

## Brezhnev:

### Economy:

- Leonid Brezhnev came into power in the USSR in 1964
- Combined the positions of General Secretary and Chairman
- Came to power when USSR had managed to industrialise, increase arms and develop new technology but failed in the production of consumer goods and agriculture
- Standards of living which had been increasing were decreasing again
- Brezhnev wanted to increase consumer goods and agriculture through reforms that used market force
- Was prevented from doing so as some feared these would lead towards capitalism
- He allowed farmers to work on state owned plots
- Previously Collectivisation had been the policy
- Collectivisation was an agricultural policy in which individual landowners had to give up their land ownership and combine this land with those of other landholders to create large farms
- Allowing farmers to work on state owned plots gave them motivation to produce more as they could keep and sell surplus
- When living standards didn't change production decreased
- Tried to increase production through ninth and tenth five year plans but failed
- Consumer goods were largely available on the black market
- In 1975 USSR suffered from poor harvest and so Brezhnev tried to increase agricultural imports
- In 1970s the rest of the world was suffering from petroleum shortage but due to the focus on consumer goods and agri. the USSR did not manage to increase its production of petroleum and so failed to benefit from high demand
- People started to criticise the government

### Citizens and Government:

- Censorship and repression still existent
- Citizens started to voice outward opinions
- Worried that the Stalin style regime would see return to violence
- Intellectuals starting to publically criticise the government

### Politics:

- Didn't make many government reforms
- Became more apparent that there was need for reform
- Workers realised that they would not lose their jobs due to poor productivity
- This brought a sense of security but had a devastating effect on the economy
- Also pressure from abroad to allow Soviet Jews to leave USSR and move to Israel if they want

### Brezhnev Doctrine:

- Soviet Union wanted to agree on arms limitation with USA as it wanted to limit the possibility of war
- Brezhnev wanted to continue the Communist regime

- Czechoslovakian government introduced reforms that went against the Communist regime Soviet
- Nov. 1968 Brezhnev Doctrine
- Brezhnev made clear that all Communist regimes were to remain Communist and not let them be overturned
- Western Powers criticised but did not offer any support

USA:

- Due to economic situations in the USSR Brezhnev wanted to agree on arms limitations
- Showed the USA that the USSR wanted to avoid nuclear war
- 1969 SALT began between Brezhnev and Nixon
- In May 1972 USA and USSR came to an agreement on arms limitation
- Helsinki Final Act 1975, finalised post-war frontiers in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviets agree to comply with international conventions on human rights

Involvement in Afghanistan:

- 1917 invaded Afghanistan, wanting to compete with British power
- Soviets sent military to remove Brit control
- Soviets gave support to Afghan government in Kabul
- People rallied against government turning situation violent
- Rebels were supported by US
- Soviet position was weak even though they controlled the major cities
- Rebels controlled the countryside
- The invasion lasted 10 years, cost billions of dollars and many lives
- Soviet citizens were against the invasion which was internationally condemned
- US boycotted Moscow Olympics and limited grain sale to the USSR in retaliation
- By 1982 USSR realised that it was all over but refused to admit defeat
- Instead continued a costly and unpopular war as it had used the Brezhnev Doctrine in its reasoning for it