

# AIM 7.8: How did the Soviet Union collapse?



**DO NOW:**

All 15 of the former Soviet republics are independent nations today. How many can you name? (Write them down.)

## The 15 Soviet Republics

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Armenian SSR     | 9. Lithuanian SSR |
| 2. Azerbaijan SSR   | 10. Moldavian SSR |
| 3. Byelorussian SSR | 11. Russian SSR   |
| 4. Estonian SSR     | 12. Tajik SSR     |
| 5. Georgian SSR     | 13. Turkmen SSR   |
| 6. Kazakh SSR       | 14. Ukrainian SSR |
| 7. Kirghiz SSR      | 15. Uzbek SSR     |
| 8. Latvian SSR      |                   |

# The 15 Soviet Republics

- Over 100 ethnic groups
- Each republic had a non-Russian majority



## The 15 Soviet Republics

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
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# **A Quote by Mikhail Gorbachev**

**On the day I became Soviet leader, in March 1985, I had a special meeting with the leaders of the Warsaw Pact countries and told them: 'You are independent, and we are independent. You are responsible for your policies, we are responsible for ours. We will not intervene in your affairs, I promise you.'**

# Gorbachev Loosens Control

- Encourages “open” economies & governments
- Leads to fall of communism in:
  - Poland, Hung., Czech., Rom. ('89)
  - E. Germ., Bulg., Alb. ('90)

*We'll talk more about this in 7.9!*

# The Baltic States



## **The 15 Soviet Republics**

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Armenian SSR        | <b>9. Lithuanian SSR</b> |
| 2. Azerbaijan SSR      | 10. Moldavian SSR        |
| 3. Byelorussian SSR    | 11. Russian SSR          |
| <b>4. Estonian SSR</b> | 12. Tajik SSR            |
| 5. Georgian SSR        | 13. Turkmen SSR          |
| 6. Kazakh SSR          | 14. Ukrainian SS         |
| 7. Kirghiz SSR         | 15. Uzbek SSR            |
| <b>8. Latvian SSR</b>  |                          |

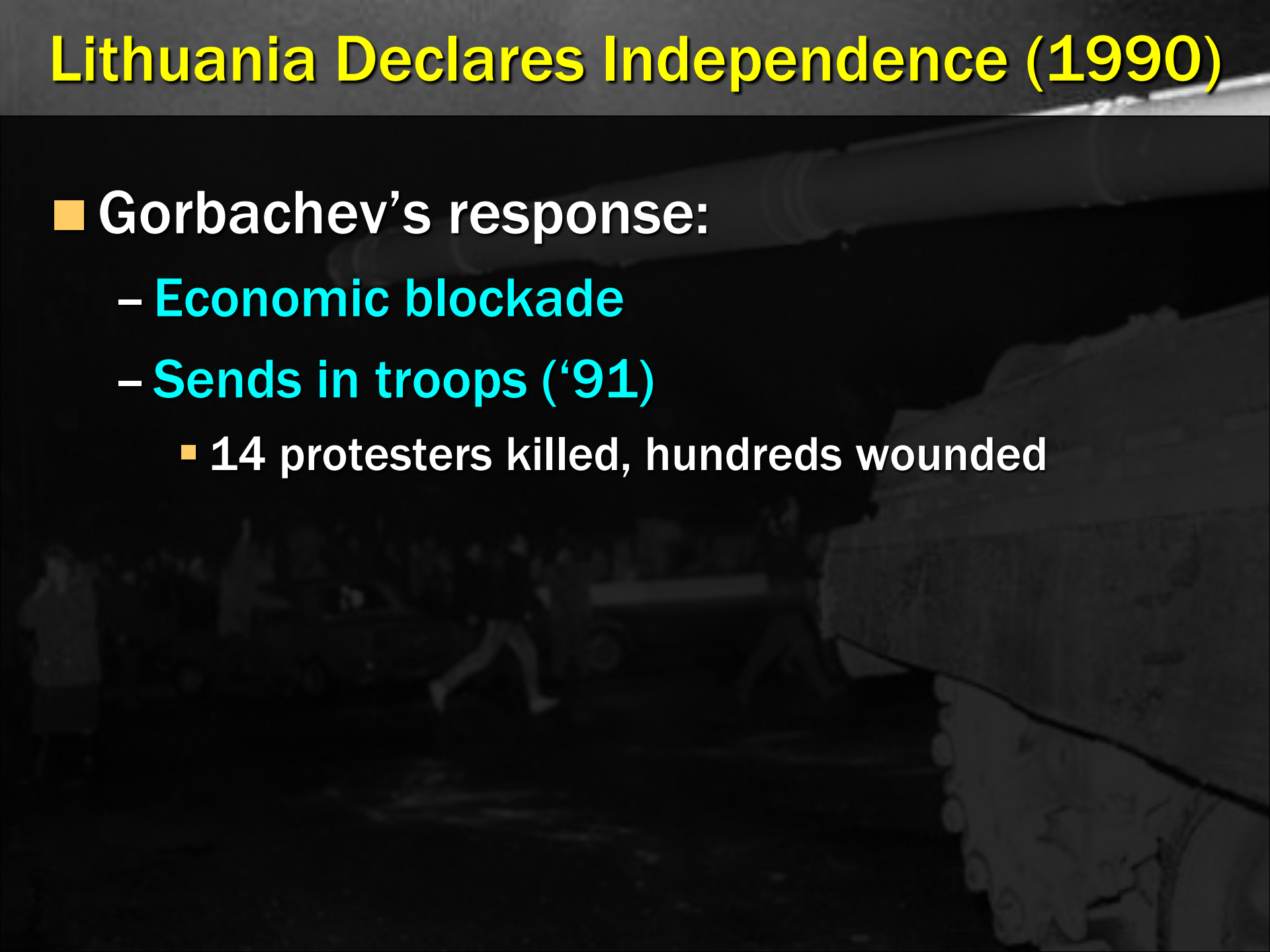
# Lithuania Declares Independence (1990)



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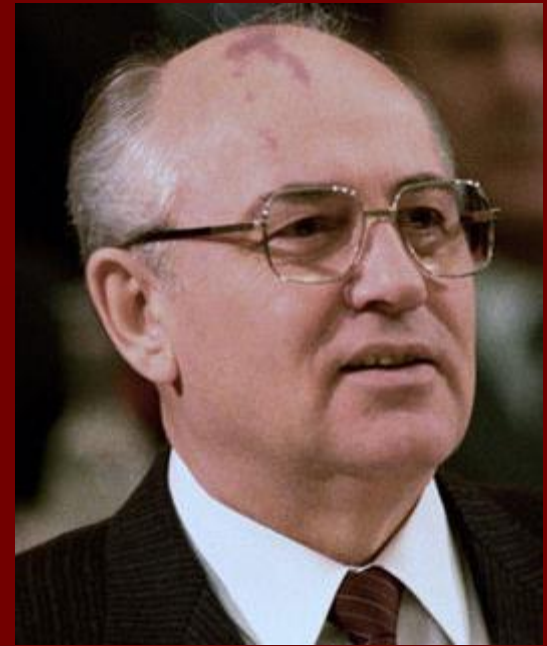
## ■ Gorbachev's response:

- Economic blockade
- Sends in troops ('91)
  - 14 protesters killed, hundreds wounded



# Gorbachev Faces Criticism

- Communist *hard-liners*
  - Fear losing power
  - Want to undo reforms
- Boris Yeltsin
  - Criticizes invasion of Lith.
  - Reforms too slow!
  - President of Russia (1991)





# Video #1 - Questions

1. What did the hard-liners do?
2. Why did they do it?
3. What role did Boris Yeltsin play?
4. What was the result?

# August Coup (Aug. 18-21, 1991)





# August Coup (Aug. 18-21, 1991)

## ■ Hard-liners:

- detain Gorbachev
- send tanks into Moscow

## ■ Protesters gather outside Parliament







# The Coup Fails!



# The Coup Fails!

- Yeltsin demands “a return to order”
- Troops refuse to attack
- Gorbachev returns

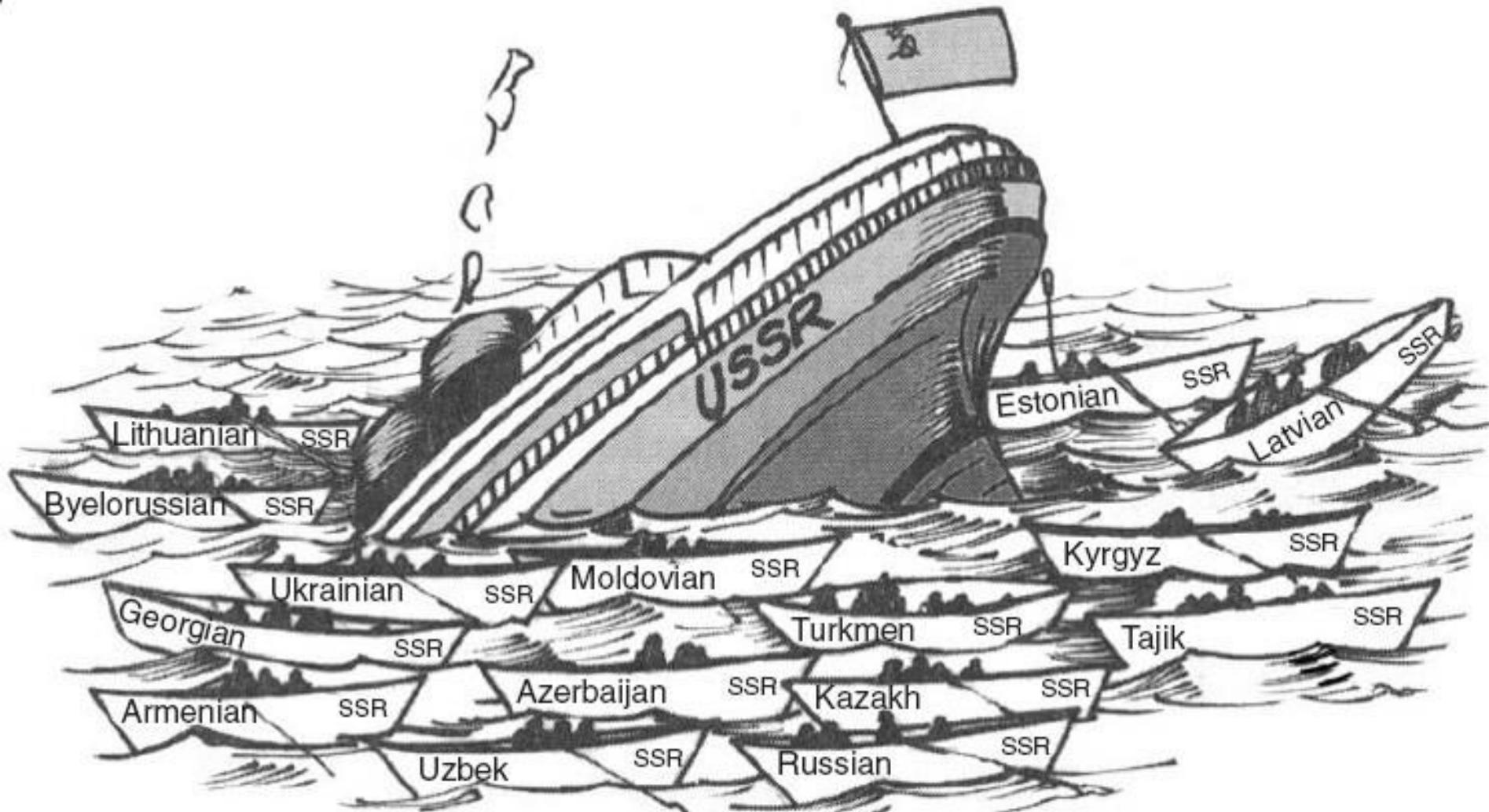




# Video #2 - Questions

1. Which three republics decided to break away from the USSR?
2. What was Gorbachev's opinion about this?
3. According the reporter, what important decisions did the new Commonwealth have to make?

# The Final Months of the Soviet Union

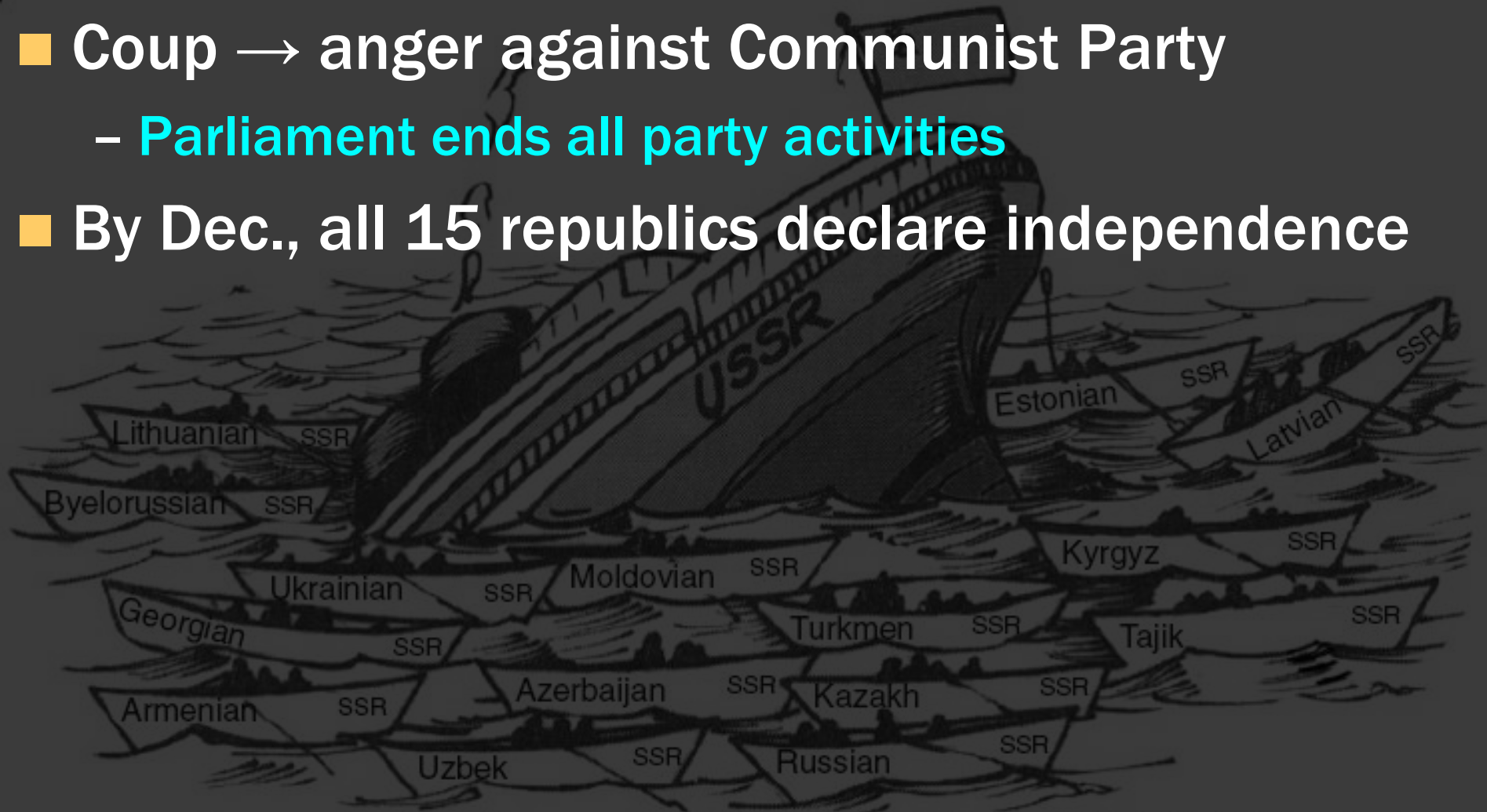


Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)



# The Final Months of the Soviet Union

- Coup → anger against Communist Party
  - Parliament ends all party activities
- By Dec., all 15 republics declare independence



Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)

**JFK: The Movie and the Evidence**

**TIME**

**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW**

Gorbachev says  
he'll fight on,  
but he's already

**A Man  
Without  
A Country**



# Video # 3 - Questions

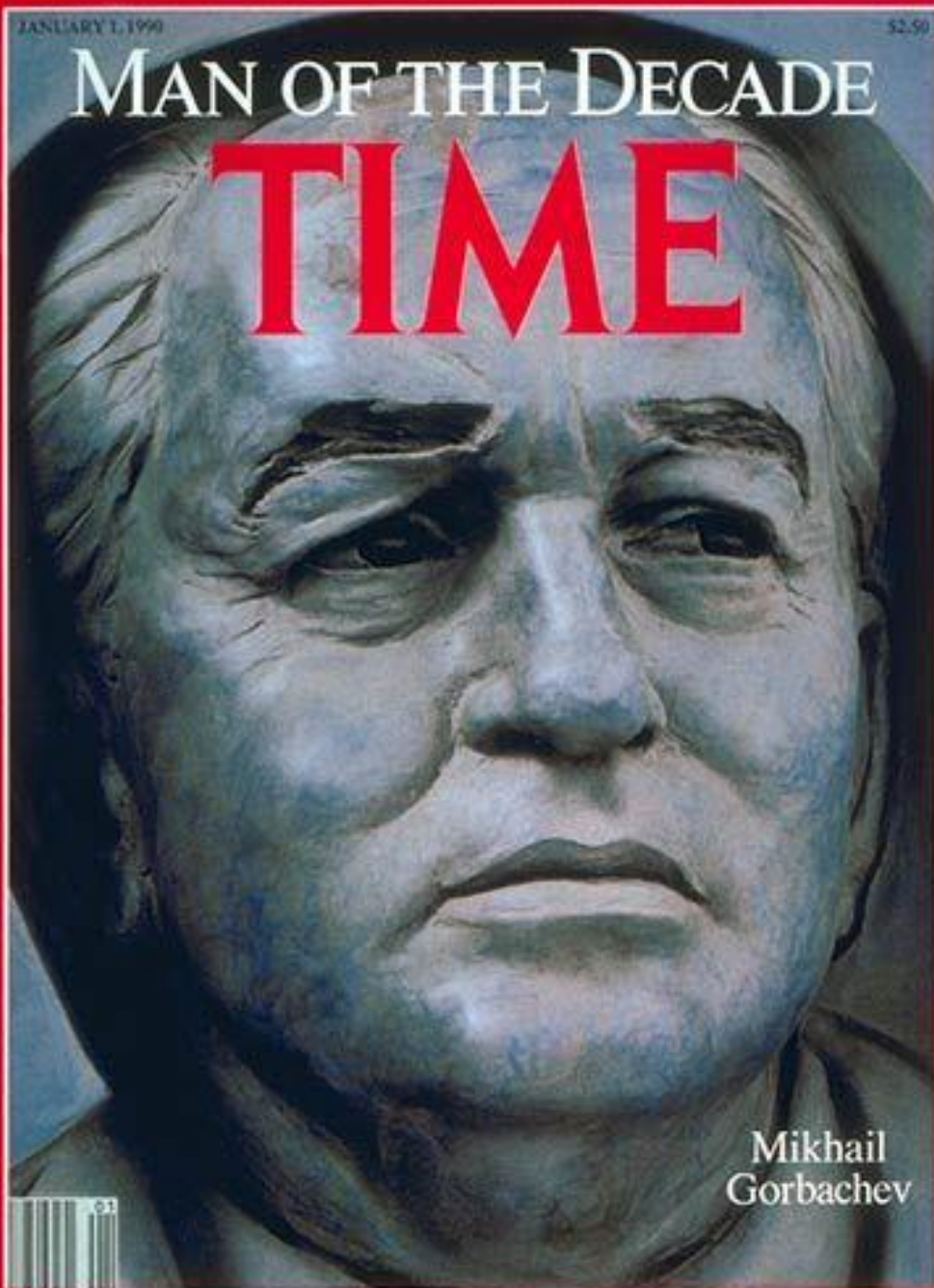
1. What did Gorbachev do on Christmas, 1991?
2. What were some of Gorbachev's accomplishments?

JANUARY 1, 1990

\$2.50

MAN OF THE DECADE

TIME



Mikhail  
Gorbachev



01



# Gorbachev: Hero or Villain?

- *"The Nobel Prize he received for ending the Cold War was well deserved. Every man, woman and child in this country should be eternally grateful. His statue should stand in the center of every East European capital; for [he] allowed them their independence. The same is true for the newly independent countries further east and in Central Asia. No Russian has done more to free his people from bondage since Alexander II who freed the serfs."*
- *"Foreign debt increased 5.5 times. Gold and currency reserves dropped 11 times. Many citizens found themselves living below the poverty line. Many hoped he would bring democratic freedoms and that they would achieve Western living standards. These hopes ended very quickly. He began to evolve into the national anti-hero... Those who are older treat him very negatively. Those who give him credit are in the absolute minority..."*

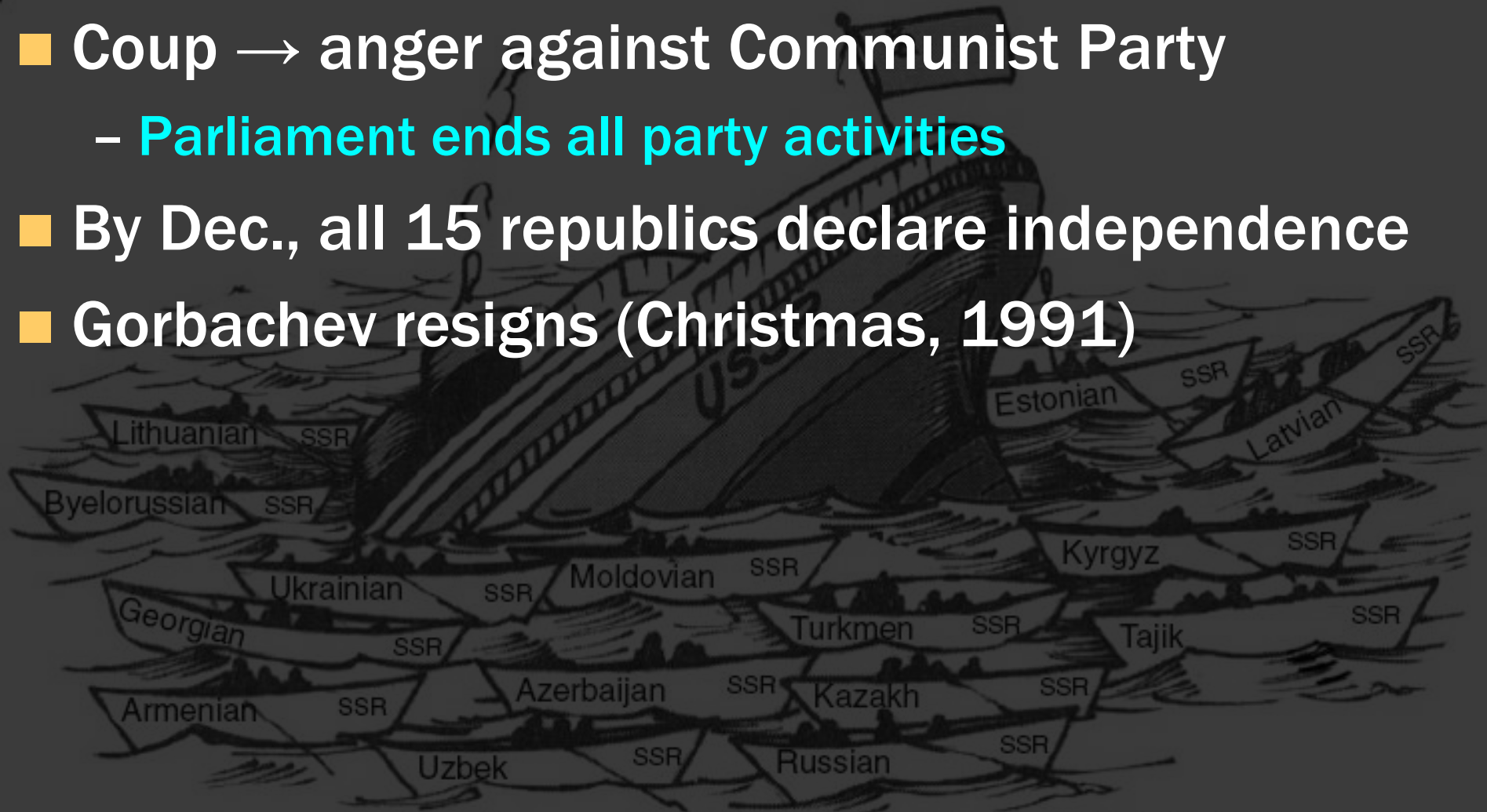
**Do great people make great events, or do great events make great people?**

**If it weren't for Gorbachev, would the USSR still exist?**

**Would we still be in the Cold War? Or would these changes have occurred anyway?**

# The Final Months of the Soviet Union

- Coup → anger against Communist Party
  - Parliament ends all party activities
- By Dec., all 15 republics declare independence
- Gorbachev resigns (Christmas, 1991)



Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)