in this system, quantity has become more important than quality of the products. This situation ended in inefficiency and declining in productivity due to the overreliance on heavy industry and the economic system. The USSR's economy was a keystone for The Union as it was one of the most fast-growing and eventually one of the biggest economies of the time. Seeing this keystone's negative outcome in the newly developing and modernizing world was not easy for The USSR. Clearly the USSR was lagging behind global innovations and could not keep up with the pace of modernization. There are many different thoughts about the causes and consequences of this issue but despite the factors, the lagging is a fact.

The Soviet economy suffered not only from internal or modernization sourced problems but also from the disproportionate use of resources. While the Union was in the Era of Stagnation, the Invasion of Afghanistan (1979-1989) started. This years-long invasion was tiring The USSR. The Union used a major part of its economic resources to the arm-race with USA and general military expenses. After a point these expenses were nothing but harm to the USSR and finally The Invasion of Afghanistan was desisted from after ten years in 1989.

B. Gorbachev's Era

In 1985 Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, became the youngest member of the Politburo (after Lenin) at 54 years, becoming General Secretary of the Communist Party after the death of Konstantin Chernenko. He introduced *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness) in order to salvage the country out of political and economic stagnation and bureaucratic corruption without abandoning socialism.



1. The “*Demokratizatsiya*”

The term *Demokratizatsiya* (Democratization) was a slogan coined by Mikhail Gorbachev in January 1987. Gorbachev's *Demokratizatsiya* meant the introduction of multi-candidate, though not multi-party, elections for local Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) officials and Soviets. By making this slogan the reality, he hoped to regenerate the party with reform-minded personnel who would carry out his institutional and political reforms with him. Even though there is a spark of reform, The CPSU would retain sole control of the ballot box.

Demokratizatsiya came with two other terms. *Perestroika* (Restructuring) and *Glasnost* (Openness). Gorbachev aimed to salvage his country out of its current situation and still with socialism. He saw the solution in honesty and reforms.

Gorbachev's aim with *Glasnost* was to promote greater transparency, accountability to the state and officials, and freedom of expression within the USSR. He believed staying in communication with the public and giving freedom of speech was a good step in order to develop and cure the social and political structure. *Glasnost* supports exposing and addressing the issues for a more engaged society and an easier mechanism for reforms. This policy was going to restore trust to the government and create an area free for debates and innovations.

With *Perestroika*, Gorbachev aimed to revise the Soviet economy and make it more efficient, innovative, and competitive, while still maintaining the socialist foundation. This

policy aims to increase the economic productivity by the usage of market mechanisms (eg. supply and demand rates) and to allow more autonomy rather than staying fully central. Because of the technological backwardness of The USSR, Gorbachev knew that innovations were a must. He wanted to modernize and industrialize the sectors with Perestroika. With these innovations the economic state of the families would automatically increase which will also increase the life standards. So Perestroika also leads to social improvements. The USSR was relying on their natural resource exports but with decades passing this source was not that trustable anymore. The country needed foreign investors even in socialism and with Gorbachev's partly liberating policies The USSR was going to continue growing. Glasnost and Perestroika were expected to work perfectly as revolutionary innovations economically, politically and socially. But instead, they were the biggest harm on Gorbachev's lead.

The freedom of expression given to the people after years of repression led to over criticism. The people, who had the freedom to express their opinion and criticize, did not mince their words and this led to the emergence of regular negative ideas. With transparency in economics and politics, the insufficient and corrupted system was now visible for the public too. While the Union was struggling with the outcomes of these policies, the Chernobyl disaster happened on 26 April 1986. Head of the CPSU was still Gorbachev. While transparency was expected from him, the explosion was publicised 18 days after its occurrence. The public's trust to the government and the officials was not at the best state at the time.

2. Opposition and the August Coup

- **Opposition to the Gorbachev**

Hardliners within the Communist Party included many members of the soviet party but the outstanding 8 men would later become leaders of the coup. The eight members of the State Committee that would issue the declaration in the future were Oleg Baklanov, Gorbachev's deputy head of the Security Council and the most important representative of the military-industrial complex in the leadership, Vladimir Kriuchkov (head of the KGB), Dmitrii Iazov (Minister of Defense), Valentin Pavlov (Prime Minister), Boris Pugo (Minister of

Interior), Gennady Yanaev (Vice President), Vasilii Starodubtsev (head of the Peasants' Union, a political pressure group opposed to the dismantling of collective farms), and Aleksandr Tiziakov, a leading representative of state industry. They sustained Gorbachev's reforms as a threat to the economic, political and social stability and control of the USSR. Hardliners were alarmed by the erosion of the party's monopoly on power, the growing independence of the Soviet republics, and the weakening of state ideology under Gorbachev's Glasnost. They criticized Gorbachev for undermining the centralized control that had held the USSR together for decades, especially as nationalist movements started to gain a significant momentum in between the republics at the time. Before the August coup, these hardliners created an informal coalition, often meeting in secret to discuss their dissatisfaction with Gorbachev's leadership. They believed his policies were eroding the foundations of Soviet power and sought ways to regain control of the state with their former values, including any possible action against Gorbachev. Meanwhile, reformists such as Boris Yeltsin, believed Gorbachev's reforms were not radical and rational enough and advocated for the complete transition of The USSR to democracy and market-based economy. Nationalist leaders in Soviet republics, such as Lithuania, Latvia, and Ukraine, also opposed Gorbachev's efforts to preserve the union and pushed for their full independence.

Leaving the politics aside, Soviet citizens were also frustrated with Gorbachev as their life standards deteriorated significantly during his time and his reforms. Economic hardship and insufficient reform movements, including shortages of basic goods and rising inflation, eroded public support for Gorbachev drastically. By late 1980s, widespread protests, strikes, and calls for independence in various republics further weakened the authority of Gorbachev and the centrally reliant system of the USSR.

- **August Coup (Coup of 1991)**

The August Coup was a failed attempt made by the hardline Communist leaders to overthrow Gorbachev and reverse his reforms for the sake of the USSR. It was a desperate bid to preserve the Soviet Union among escalating political and economic turmoil.

On August 18 1991, a group of five military and state officials including members of Gorbachev's cabinet, military, and KGB, formed the State Committee on State of Emergency (GKChP), arrived at Gorbachev's presidential holiday home at Foros on the Crimean coast to

attempt to persuade him to endorse a declaration of a state of emergency. Gorbachev's angry refusal to do so was the first indication that the coup plotters had miscalculated. While Gorbachev was held as a virtual prisoner, the State Committee ordered tanks and other military vehicles into the streets of the capital and announced on television that they had to take action because Gorbachev was ill and incapacitated.

There were several attempts to seize state power. Coup leaders deployed tanks and troops in Moscow and other cities to restore central control and suppress growing nationalist and democratic movements. Protests, political parties, and independent media were banned to reassert the authority of the Communist Party.

Boris Yeltsin, then president of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, or RSFSR, emerged as a leading figure of the resistance. He famously climbed onto a tank outside the Russian parliament building, also called White House, and called for mass protests against the coup.



Thousands of citizens, including soldiers, defied the coup by demonstrating in Moscow and other cities. Coup plotters struggled to gain widespread support, even within the military. He called for mass protests against the coup. Thousands of citizens, including soldiers and police, defied the coup by demonstrating in Moscow and other cities.

After three tense days, the coup collapsed on August 21, and the plotters were arrested while trying to flee. Plotters failed to consolidate power, and Gorbachev was released from house arrest. However, the coup's failure severely weakened the Communist Party and accelerated the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union.

An exhausted Gorbachev returned to Moscow to find it totally transformed. Communist Party was discredited, and so Gorbachev resigned as its leader. Several hardline officials were arrested or dismissed. Even if the August Coup failed, it demonstrated the irrelevance of Communist Party in face of public and republican demands for change.

Boris Yeltsin used this complicated situation strategically and emerged as a hero of resistance and gained significant political power by showing Gorbachev that he is not politically strong anymore. He quickly moved to ban Communist Party within Russia and advocate for further independence and autonomy of the republics.

August Coup's failure encouraged nationalist movements and accelerated the collapse of the USSR. By December 1991, most Soviet republics already declared their independence, culminating in the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union.

August Coup was a defining moment in the final chapter of the Soviet Union. While Gorbachev's release briefly restored his leadership, his authority was effectively overshadowed by Yeltsin and the tide of republican independence movements. Gorbachev's vision for a reformed and united USSR ended with the union's collapse on December 26, 1991, marking the end of his and the state's political era.

C. The Dissolution

The Soviet Union, which had been in a period of decline since 1989 due to the repercussions of the Cold War and internal challenges, formally came to an end following the 1991 coup, the subsequent return of Mikhail Gorbachev, and his resignation. Boris Yeltsin, who succeeded Gorbachev, advocated for significantly more radical approaches to democratization. In December 1991, the presidents of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia announced the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

During this period, the Soviet Socialist Republics (SSRs) were already deeply concerned about their futures. The Soviet Union attempted to preserve its unity by deploying military forces to regions seeking independence. Among the most critical challenges faced by the Soviet leadership in its final years were the growing demands for independence from the Baltic states and the inadequate deployment of military forces to address these demands.

The first high-level declaration of independence from the Soviet Union was made by Estonia on November 18, 1988. Conversely, the first localized declaration of independence

came from Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on January 19, 1990. Heydar Aliyev subsequently succeeded in maintaining the region's integration within Azerbaijan.

Declarations of sovereignty of various degrees by the republics of the Soviet Union and autonomous units within the republics (autonomous republics, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs) from 1988 to 1991 are called *Parade of Sovereignties*

Here is the chronological list of the countries,

Estonian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 16 November 1988

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 8 May 1990

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 6 September 1991

New name: Republic of Estonia

Lithuanian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 26 May 1989

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 11 March 1990

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 6 September 1991

New name: Republic of Lithuania

Latvian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 28 July 1989

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 4 May 1990

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 6 September 1991

New name: Republic of Latvia

Azerbaijan SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 23 September 1989

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 18 October 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Azerbaijan

Georgian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 26 May 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 9 April 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Georgia

Russian SFSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 12 June 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 12 December 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Russian Federation

Uzbek SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 20 June 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 27 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Uzbekistan

Moldavian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 23 June 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 27 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Moldova

Ukrainian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 16 July 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 27 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Ukraine

Byelorussian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 27 July 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 25 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Belarus

Turkmen SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 22 August 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 25 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Turkmenistan

Armenian SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 23 August 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 21 September 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Armenia

Tajik SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 24 August 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 9 September 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Tajikistan

Kazakh SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 24 August 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 9 September 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Kazakhstan

Kirghiz SSR

Declaration of state sovereignty: 15 December 1990

Declaration about secession from the USSR: 31 August 1991

Recognition of independence by the USSR: 26 December 1991

New name: Republic of Kyrgyzstan

V. Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics

A. General Administration & Legislature

1. Government, Council of Ministers of the USSR

The Council of Ministers or *Sovmin* was the government cabinet of the USSR. Its duties were pretty much the same with its equivalent in the first-world western liberal democracies. Responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet and during the period between convocations of the Congress, the Council of Ministers was accountable to the Chairman of the Congress and regularly reported to the Congress on their work, as well as being tasked with resolving all state administrative duties in the jurisdiction of the USSR which were not the responsibility of the Congress and its Chairman. Within its limits, the Council of Ministers had responsibility for:

- Management of the national economy and socio-cultural construction and development.
- Formulation and submission of the five-year plans for "economic and social development" to the Supreme Soviet along with the state budget.
- Defence of the interests of state, socialist property, public order and to protect the rights of Soviet citizens.
- Ensuring state security.
- General policies for the Soviet armed forces and determination of how many citizens were to be drafted into service.
- General policies concerning USSR foreign relations and trade, economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation of the USSR with foreign countries as well as the power to confirm or denounce international treaties signed by the USSR.
- Creation of necessary organisations within the Council of Ministers concerning economics, socio-cultural development and defence.

(The Council of Ministers could also issue decrees and resolutions and later verify their execution.)

The Council of Ministers consisted of ministries, state committees, and the premiership.

Ministries were the administrative branches of the government. Unlike parliamentary systems in which ministers are members of the parliament, Soviet ministers were not necessarily members of the Supreme Soviet or the Congress and did not have to be elected. At the time that we are going to commence our committee there were 47 ministries.

Here is the list of ministries:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ★ Ministry of Assembly and Special Construction Works | ★ Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions |
| ★ Ministry of Atomic Energy | ★ Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions |
| ★ Ministry of Automobile and Agricultural Machinery | ★ Ministry of Construction in the Southern Regions |
| ★ Ministry of Aviation Industry | ★ Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberian Regions |
| ★ Ministry of Grain Products | ★ Ministry of Construction of Oil and Gas Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Oil Refining & Petrochemical Industry | ★ Ministry of Culture |
| ★ Ministry of Chemical Industry | ★ Ministry of Defense |
| ★ Ministry of Building Materials Industry | ★ Ministry of Electrical Engineering |
| ★ Ministry of Civil Aviation | ★ Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Coal Industry | ★ Ministry of Electrical Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Communication Equipment Industry | ★ Ministry of Finance |
| ★ Ministry of Communications | ★ Ministry of Fishing Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Construction and Road-Machine Building | ★ Ministry of Food Industry |
| | ★ Ministry of Foreign Affairs |

- | | |
|---|--|
| ★ Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations | ★ Ministry of Medium Machine Building |
| ★ Ministry of General Machine Building | ★ Ministry of Medical and Microbiological Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Geology | ★ Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy |
| ★ Ministry of Health | ★ Ministry of Production of Mineral Fertilizers |
| ★ Ministry of Instrumentation, Automation and Control Systems | ★ Ministry of Radio Technology |
| ★ Ministry of Internal Affairs | ★ Ministry of Railways Shipbuilding Industry |
| ★ Ministry of Justice | ★ Ministry of Trade |
| ★ Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management | ★ Ministry of Transport Construction |
| ★ Ministry of Machine-Tool and Tool Industry | ★ Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction |
| ★ Ministry of Machine Building | |
| ★ Ministry of Maritime Fleet | |

The next component of the government was the state committees. State Committees were the central governmental bodies within the Government of the USSR. Unlike a ministry, which was responsible for the management of the country's economic and social resources within a particular field of, a state committee was acting on an inter-agency level. Long story short, they were the “inter-ministerial ministries”.

Here is the list of the state committees.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ★ State Defense Committee | ★ State Committee for Hydrometeorology |
| ★ State Committee on Science and Technology | ★ State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations |
| ★ State Committee for Standards and Product Quality Management | ★ State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries |
| ★ State Committee for Computer Science Informatics | ★ State Planning Committee |

- | | |
|--|---|
| ★ State Committee for Construction | ★ State Committee on Television and Radio |
| ★ State Committee for Defense Technology | ★ State Committee for Cinematography |
| ★ State Committee for Metallurgy | ★ State Committee for Publishing, Printing and Book Trade |
| ★ State Committee for Transport Construction | ★ State Committee for Forestry |
| ★ State Committee for Fuel Industry | ★ State Committee for Nature Protection |
| ★ State Committee for Material and Technical Supply | ★ State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport |
| ★ State Committee for Labour and Social Problems | ★ State Committee for Supervision over Safety Works in Industry and Atomic Energy |
| ★ State Committee for Prices | ★ Committee for State Security (KGB) |
| ★ State Committee on Statistics | |
| ★ State Committee on National Issues | |
| ★ State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education | |

2. Premier (Head of Government), Chairman of the Council of Ministers

And the last constituent of the government, the Premier. Under the 1977 Soviet Constitution, the head of government was the leader of the highest executive and administrative organ of state. The head of government was appointed by and accountable to the Congress. The head of government was tasked with resolving all state administrative duties within the jurisdiction of the USSR to the degree which were not the responsibility of the Congress and its Chairman. The head of government managed the national economy, formulated the five-year plans and ensured socio-cultural development. The Premier also had the right to suggest to Parliament specific people in order to appoint them as ministers.

3. Parliament, Congress of the People's Deputies

Congress of the People's Deputies of the USSR was the legislative and the highest body of state authority in the USSR. USSR always had a parliament, however, it took its final form as the Congress of the People's Deputies with the reforms of Gorbachev, in 1989. Before the reforms, parliament was *bicameral* which means it consisted of two houses. With the reforms, Gorbachev unified houses of the parliament, which eventually headed to the creation of the Congress.

The Congress consisted of 2,250 deputies elected in three different ways:

- 750 deputies were elected according to the system used in the Soviet of the Union (the Lower house of the former parliament) elections in the 1936–1989 period.
- 750 deputies were elected according to the system used in the Soviet of Nationalities (the Upper house of the former parliament) elections in the 1936–1989 period.
- 750 deputies representing "public organizations", such as the Communist Party, *Komsomol* and the trade unions. The election law would allocate a fixed number of seats to organizations.

In 1989, powers of the Congress were:

- Passing and initiating laws.
- Submitting questions to the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, scheduling elections of deputies.
- Appointing the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on the submission of the president.
- Ratifying the composition of the Council of Ministers and changes in it on the submission of the chairman.
- Forming and disbanding ministries and state committees on the Council of Ministers proposal.
- Overriding a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority.
- Ratifying the declarations of war.
- Hearing reports by organs of appointed officials.

- Implementing laws regulating property, management of the economy, social and cultural issues, budget and finance, salaries, prices, taxes, environmental protection, natural resource, and civil rights,
- Laying down the principles of local and republic state power and the legal status of social organisations,
- Submitting for ratification (and ratifying and amending) by the congress long-term national and social and economic development plans, the national budget, monitoring implantation of the state plan and budget, and ratifying reports on their performance.
- Ratifying the international treaties.
- Overseeing the granting of foreign aid and negotiating foreign loans.
- Determining basic measures for national security, including declarations of war, mobilizing troops, and meeting international treaty obligations.

4. Head of State, Chairman of the Congress of the People's Deputies

Before Gorbachev's reforms, there was no single head of state. There was an institution that assumed the head of state and this was the Presidium of the Congress. This was called collective leadership. The head of the Presidium was usually referred to as the head of state and had little power. However, this changed with Gorbachev's reforms. Gorbachev abolished the Presidium and created the office of the Chairman of the Congress and placed himself in this office. The powers of the office have also been increased.

The main powers were;

- organization of the work of the Congress;
- preparation of meetings of the Congress of People's Deputies and sessions of the Supreme Soviet;
- coordination of the work of the committees of the Supreme Soviet;
- organization of nationwide discussion of legislative bills and "other very important matters" in the national level provided that these would be dealt by a plenary of the whole of the Congress

5. Central Committee (CC) of the CPSU

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) was one of the highest governing bodies of the CPSU. It played a critical role in the political and administrative structure of the Soviet Union, particularly during the period from the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 until the dissolution of the CPSU in 1991.

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). From 1924 until the country's dissolution in 1991, the officeholder was the recognized leader of the Soviet Union. The Central Committee was the party's main decision-making body between Party Congresses. It set the overall direction of the party and the Soviet state. The committee formally elected the “Politburo”, Secretariat, and General Secretary. The Politburo, which emerged as the most powerful body within the CPSU, was a smaller group selected by the Central Committee. In practice, the Politburo often held more power, as it made day-to-day decisions that the Central Committee would usually approve.

6. Political Bureau of the Central Committee

The *Politburo* (expansion: Political Bureau) was the executive and most powerful decision-making body of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). It effectively controlled both the party and the state apparatus throughout the Soviet Union's existence, which made it the center of the USSR's political power.

In the Soviet Union the Politburo was designed to have members elected from the delegates of the Communist Party Congress. The Congress elected a different number of Politburo members every time they met. The Politburo had both full members and candidate members. Unlike full members, the candidate members had no right to vote on Politburo matters, but they too were present at the Politburo's meetings. To become a member of the Politburo, members must have been a Central Committee member in good standing. In the Soviet Union, the defense minister, the head of the state secret police—the KGB—, and other minister-level positions were often members of the Politburo.

B. Local Administration, Subdivisions & Federal Structure

1. Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic & Other Soviet Socialist Republics

Soviet Socialist Republics (SSR, plural: SSRs) were the first-level administrative entities of the USSR. Back in 1922, USSR was founded by the unification of the founding independent SSRs. Even you can see this fact in the name of the USSR: The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

SSRs operated as an ordinary socialist country. Even the state structures of the USSR and the SSRs were recognizably the same. SSRs had their own legislative chambers, governments, communist parties, national anthems, heads of state, flags and constitutions. Of course the things that were mentioned were all dependent on the central government of the USSR. So basically, SSRs were the countries in another bigger “roof” country.

Here is the related part of the Constitution of the USSR which defines the SSRs and expounds their level of sovereignty.

❖ **Article 76.** *A union republic is a sovereign Soviet socialist state which has united with other Soviet republics to form the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.*

A Union republic independently exercises state power on its territory.

A Union republic shall have its own Constitution corresponding to the Constitution of the USSR and taking into account the peculiarities of the republic.

❖ **Article 77.** *A Union republic shall participate in the decision of questions falling within the jurisdiction of the Union of the USSR in the Congress of the People's Deputies of the USSR, Government of the USSR and other bodies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.*

The Union Republic ensures comprehensive economic and social development on its territory. promotes the exercise of the powers of the Union of SSR on this territory, implements the decisions of the highest bodies of state power and administration of the USSR.

On matters within its jurisdiction, the Union republic coordinates and controls the activities of enterprises, institutions and organizations of Union subordination.

- ❖ *Article 78. The territory of a Union republic may not be changed without its consent. The boundaries between Union republics may be changed by mutual agreement of the respective republics, which is subject to approval by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.*
- ❖ *Article 79. The Union Republic shall determine its krai, oblast, okrug, and rayon division and decide other questions of administrative-territorial organization.*
- ❖ *Article 80. The Union Republic has the right to enter into relations with foreign states, to conclude treaties with them and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, and to participate in the activities of international organizations.*
- ❖ *Article 81. The sovereign rights of the Union republics shall be protected by the USSR.*

There were 15 SSRs in the USSR at the time that we are going to start the committee from. Here they are:

- ★ Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic

- ★ Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
- ★ Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
- ★ Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic

The reason why the Russian SFSR is mentioned in the subcaption separately is that Russian SFSR had a unique place in the USSR. As you may have noticed, although it is equal to the other republics in terms of administrative-level, Russian SFSR used an unusual abbreviation: SFSR (expansion: Soviet “Federative” Socialist Republic). In the 69-year history of the USSR, this unique title was used just two times. Russian SFSR, which we are now talking about, and Transcaucasian SFSR, which ceased to exist in 1931. The SFSR title was used in order to spot the complex federative structure of said union republic which clearly distincts from other union republics. If we take a quick look at our sole instance, Russian SFSR, it is obvious that Soviet Russia is not a common SSR. It had a considerable amount of autonomous SSRs, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs within itself.

However, the complex federal structure was not the only thing that caused the divergence between Russian SFSR and other SSRs. To be straightforward, although the USSR was a communist state that opposed any nationalist activity, Russia had a special place and was an exception. USSR was centered in Russia, the common language in USSR was Russian, USSR’s capital was also the Russian capital, etc. Stated circumstances made Russian SFSR slightly different from the other union republics. As written in the previous sections of this guide, the USSR had one legal political party: The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Usually, a SSR or an ASSR had a CPSU regional party branch. In Armenia, they had Communist Party of Armenia, for instance, which is one of the regional branches of the CPSU. Yet, the Russian SFSR did not have a regional party branch for itself. As in the party branches, union republics also had their own national anthems, while Russian SFSR did not have one.

2. Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics

Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics (ASSR, plural: ASSRs) were one of the second-level administrative units of the USSR. To understand what is an ASSR, first, we have to apprehend what is an autonomous republic.

Autonomous republics are political entities that are independent in their internal affairs, however, dependent on its suzerain state on foreign affairs. Autonomous republics are often established in culturally, ethnically or linguistically distinct regions of their suzerain state. Kurdistan Region in Iraq, for instance. Iraq, a predominantly Shia Arab country, has a special autonomous area for Kurds for them to enjoy self-administration. A lot of regions can be exemplified on this topic such as Nakchievan in Azerbaijan, Xinjiang in China, South Tyrol in Italy, etc. Autonomous regions usually functioned as any consuetudinary independent state. Yet, in the case of foreign affairs, said autonomous regions are represented by its suzerain country which means autonomous entities do not have separate seats in the United Nations, embassies in other countries, or local currencies.

ASSRs all had those attributes that have been written in the previous paragraphs. The ASSRs had a status lower than SSRs, but higher than the autonomous oblasts and the autonomous okrugs. They were established for the relatively minor nations of the USSR in accordance with the self-determination principle of the Marxist-Leninist ideology. Distinct from the SSRs, an ASSR does not have the right to leave the union.

Here is the related part of the Constitution of the USSR about ASSRs.

❖ **Article 82.** *An autonomous republic shall be within the Union republic.*

An autonomous republic, outside the rights of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its sovereign Union republic, independently decides the issues within its jurisdiction.

An autonomous republic shall have its own Constitution, corresponding to the Constitution of the USSR and the Constitution of its sovereign Union republic and taking into account the peculiarities of the autonomous republic.

- ❖ **Article 83.** *An autonomous republic shall participate in the resolution of issues within the jurisdiction of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Union republic through the supreme organs of state power and administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Union republic respectively.*

An autonomous republic shall ensure comprehensive economic and social development on its territory, promote the exercise of the powers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Union Republic on that territory, and implement the decisions of the supreme organs of state power and administration of the USSR and the Union Republic.

On matters within its jurisdiction, the autonomous republic coordinates and controls the activities of enterprises, institutions and organizations of the USSR and SSR subordination.

- ❖ **Article 84.** *The territory of an autonomous republic may not be changed without its consent.*

From the Russian SFSR to the Uzbek SSR, USSR had an unignorable amount of ASSRs. Here is the list.

★ **Azerbaijan SSR**

- Nakhchivan ASSR

★ **Georgian SSR**

- Abkhaz ASSR
- Adjarian ASSR

★ Russian SFSR

- Bashkir ASSR
- Buryat ASSR
- Checheno-Ingush ASSR
- Chuvash ASSR
- Dagestan ASSR
- Kabardino-Balkarian ASSR
- Kalmyk ASSR
- Karelian ASSR
- Komi ASSR
- Mari ASSR
- Mordovian ASSR
- North Ossetian ASSR
- Tatar ASSR
- Tuva ASSR
- Udmurt ASSR
- Yakut ASSR

★ Uzbek SSR

- Karakalpak ASSR

3. Provinces & Districts (Oblasts, Krai, Raions, etc.)

This subcaption is about the non-autonomous administrative divisions of the USSR. Modern states have a neat administrative division system. Commonly, a country is divided into *provinces* and has a *province* as its first-level administrative unit. Those provinces are also divided into smaller provinces called *districts* or *counties* which took their place to be the second-level administrative unit. To exemplify, Türkiye has “*İl*”s as provinces and “*İlçe*”s as districts. Provinces and districts are not autonomous, their governance is all bound to the decisions and the constitution of the central government of the country that the said province or district is located in.

The ordinary basic administrative unit system that we got used to was not implemented by the USSR. Remember, the USSR was a union between irrelevant countries which caused a serious contradiction in terms. Raions, for instance. They could be a first-level province in one union republic, while being a second-level district in others. To solve this terminological gridlock, we wrote all types of non-autonomous administrative entities of the USSR.

- **Oblasts**

An oblast can be compared to the modern provinces. Except Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR, Estonian SSR, Georgian SSR, Armenian SSR and the Azerbaijan SSR; all of the union republics used oblasts as their first-level administrative unit.

- **Krais**

Krais were special to the Russian SFSR. They were legally the same with the oblasts. Only difference was about another administrative unit of the USSR, the autonomous oblasts. In the USSR, an autonomous oblast could be subordinated into either a krai or an ASSR, but not an oblast.

- **Regions under the Republican Subordination**

This type of unit was only seen in Kirghiz SSR and Tajik SSR. Actually, calling this an “administrative unit” is not quite suitable. The main feature of the regions under the republican subordination was that they are not a region, province, or oblast. Tajik and Kirghiz SSRs were relatively underpopulated union republics. So, for their capital regions, they did not have an urge to establish an administrative division for it, the capital regions were administered by the governments of the SSRs, and that is what we call a *region under the republican subordination*.

- **Raions**

A *raion* was a standardized administrative entity across the USSR and was usually a second-level subdivision under oblasts and krais. However, in relatively small union republics, it could be the first-level administrative division. Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR, Estonian SSR, Georgian SSR, Armenian SSR and Azerbaijan SSR had raions as their primary administrative division.

4. Autonomous Oblasts

Autonomous Oblasts (AO, plural: AOs) were established for several minorities in the USSR and were one of the specialized administrative units of the USSR. Their autonomy was higher than an oblast, yet, slightly lower than an ASSR. They usually appeared as a separate administrative unit from other administrative units, but were sometimes attached to krai.

Here is the list of the AOs in the USSR.

★ Azerbaijan SSR

- Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

★ Georgian SSR

- South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast

★ Russian SFSR

- Adyghe Autonomous Oblast
- Gorno-Altai Autonomous Oblast
- Jewish Autonomous Oblast (part of the Khabarovsk Krai)
- Karachay–Cherkess Autonomous Oblast
- Khakassian Autonomous Oblast

5. Autonomous Okrugs

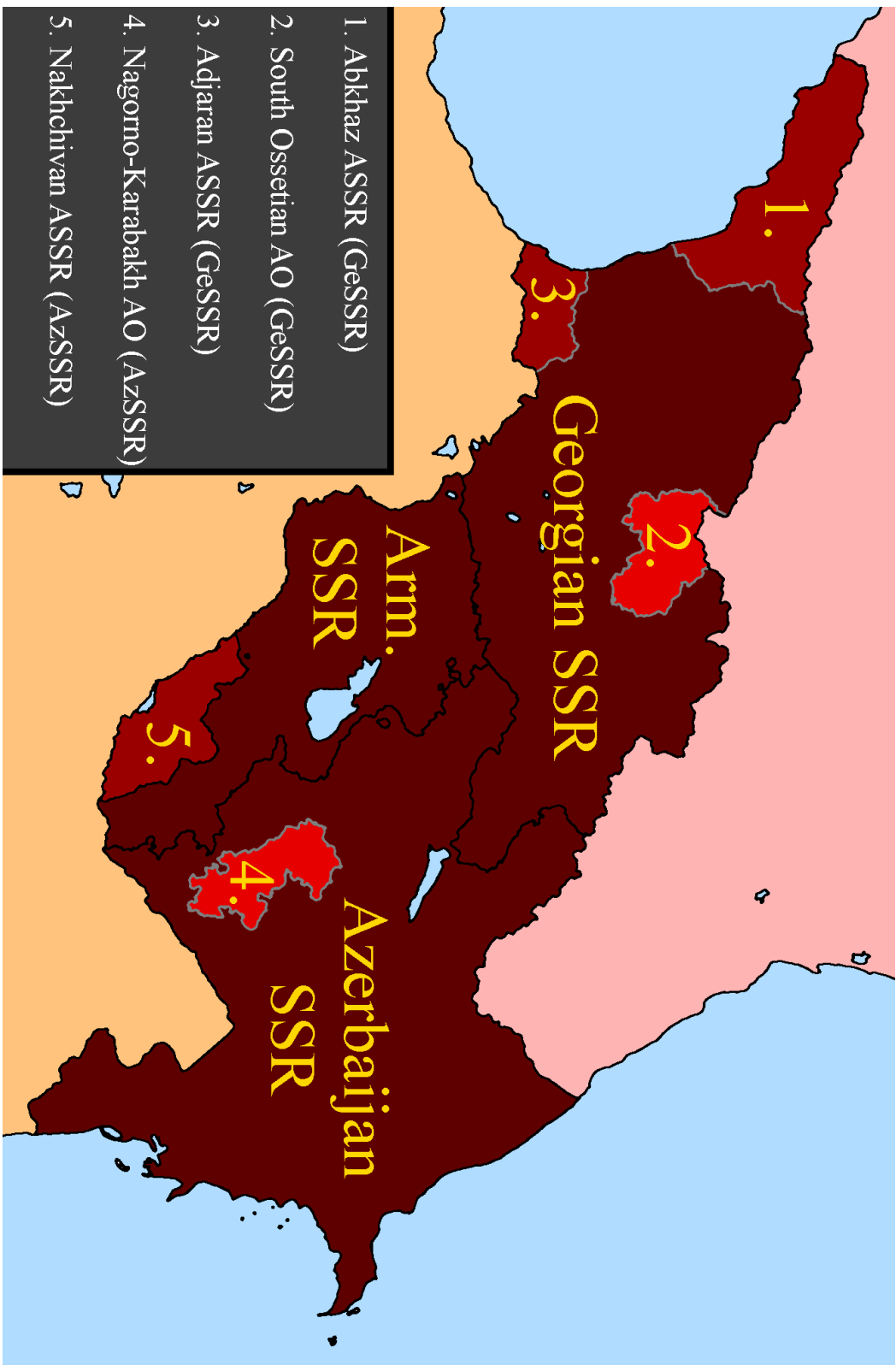
This administrative unit was created in the 1930s to grant autonomy to the sparsely populated nations in the north. It existed only in the Russian SFSR. Although today autonomous okrugs can be independent, in the Soviet era, these okrugs were subordinate to either oblasts or krais.

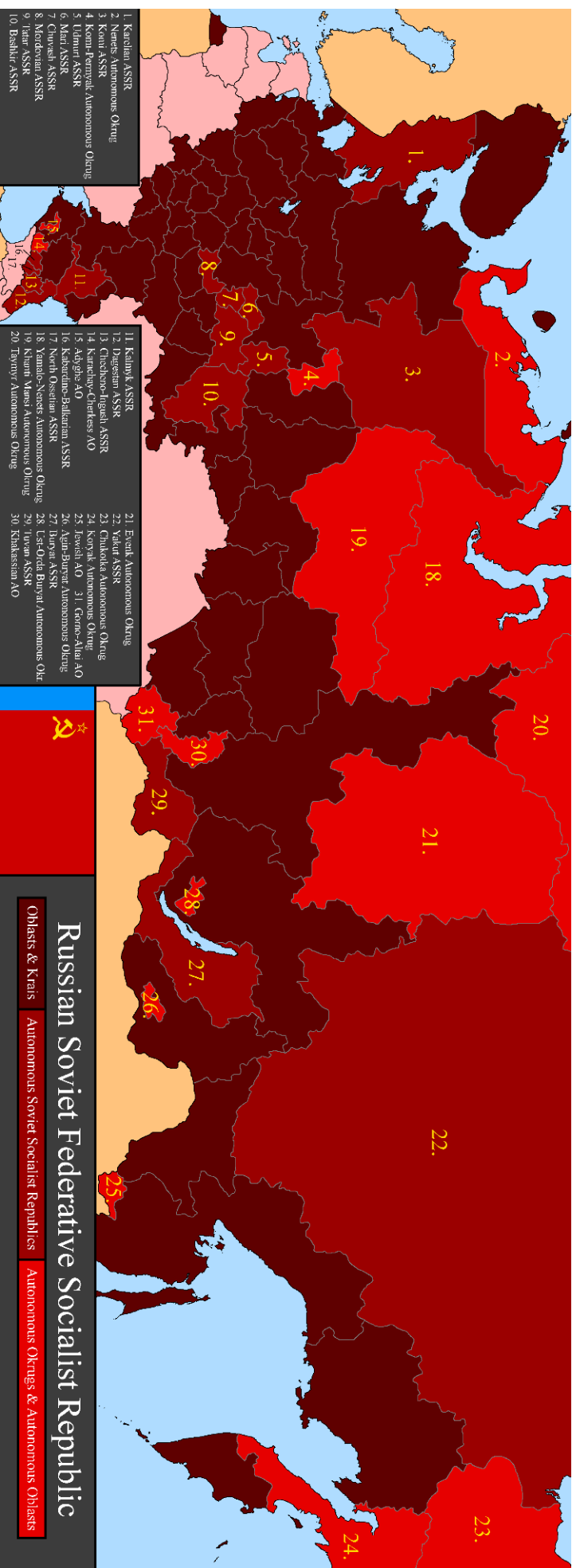
Here is the list of the autonomous okrugs.

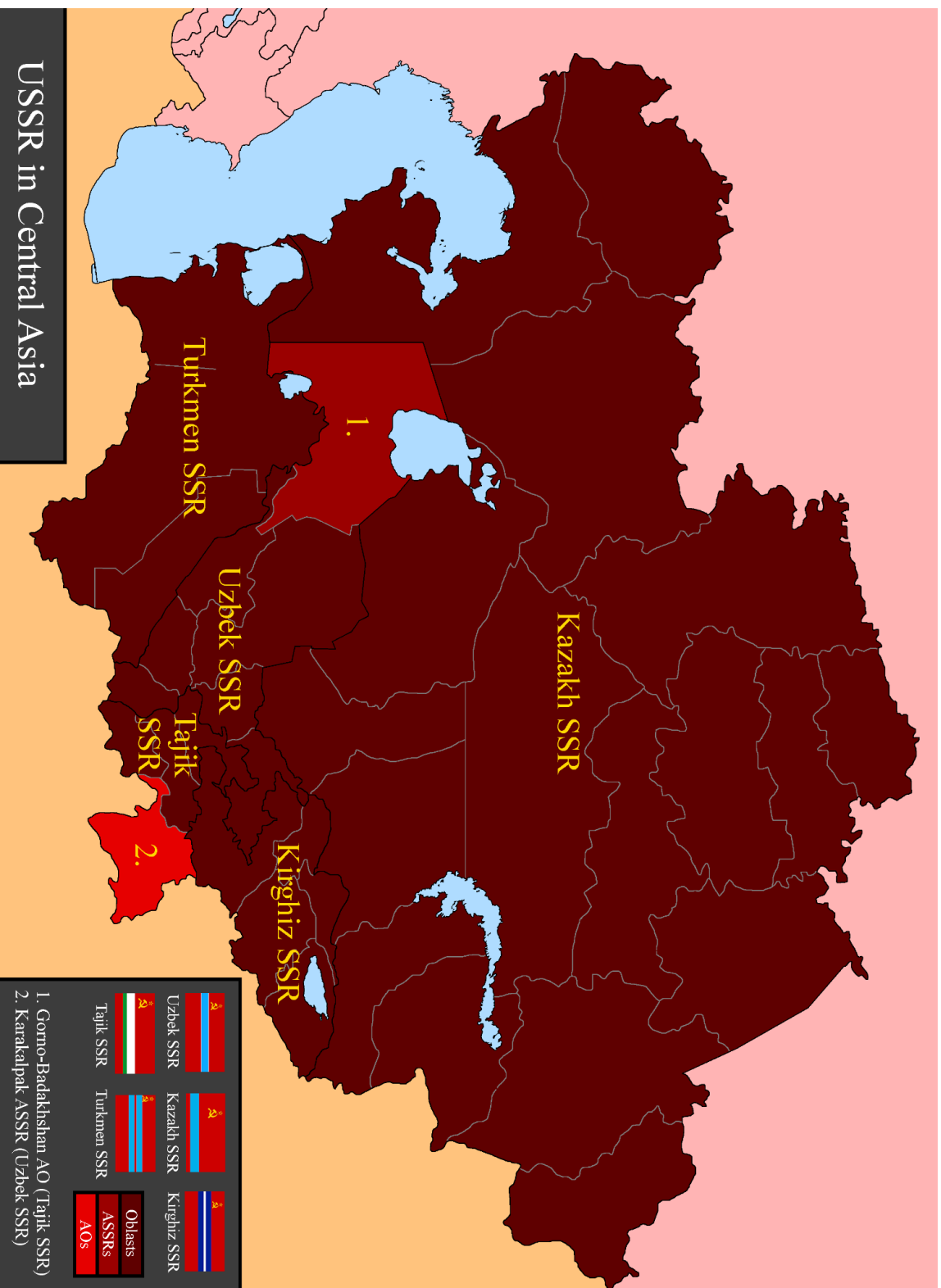
- ★ Agin-Buryat Autonomous Okrug (Chita Oblast)
- ★ Evenk Autonomous Okrug (Krasnoyarsk Krai)
- ★ Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug (Perm Oblast)
- ★ Koryak Autonomous Okrug (Kamchatka Oblast)
- ★ Taymyr Autonomous Okrug (Krasnoyarsk Krai)
- ★ Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug (Irkutsk Oblast)
- ★ Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (Magadan Oblast)
- ★ Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug (Tyumen Oblast)
- ★ Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Arkhangelsk Oblast)
- ★ Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Tyumen Oblast)

VI. Matrix & Maps

Maps







USSR in Central Asia

Matrix

- Mikhail Gorbachev- *President Chair*
- Gennady Yanayev- *Deputy Chair*
- Vladimir Ivashko- *Deputy Chair*
- Anatoly Lukyanov
- Andrei Sakharov
- Viktor Alksnis
- Galina Starovoytova
- Sergei Yushenkov
- Boris Yeltsin
- Yuri Shchekochikhin
- Anatoly Sobchak
- Leonid Abalkin
- Sergey Akhromeyev
- Boris Arbuzov
- Oleg Baklanov
- Veniamin Dymshits
- Vladimir Orlov
- Volodymyr Shcherbytsky
- Lev Zaykov
- Alexander Yakovlev
- Eduard Shevardnadze
- Nikolai Ryzhkov
- Yuri Maslyukov
- Yegor Ligachyov
- Vadim Medvedev
- Viktor Chebrikov
- Mikhail Kalashnikov
- Nikolay Kruchina
- Dinmukhamed Kunaev
- Heydar Aliyev
- Nursultan Nazarbayev
- Vitaliy Masol

!The Committee will start on 25 May 1989!

VII. Notes from the Under-Secretary General

As a person launching these historical committees for the most of my MUN journey, I believe I have some valuable tips to facilitate this experience for you. There are two main things that you should use in this committee: Solution based creativity and analytical argumentation.

Working principle of our committee is quite simple: If you have strong arguments to support your claims, you win. These arguments should be historically accurate. You may use any resource to get them. The deeper that you research, the number of potential arguments will increase. Certainly, the raw information would not be convenient. You should analyze and turn them into a reasonable argument which will help you to impose your demands on the opposing side.

Another significant feature that we are looking for is creativity. During the discussions some questions may remain unsolved due to the conflicting ideas. At that point, as the committee administration, we expect innovative solutions from you. Remember, you rewrite and rewrite the history in historical committees, which means you can change history. Role of creativity starts there. You can offer your outlandish plans; invent some new diplomatic terms; and even propose a thing that has been never told before in human history. In addition, you shall memorize the geographical features regarding our committee in order to be capable of negotiating your plans.

The floor is yours.

Пролетарии всех стран, соединяйтесь!

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