



The Soviet Peace?

CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

20 years after the failure in Hungary, Czechoslovakia had an attempt at Soviet freedom.

Learning from history, they took a more cautious approach.

There were more political freedoms coming into place throughout the 1960's:



Move slow. Russia's Watching...

CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

- Basic human rights
- For political dissidents, no imprisonments.
- A growing local film industry, western clothing and rock music.

Coming into power in 1968, Dubcek tried to find a middle ground that would keep Moscow away.

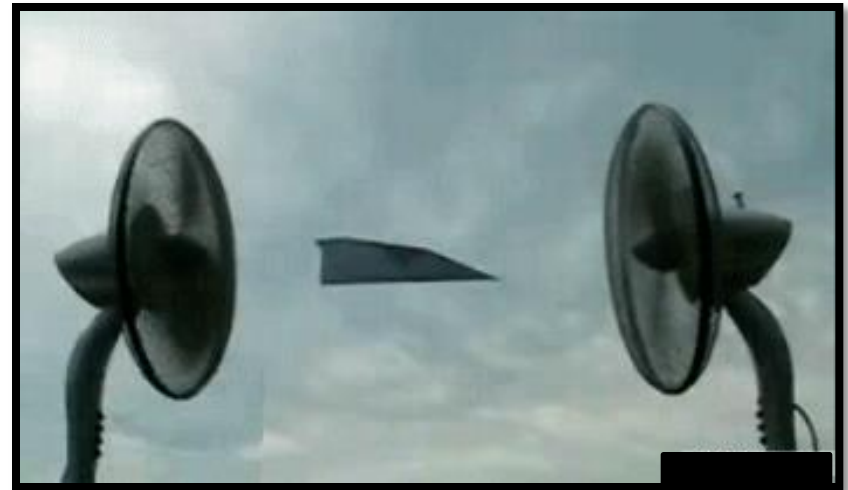


CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

“Socialism with a human face” was coined by him, and its movement would become known as the “Prague Spring.”

He brought more changes:

- Freedom of Assembly
- Free Press
- Freedom to travel out
of Czechoslovakia
if desired...



CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

- Less use of the secret police
- Political prisoners could gain release
- Opening up of political debate.

Feeling left out, other Soviet-controlled areas were not exactly pleased.

Romania started talking about the same things.



CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

The Soviets soon realized that if you let one get away with it, the rest will want to as well.

The tanks rolled in on August 20.

The Czechs knew the Americans would not come to help, and they didn't feel like being slaughtered, so they gave in. Dubcek was arrested and put to work in forestry.



CZECH. ATTEMPTS AT FREEDOM

500,000 people were tossed from the Communist Party and lost many of their rights and privileges.

Any potential leadership figure was arrested and sent into forced labour camps (Gulags).

Although not all made it, over 150,000 people fled to the West.



FAST FORWARD 20 YEARS...

Freedom had no chance... as long as Moscow was willing to use military force to keep her countries in line.

The Soviet state, under Gorbachev, declared that there would be no more violence. They weren't going to do that anymore.

A



B



From A..... To B... Is the Russian Bear tamed?

FAST FORWARD 20 YEARS...

Communism in Russia was done, and the whole Communist system imploded.

China, Cuba and North Korea were the only ones that remained Communist... cutting ties with their former masters.



KHRUSHCHEV AND THE WEST

Khrushchev tried to look kind to the West, while he killed many of his own people.

The Geneva Convention and Austria Peace Treaty ended the way Western leaders had hoped Berlin would have turned out.

Austria was left alone... by both sides. Austria didn't, and couldn't, join any alliances.



KHRUSHCHEV AND THE WEST

In regards to Egypt, the issue was more complex.

With a massive investment of cash, America was hoping to have a stake in the Aswan Dam and Egypt's future.

Egypt also accepted Russian help (via the Czechs), in the form of weapons.



KHRUSHCHEV AND THE WEST

The USA believed that accepting American money meant loyalty to America.

The Egyptians had no such beliefs.

When the Americans pulled out of the project, President Nasser of Egypt decided to nationalize the Suez Canal in retaliation.



KHRUSHCHEV AND THE WEST

Foolishly and impulsively, France and Britain decided to get involved.

Then the UN got in the midst of it and was able to sort it all out with peacekeeping forces.

The end result: Egypt becomes more aligned with the U.S.S.R, instead of America and her allies.



PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

Between Khrushchev's statements on peaceful co-existence, and other things he says or does, there is a constant contrast.

To Western leaders he proudly stated :

“Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you.”



PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

Then at a later occasion:

“All the world will come to Communism. History does not ask whether you want it or not... if anyone believes that our smile means we have given up the teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, he is badly mistaken.”



PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

The Soviets had a new, strong confidence since they were economically growing, had more soldiers under deployment, and were leading in one very important area...



THE SPACE RACE

The Sputnik satellite was a promise of things to come, and none of them were good.

Before this, nuclear attacks had to come through airplanes and bombs.

Across northern Canada, the Americans built an elaborate Distant Early Warning System...
the DEW line.

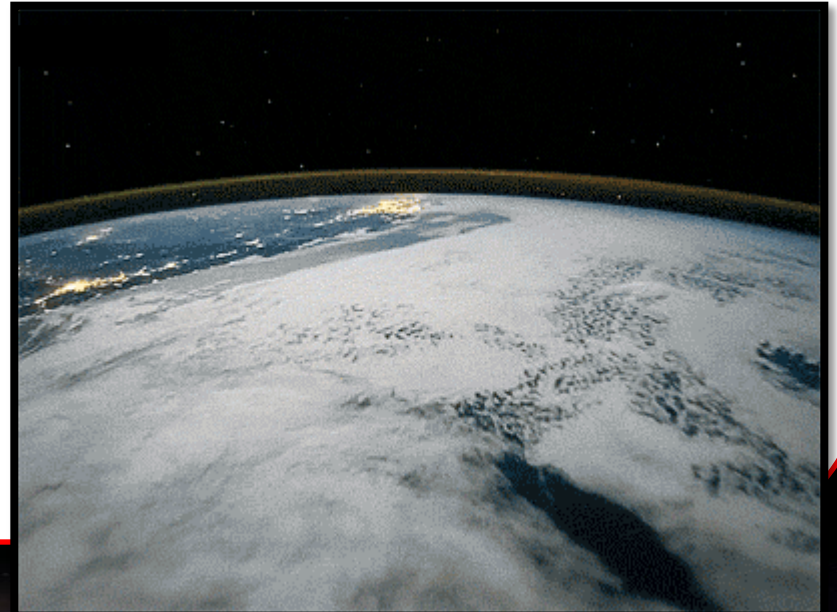


THE SPACE RACE

If an attack came, fighters would be able to intercept Soviet bombers over Canada and shoot them down before they would reach American cities...if all went well.

The US would have 4-6 hours of warning.

There would be no chance for that with a rocket from space. They would have less than 30 minutes warning.



THE SPACE RACE

At the moment the Americans were far behind in space. That did not last for long.

Soon, an American would be the first man on the moon. Soon, the USA would have far more advanced technology than the Soviets.

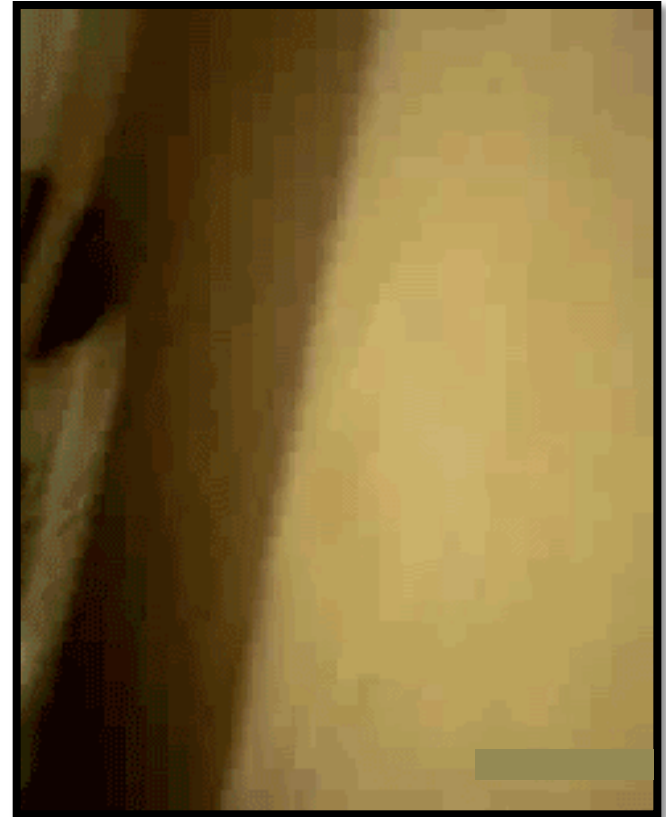
Until then, Khrushchev acted bravely... even in Cuba, which was America's "back yard."



THE BERLIN WALL

The rough format of the Berlin wall was literally built overnight. They expanded with guard towers and standing orders to “shoot to kill.”

However, people still tried to get out - some in brilliant, ingenious ways.



THE BERLIN WALL

For the Soviets, it was a massive embarrassment that people wanted to flee the “superior” Communist system and head to the “inferior” West.

Most people believed the Cold War was over when the wall came down in 1989. All the way through, Berlin had remained the focus of conflict.



UP NEXT...

The Cuban Missile Crisis....

