USSR

NKVD – Secret police, replaced Cheka

Sergei Kirov – Leningrad party chief, assassinated in 1934

Great Purge – 1934-39

Nikolai Yezhov – NKVD chief, 1936-38

Nikita Khrushchev – in power 1953-1964

Leonid Brezhnev – in power, 1964-1982

Mikhail Gorbachev – in power 1985-1991 Perestroika – reform program

Jeffrey Sachs – Harvard economist

Warsaw Pact – ended 1991