Communism: totalitarian ideology that achieved state power in the 20th century

COMMUNISM: TOTALITARIAN IDEOLOGY THAT ACHIEVED STATE POWER IN THE 20TH CENTURY

“By the 1980’s, more than half of the world’s population lived under communism. In 1989, communism began to lose political power almost everywhere in the world.”

ABSTRACT:


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 PREFACE

Following research work and its documented representation is only intended to provide the reader all the required information and knowledge about Communism and Detailed representation of its basic principles and laws. Research work consists of a brief research analysis on various inter-linked subjects and courses which are related directly and indirectly with communism. Within Beginning of chapters, reader will go through the definition of communism, its birth or in other-words it’s beginning point. Following chapters will also introduce the reader with the individuals like Karl Marx and (Name), and Their influence on communism ideology and followers. Research will also provide different types of criteria in which communism started to implements its governance. Research also covers the communist theories and governance in terms of economic affords political establishments, social interference and religious circle of domination. How Great Depression covered the clouds of European bloc And Russian. Research Also conclude what were the important factors which benefits the ability of common people to realize the importance of social democracy after what communism did to the people and its pessimistic theories. What were the points of consequences which made the communist nations much rapid fast and powerful and what were the reasons of declining after 1989 Revolution. What were the balances of condition to determine the maturity of belt of nations? This research work includes the bibliography and references which were the part of research proposal. External Links and Webpages will provide the sources of the content and additional points for the Further Research Intentions. All the content written in this research work has been citied and aligned on the best knowledge of the author.
2 Introduction

2.1 Definition of Communism

A broad-spectrum way of defining the communism is ‘A theoretical economic system characterized by the collective ownership of property and by the organization of labor for the common advantage of all members.’ Communism isn’t simple subject but its ideology has different meanings and different representation in different countries within variable time of centuries, many people define the communism with their own point of thinking and benefits so does great leaders and individuals of 20th century and their predecessors. In others words, communism is just like an octopus with various formation and prospects.

Literally; Communism comes from the French vocabulary ‘communism’ which mean common (Common). Its Derivation comes from old Latin Language ‘communist’. So this can be our first observation that communism word only had a long past history with different language, culture, people and societies in different centuries. Most of European countries define communism as ‘A theoretical economic system characterized by the collective ownership of property and by the organization of labor for the common advantage of all members.’ In terms of sociology; Communism is fundamentally, a system of social organization in which property (especially real property and the means of production) is held in common. In modern political terms ‘Communism (written with a capital C) is applied to the movement that aims to overthrow the capitalist order by revolutionary means and to establish a classless society in which all goods will be socially owned.’ The theories of the movement come from Karl Marx, as modified by Vladimir Lynch Lenin, leader of the successful Communist revolution in Russia. Communism, in this sense, is to be distinguished from socialism, which (as the term is commonly understood) seeks similar ends but by evolution rather than revolution. But remember; Marxist-Leninist version of Communist
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doctrine advocates the overthrow of capitalism by the revolution of the proletariat. Communist doctrine is simple, which defines overthrow of capitalism and the creation of a classless society (Unification of people).

With political orientation, it is a system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power, claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people. All economic and social activity is controlled by a totalitarian state dominated by a single political party. Political party which based itself on Communism principles and practices is known as Communist Party. After the 1948 coup, Communist ideology permeated citizens’ lives and dominated all aspects of society.

2.2 Term Post-Post-Communism

The period of political and economic transformation or "transition" in former communist states located in parts of Europe and Asia, in which new governments aimed to create free market-oriented capitalist economies. Both Eastern and Western Europe had been governed by the example of the Soviet Union. In most of the countries in Eastern Europe, following the fall of communist-led governments in 1989, the communist parties split in two factions: a reformist Social Democratic party and a new, less reform-oriented Communist Party. The newly created Social Democratic parties were generally larger and more powerful than the remaining communist parties; only in Russia, Moldova, and the Czech Republic did the Communist Party remain a significant force. Some people believe Communism was thought to have been heavily influenced by a Totalitarian regime known as Czarism. Communism replaced Czarism after Russia’s Revolution in 1917. While limited centers of power had the power, and this symbolized most of Europe’s history, Russia refuse to accept the call to limit power. After World War II, Communists united their powers throughout Eastern Europe, and in 1949, the Mao Zedong-led Communist Party of China (CPC)
formed the People’s Republic of China, which would later follow its own path of Communist development. Cuba, North Korea, North Vietnam, Laos, Angola, and Mozambique also sported pro-Communist governments in the Third World. Almost one-third of the world’s population lived in Communist states by the early 1980s.

2.3 Communism Vs. Capitalism

The ex-communist social democrats gained increasing popularity when the transition to capitalism began to cause economic problems such as poverty and unemployment. Nearly all of them won national elections in their respective countries at least once in the past 15 years. In Western Europe, many of the self-styled communist political parties reacted by changing their policies to a more moderate and less radical course. In countries such as Italy and Germany, post-communism is marked by the increased influence of their existing Social Democrats. The anti-Soviet communist parties in western Europe (e.g., the Trotskyist parties), who felt that the fall of the Soviet Union vindicated their views and predictions, did not particularly prosper from it—in fact, some became less radical as well. Some people feel that globalization will have the same effect as communism because the base of globalization is not moral based or inspired by religious doctrine. This new system seems to promote peace and for the benefit of all mankind and acceptance of everyone, everywhere. Time will be the true test.

3 Communism of 1980s

3.1 Economic Scenario Of European Nations

Several communist states had undergone economic reforms from a planned economy towards a more market-oriented economy in the 1980s. The post-communist economic transition was much more abrupt and aimed at creating fully capitalist economies. All the countries concerned have abandoned the traditional tools of communist economic control, and moved more or less successfully toward free market systems. Although some (including Lewis) stress the beneficial effect of multinational investment, the reforms had important
negative consequences that are still unfolding.

Average standards of living registered a catastrophic fall in the early 1990s in many parts of the former Comecon—most notably in the former Soviet Union—and began to rise again only toward the end of the decade. Some populations are still poorer today than they were in 1989 (e.g., Ukraine, Moldova, and Serbia). Others have bounced back considerably beyond that threshold however (e.g., Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), and some, such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, underwent an economic boom (see Baltic Tiger), although all have suffered from the 2009 recession. Today, most post-communist countries in Europe are generally seen to have mixed economies, although it is often argued [by whom?] that some (such as Romania, Slovakia and Estonia, with their flat tax rates) are actually more capitalist than Western Europe.

The concept of totalitarianism was first developed in a positive sense in the 1920s by the Italian fascists. The concept became prominent in Western anti-communist political discourse during the Cold War era, in order to highlight perceived similarities between Nazi Germany and other Fascist states on the one hand, and Soviet Communist Party states on the other.

3.3 Principle Act Of Totalitarian Nations

The political scientists Carl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski were primarily responsible for expanding the usage of the term in university social science and professional research, reformulating it as a paradigm for the Soviet Union as well as fascist regimes. Friedrich and Brzezinski argue that a totalitarian system has the following six, mutually supportive, defining characteristics:

Elaborate guiding ideology.

1. Single mass party, typically led by a dictator.
2. System of terror, using such instruments as violence and secret police.
3. Monopoly on weapons.
5. Central direction and control of the economy through state planning.

François Furet used the term "totalitarian twins" in an attempt to link Stalinism and Nazism. Ba’athist in practice in Iraq under Saddam Hussein and in Syria under Hafez Assad show several of the critical characteristics of fascist, communist, and Nazi dictatorships -- single-party systems, gross uncertainty of life and property rights, pervasive control of the economy by the government, personality cults, absence of pluralism in politics, strictly-defined ideology, contempt for "plutocratic" or "bourgeois" democracy, simultaneous pretensions to modernity and a tie to antiquity, and militaristic expansionism.

4 Fall Of Communism

4.1 Collapse Of The Soviet Union

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union and relaxed central control, in accordance with reform policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). The Soviet Union did not intervene as Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary all abandoned Communist rule by 1990. In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved. Theories within Marxism as to why communism in Central and Eastern Europe was not achieved after socialist revolutions pointed to such elements as the pressure of external capitalist states, the relative backwardness of the societies in which the revolutions occurred, and the emergence of a bureaucratic stratum or class that arrested or diverted the transition process in its own interests. Marxist critics of the Soviet Union, most notably Trotsky, referred to the Soviet system, along with other Communist states, as "degenerated" or "deformed workers' states", arguing that the Soviet system fell far short of Marx's communist ideal and he claimed the working class was politically dispossessed. The ruling stratum of the Soviet Union was held to be a bureaucratic caste, but not a new ruling class, despite their political control.

4.2 Discovery Of Second World

The Second World refers to the former socialist, industrial states (formally the
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Eastern Bloc), the territory and the influence of the Soviet Union. Following World War II, there were nineteen communist states, and after the fall of the Soviet Union, only five socialist states remained: China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam. In other words, the concept of "Second World" was a construct of the Cold War and the term has largely fallen out of use since the revolutions of 1989, though it is still used to describe countries that are in between poverty and prosperity, many of which are socialist and former socialist states today.

4.3 Revolutions of 1989
The Revolutions of 1989 (also known as the Fall of Communism, the Collapse of Communism, the Revolutions of Central and Eastern Europe and the Autumn of Nations) were a revolutionary wave which overthrew the communist states in various Central and Eastern European countries. The events began in Poland in 1989, and continued in Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania. One feature common to most of these developments was the extensive use of campaigns of civil resistance demonstrating popular opposition to the continuation of one-party rule and contributing to the pressure for change. The revolutions of 1989 marked the death knell of communism in Europe. As a result, not only was Germany reunified in 1990, but soon, revolution spread to the Soviet Union itself. After surviving a hard-line coup attempt in 1991, Gorbachev was forced to cede power in Russia to Boris Yeltsin, who oversaw the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

4.4 Impact of Communism
Those who did not comply with socialism were not only interrogated, intimidated and put under surveillance but also subject to house searches, during which the Secret Police invaded citizens’ privacy while searching for illegal literature. Bribe abounded; the presence of bugs in homes prevented people from speaking openly; there were long lines at the shops; people were imprisoned for filing complaints or signing petitions. Furthermore, the rich turned poor as owners of
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extravagant housing were given new accommodation in the country. Tradesmen were chosen to head companies. Members of the intelligentsia were forced to do menial jobs such as cleaning streets or washing windows. If a citizen defected, the family left behind was severely punished. People socializing with dissidents were interrogated and accused of subversion. During the beginning of the brutal and nightmarish 1950s, Soviet Union Premier Joseph Stalin directed the Czechoslovak Communists to carry out purges, and the nation held the largest show trials in Eastern Europe. Over a six-year period, from 1949 to 1954, the victims included military leaders, Catholics, Jews, democratic politicians, those with wartime connections with the West as well as high-ranking Communists. Almost 180 people were executed. There was no such thing as a fair trial as judges cooperated with the country’s leadership. The defendants, branded guilty before the trial began, even had to rehearse their testimonies in advance, as if it all were some cruel play performed on a stage instead of in a courtroom. (During the 1960s, some of the victims were rehabilitated.). During the harsh normalization period of political repression after the crushing of the Prague Spring and its liberal reforms in August of 1968, more purges were carried out. In the purges from 1969 to 1971, however, no one was hanged. Instead, the accused were expelled from the Communist Party and lost their jobs. They were subject to interrogations and intimidation techniques and were followed by the secret police. High-ranking government personnel and leaders of social organization were victims of these purges, and the reformists that had supported the Prague Spring were targets. Authors whose writings did not conform to socialism found their works banned, and other artists, such as actors and directors, were not permitted to take part in productions. Unlike the 1950s, the police saved violence for those who stubbornly opposed the intervention of Soviet troops in 1968. Also controlled by the government, the media was a
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Censorship became law in 1948. Television, for example, was imbued with official optimism as tractors and factories often appeared on the screen. Editorials were riddled with clichés, and platitudes abounded. During the normalization purges of 1969-70, dozens of magazines and journals were shut down. During the 1970s and 1980s, many Czech and Slovak artists were put in prison or forced to emigrate. Dissidents were often harassed and sometimes imprisoned for speaking out against the regime. Those who signed the Charter 77 declaration of human rights were arrested, interrogated and lost their jobs. Nonconforming literature was printed through underground channels as illegal samizdat texts produced on typewriters. By the mid-1980s, several underground publishing houses existed. Possession of samizdat material could lead to imprisonment. Despite the limitations on Czech literature, poet Jaroslav Seifert nabbed the Nobel Prize in 1984.

5 Era Of Social Democracy And Downfall Of Communists

5.1 After Effects Of Revolutions

The adoption of varying forms of market economy immediately resulted in a general decline in living standards, birth rates and life expectancies in post-Communist States, together with side effects including the rise of business oligarchs in countries such as Russia, and highly disproportional social and economic development. Political reforms were varied but in only five countries were Communist institutions able to keep for themselves a monopoly on power: China, Cuba, North Korea, Laos, and Vietnam. Many Communist and Socialist organizations in the West turned their guiding principles over to social democracy. The European political landscape was drastically changed, with numerous Eastern Bloc countries joining NATO and stronger European economic and social integration entailed.

The Revolutions of 1989 also coincided with a massive wave of international
democratization: from a minority mostly restricted to the First World and India up until the mid-1980s, the electoral democracy became at least officially the political system of about half of the countries of the world by the early 1990s.

5.2 **New Lights Of Democracy**

The advent of reform-minded Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 signaled the trend toward greater liberalization. The first signs of major reform came in 1986 when Gorbachev launched a policy of glasnost (openness) in the Soviet Union, and emphasized the need for perestroika (economic restructuring). By the spring of 1989, the Soviet Union had not only experienced lively media debate, but had also held its first multi-candidate elections in the newly established Congress of People's Deputies. Though glasnost advocated openness and political criticism, at the time, it was only permitted in accordance with the political views of the Communists.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall was the culminating point of the revolutionary changes sweeping east central Europe in 1989. Throughout the Soviet bloc, reformers assumed power and ended more than 40 years of dictatorial communist rule. The reform movement that ended communism in east central Europe began in Poland. Solidarity, an anti-communist trade union and social movement, had forced Poland's communist government to recognize it in 1980 through a wave of strikes that gained international attention. In 1981, Poland's communist authorities, under pressure from Moscow, declared martial law, arrested Solidarity's leaders, and banned the democratic trade union. The ban did not bring an end to Solidarity. The movement simply went underground, and the rebellious Poles organized their own civil society, separate from the communist government and its edicts. The future of Communism is slowly become scarce and unfit in a world seeking globalization. Globalization is a process of unity by economic, technological, sociocultural, and political forces. It is the use of trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows,
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migration, and the swelling of technology to integrate the national economy into the international economy. There are four central economic ideas to globalization are goods and services, labor/people, capital, technology. Similar to the principles of economics, these principles define what areas of good production will determine success in a global market. Unlike, communism, there is not one governing authority, even though there is only one market with many aspects.

5.3 Point of Change of 1989
Between 1989 and 1991, several key events signaled the end of the Cold War. First, Communist dictatorships collapsed throughout Eastern Europe. Second, the Berlin Wall fell and East and West Germany were reunited. Third, the Soviet Union broke up.

To many people, it had appeared as though the Cold War would drag on permanently. When it ended, it did so abruptly and rapidly and with almost no bloodshed (the disastrous civil war in Yugoslavia was not the result of Cold War issues). The swiftness of the change happened for a variety of reasons: peace and prosperity in the West, the unifying factor of the destruction of World War II, and the persistent underground resistance to communism behind the Iron Curtain throughout the Cold War. Economically, the West had prospered during the Cold War years. Those in the East were well aware that their own governments prevented them from enjoying much of a share in the postwar boom. The Communists always insisted that workers in the capitalist nations were oppressed and unhappy, but Eastern Europeans knew that Westerners enjoyed higher wages and a higher standard of living than they did.

World War II had been enormously destructive, but Europeans managed to create positive effects from the destruction. It created a genuine spirit of cooperation among Western nations, including the United States. With all nations working busily to rebuild and repair, employment was high and the atmosphere was one of
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courage and hope. Eastern nations also had to repair and rebuild, but without the freedom to choose their own employment, to form trade unions, or to install the latest technology, they felt less of a personal stake in the outcome. The atmosphere was one of stagnation and resignation.

The basic philosophy behind communism is that each person should contribute what he or she can to society and the economy and take as much as he or she needs. Most would agree that such an idea is compassionate, generous, and fair. Unfortunately, communism in practice did not reflect its philosophy. It meant censorship and oppression. When people are not permitted to say what they think, to write what they please, to travel where they wish, or to describe accurately the conditions they live in, they are not free. The history of modern Europe shows a constant progress toward freedom—the human freedom to live as a reasonable being with the right to make one’s own basic choices. Communism was intolerable to many precisely because it refused to allow such freedom. Throughout the Cold War, many Eastern Europeans resisted it—some vocally, some silently, but all consistently. Individuals—sometimes prominent ones—defected to other nations. Writers smuggled their works out of the country for publication. Leaders led actual armed revolutions. Workers fought for their rights to bargain for higher wages and safer conditions. Without courageous resistance from within, the Communist governments of the East would never have fallen so rapidly.
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