

CURRENT ISSUES OF THE GLOBAL WORLD

TASK 1: *The fall of the Communist bloc marked the end of the world of the two superpowers – the USA and the USSR . Which countries do you consider to play the role of the superpowers at present. What reasons would you give for calling them a superpower?*

country	main strength

Disintegration of the Soviet Union and related conflicts

Reforms of 1989

- May 1989, new parliament – included members of opposition, dissent (Andrej Sakharov – demanded clear reforms, free market economy)
 - no more subsidies for Latin America communist regimes
 - Soviet troops left Afghanistan
 - each of the Soviet Republics of the USSR should have its parliament and president (Russia – **Boris Yeltsin**) – Baltic states demand full independence
 - x growing economic hardship, strikes, nationalistic disputes
- **Gorbachev popular abroad but in Russia blamed for growing economic crisis, the loss of the superpower status, opposed by both the liberal opposition and hard line communists**

The Coup of 1991 and the Disintegration of the USSR

- Gorbachev attempted to keep the union of the USSR – 1990 introduced presidential system of power – ruled as the president, not the chairman of the central party committee
- strong anti-Russian tendencies in the Baltic states
- 1990 the Communist party gave up its monopoly of power, the first multi-party elections – the nationalists took over power in the Baltic states – declared independence
- Russian Federation – Boris Yeltsin elected president (started his political career in the communist party, 1987 Gorbachev threw him out of Politburo)
 - 1990 demanded the independence of the Russian economy on the USSR = attack on Gorbachev's perestroika
 - Yeltsin popular, left the communist party, questioned its rule
- Gorbachev afraid of disintegration, attempted to ally himself with the hard liners
- August Coup 1991, hard liners attempted to take over the power – Yanayev, Ligachev
 - Gorbachev – home arrest in the Crimea (he was on his holiday there)
 - hard liners announced that they took over power due to Gorbachev's illness
 - demonstrations against the coup, hard liners – mainly in Moscow, Yeltsin took the initiative

- Yeltsin persuaded the army not to suppress but to join the demonstrations – the famous pictures of Yeltsin on a tank, the demonstration seized the ‘White House’ (Russian parliament) to prevent the attack on the parliament by the hard liners
- the Coup was defeated
- Communist party was banned
- 1991 independence of the Baltic states accepted
- Dec 1991 – plebiscite in the Ukraine – 90% votes for the independence
- Dec 1991 Belavezha Accords – the end of USSR and the formation of the CIS (Commonwealth of the Independent States) only Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania did not join the CIS, Georgia 1993-2008
- Dec 25, 1991 Gorbachev resigned, Supreme Soviet of the USSR ratified the Belavezha Accords and dissolved itself
- Russia took over the seat in the UN Security Council

Nagorno Karabach

- **1923 Nagorno Karabach** (originally part of Armenia) became an **autonomous region** of Azerbaijan
- 1988 during the **Glasnost** Armenians protested against the Azerbaijan control of Nagorno Karabach and Nakichevan
- 1988 ethnic riots in Azerbaijan, hundreds of dead – the Red Army had to take action to stop it
- Dec 7, 1988 a disastrous earthquake in Armenia, Azerbaijan also affected but feels neglected
- Jan 1989 Moscow took over the control of Nagorno Karabach
- Azerbaijan protested – ethnic fighting between militiamen continues
- 1991 dissolution of USSR, independence of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the conflict over Nagorno Karabach went on
- May 1991 Azerbaijan army attacked Nagorno Karabach – the war began
- Dec 1991 plebiscite in Nagorno Karabach - 99% in favour of independence – the **Republic of Nagorno Karabach** declared but no country officially approved of this
- 1993 Armenian offensive occupied the territory between Armenia and Karabach
- 1994 ceasefire



Chechnya

- Chechnya and Ingushetia became part of the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th century
- 1936 autonomous republic of Chechnya and Ingushetia within the Russian Soviet Republic formed
- during the Second World War the territory was for a short period of time occupied by Germany and afterwards the autonomy was removed and most of the inhabitants resettled to the Central Asian regions
- 1957 autonomy renewed, the original inhabitants allowed to move back
- 1990 Declaration of Independence (president **Dzhokhar Dudayev**)
- 1991 **Chechen Republic of Ichkeria** declared x Russia refused to give up the area
- 1993 Chechen parliament dissolved – the rule by decree of the president (Dudayev) with the help of the militia (**Shamil Basayev**)
- 1994 Russia attempted to regain influence through opposition parties within Chechnya

The First Chechen War 1994-1996

- 1994-95 Russian offensive, the capital Grozny taken in Feb 1995
- Chechen forces introduced **guerilla warfare** and **terrorist attacks** outside Chechnya
- June 1995 terrorist attack on the hospital in **Budyonnovsk** (S. Basayev)
- April 1996 D. Dudayev killed
- Aug 1996 Chechen forces under Maskhadov conquered back Grozny, ceasefire arranged

The Second Independence 1996-1999

- 1997 **Aslan Maskhadov** elected president, 1999 Shamil Basayev became prime minister
- chaos, kidnapping, black market – Chechen government blamed the Russian intelligence service FSB for kidnapping foreign journalists, Russia blamed Chechen militia for terrorist bomb attacks in Moscow



The Second Chechen War 1999- ?

- Sep 1999 Russian attack on Chechnya, Jan 2000 Grozny conquered – Russia announced victory
- 2002 Russia announced the end of military operations
- 2003 new constitution – Chechnya became an integral part of Russia, new president **Achmad Kadyrov** (killed 2004)
- guerilla warfare and terrorist attacks went on (Oct 2002 Moscow, Dubrovka theatre, Sep 2004 Beslan, Northern Ossetia, attack on a school)
- 2005 Aslan Maskhadov killed

Georgia

- 1864 Georgia annexed by Russia
- 1921 occupied by the Red Army, became a part of USSR with autonomous regions of Southern Ossetia, Abkhazia and Ajaria
- 1991 independence – president Zviad Gamsakhurdia (nationalist, demagogue with totalitarian methods)
- Dec 1991 Coup – Civil War 1992-1995, 1992 Eduard Shevardnadze joined the coup
- 1995 **Eduard Shevardnadze** president
- Southern Ossetia and Abkhazia became almost independent regions with the Russian help, Georgians made to leave the areas
- 2003 Pink Revolution – Shevardnadze forced to resign
- 2004 **Mikhail Saakashvili** elected president, building up the presidential power, freedom of press limited, voting committees influenced, Ajaria lost the autonomous status
- 2006, 2007 mass demonstrations against Saakashvili – 2007 resigned, 2008 elected president again, opposition declared the election results forged
- Aug 2008 war with Russia over **Southern Ossetia** during the Peking Olympic Games
- Russia recognized the sovereignty of Southern Ossetia and Abkhazia



Ukraine

- Dec 1, 1991 plebiscite – 90% in favour of independence, Leonid Kravchuk president
- 1996 – 2004 president **Leonid Kuchma**, concentrated power in his hands, corruption, fraud, limited the freedom of press
- 2004 presidential elections – **Victor Yanukovich** elected, but the manipulation with votes caused the peaceful **Orange Revolution** led by **Victor Yushenko**, who became president, and **Yulia Tymoshenko**
- the country is divided into the Orange, pro-western regions in the west and blue, pro-Russian areas in the east
- 2006 Yanukovich became prime minister
- 2006 and 2009 conflicts with Russia over the price of natural gas – **Russia stopped all gas supplies to Ukraine leading to gas shortages in many European countries**
- 2010 presidential election Yanukovich elected president

TASK 2: Study the pictures of Victor Yushenko before and after the attempt to poison him. Who could be interested in getting rid of him shortly before the presidential election in 2004?



The Gulf Wars

The First Gulf War 1990-1991

- Aug 2, 1990 Iraq occupied Kuwait
- Resolution 660 UN Security Council condemned the occupation, demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces
- Aug 10, 1990 Arab League backed Kuwait (only Iran, Libya and PLO supported Iraq)
- Nov 29, 1990 UN Security Council ultimatum to withdraw from Kuwait till Jan 15, 1991
- Jan 17, 1991 Operation Desert Storm launched
- Iraq bombed Israel using the SCUD rockets
- Feb 24, 1991 land operation began, G. Bush included the overthrow of Saddam Hussein among the war aims
- March 3 – ceasefire, Iraq accepted the UN terms of ceasefire
- April 11, 1991 Iraq accepted the UN resolution demanding the destruction of its arsenal of the weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological and chemical)

The Second Gulf War 2003

- 1993, 1994 military objects in Iraq bombed due to Saddam's unwillingness to get rid of the weapons of mass destruction
- 1998 Iraq forced the UN inspectors leave its territory

- Jan 2002 G. Bush – **The Axis of Evil** speech – Iraq, Iran, North Korea
- Sep 12, 2002 G. Bush demanded Iraq to submit to the 1991 UN resolution
- Iraq announced its willingness to cooperate with the UN inspectors
- Sep 20, 2002 **Bush Doctrine** the right of the USA for preventive military actions in countries threatening the security of the USA
- March 17, G. Bush ultimatum, 48 hours given to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq
- March 19, 2003 bombing of Iraq began
- March 20 land operation began
- Summer 2004 the administration of Iraq given to Iraqi interim government
- Dec 2006 execution of Saddam Hussein

Disintegration of Yugoslavia

The Troubled Era 1980-1991

- Tito attempted to prevent the rise of nationalism stimulated by growing economic crisis
- 1974 new constitution
 - Yugoslav federation of 6 republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Macedonia) + 2 autonomous regions (Kosovo and Vojvodina)
 - representatives of all 8 regions in the presidium
 - The right to leave the federation if others agree
- Serbs opposed the arrangements – they consider Kosovo and Vojvodina their integral territories, refused to accept Montenegro as an independent state
- 1980 J.B. Tito died
- 1986 **Serbian Academy of Science** demanded reducing the autonomy of Vojvodina and Kosovo as their autonomy hindered the Serbian executive
- 1987 Serbs living in Kosovo demonstrated against the Albanian attempts to limit their rights
- **Slobodan Milošević** backed the Serbs in Kosovo – he broke the principle of no support of nationalism, became the head of the Serbian communist party
- 1989 Milošević elected president of Serbia – limited the autonomy of Vojvodina and Kosovo, installed his people in the central committee of Montenegro = Serbia in control of 4 seats in the Yugoslav presidium
- 1989 – 600th anniversary of the Battle of **Kosovo**, Milošević called for the centralisation of power, Serbian interest in the other Yugoslav republics
- 1990 free elections – nationalist parties won
- Dec 1990 plebiscite in Slovenia – 88% in favour of independence
- plebiscite in Croatia – Croats in favour of independence but Serbs boycotted the plebiscite



Disintegration and Wars

- **June 25, 1991 Slovenia and Croatia declared independence**
- **10 day war in Slovenia** 26.6.- 6.7. 1991

- July 9, 1991 **Brioni Conference**
 - representatives of Slovenia, Croatia and Yugoslavia met under the EU supervision
 - the end of war in Slovenia
 - the independence status postponed by three months



- **War in Croatia** broke up again 1991-1995
 - Serbs declared their Republic of Serb Krajina
 - Nov 27, 1991 UN Security Council resolution – peacekeeping forces sent to Yugoslavia in 1992 -UNPROFOR
 - ethnic cleansing went on
 - 1992 Vance plan of 4 „safe zones“ (in Krajina) protected by UNPROFOR
 - 1995 Croat operations Lightning and Thunderstorm occupied Krajina and Western Slavonia
 - 200 000 Serbs sought refuge in Serbia
 - only about 4000 Serbs stayed in Croatia

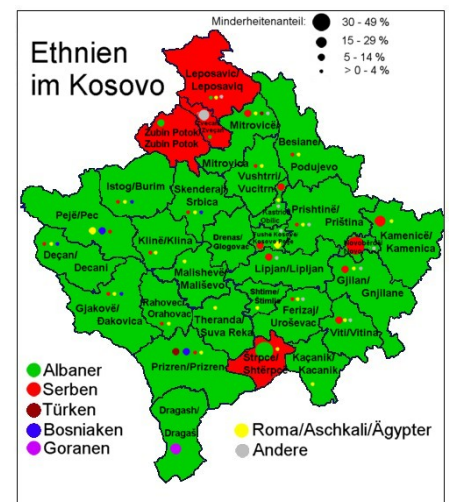
- Sep 1991 Macedonia declared independence – no war!
- Jan 9, 1992 Bosnian Serbs declared a separate **Republic of Srpska**
- Plebiscite in Bosnia (not held in the Republic of Srpska) 98% in favour of independence
- April 5, 1992 independence of **Bosnia** declared – **1992-1995 war**
 - 1992-1995 Serbs x Croats, Bosnians
 - 1993-1994 Croats x Bosnians
 - June 1992 UNPROFOR – airport in Sarajevo, later the whole of Bosnia x unable to prevent the ethnic cleansing
 - Sarajevo 44 months under siege of the forces of Republic of Srpska
 - 1994 peace between Croats and Bosnians – the **federation of Bosnia and Hercegovina**
 - July 1995 Srebrenica Massacre (8 000 Bosnians murdered)
 - Sep 1995 air strikes of NATO aimed against the Republic of Srpska forces
 - 21.11. 1995 **Dayton Agreement** – 14.12. 1995 peace in Paris – **the end of the war in Bosnia and Croatia**
 - Bosnia today – 10 cantons
 - ruling committee - 3 presidents (a Bosnian, a Croat, a Serb) taking turns in governing the country for 8 month terms

- 1996 Kosovo – Kosovo Liberation Army (UçK) fighting for independence, its attacks stirred the events leading to the 1999 war

- 1997 the end of the second term in office for Milošević as the president of Serbia – elected president of Yugoslav Federation (of Serbia and Montenegro) 1997-2000

- **1999 war NATO x Yugoslavia**

- Serbs expelled Kosovo Albanians – about 1 000 000 refugees
- April -June NATO bombed Yugoslavia
- NATO in kontrol of Kosovo – KFOR troops
- Kosovo Albanians expel Serbs
- 2000 Milošević forced to resign, 2001 turned in to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, 2006 died in the Hague
- 2003 confederation of Serbia and Montenegro
- 2004 violence in Kosovo – attacks on Serbs, KFOR had to act in defense of the Serbs
- 2006 plebiscite in Montenegro – 55,5% in favour of independence
- June 3, 2006 independence of Montenegro
- Feb 17, 2008 Kosovo declared independence, Serbia protests but the USA approved of the independence



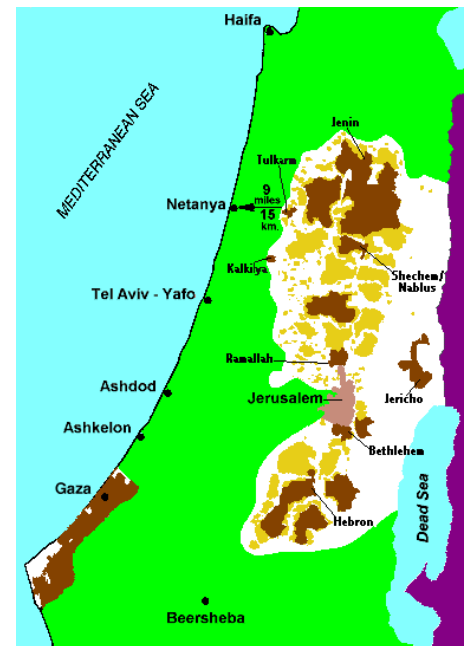
Israel and Palestine

Negotiations ITL the PLO

- after the 6-Day War in 1967 Israel began building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza regions
- Palestinians fought back – 1987 the first **Intifada** – uprising, riots, stoning Israeli soldiers, demonstrations organised by PLO
- 1992 Labour Party **Yitzhak Rabin** won the elections
- ban on building new settlements on Palestinian territories
- PLO recognized as a partner for peace talks
- 13.9. 1993 **Oslo Accords, Rabin – Arafat**, partial autonomy of Gaza and Jericho (both awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1994)
- 1995 Rabin assassinated by a Jewish radical
- 1996 elections – victory of Likud, conservatives, the end of peace talks

Recent Events

- 2000 Camp David talks – Clinton, Ehud Barak, Yasser Arafat – no clear result
- 2000 **Ariel Sharon** visited the Temple Mount complex stirring the Al-Aqsa Intifada
- suicide bombers, Israeli blockade of Palestinian Areas
- 2001 elections – Ariel Sharon (Likud), tough approach towards terrorism
- 2001 the construction of the **Separation Wall** began
- 2003 Sharon agreed on the **Road Map** peace plan – The Palestinian state should be approved by Israel and proclaimed in 2005
- riots, more suicide bombers Arafat surrounded by Israeli forces in Ramallah, headquarters of the Palestinian autonomy
- 2004 Arafat died, new president **Mahmoud Abbas**
- 2005 Israel unilateral withdrawal from the **Gaza Strip** (8500 settlers), all settlements left, protests of radical Jewish groups
- 2005 Sharon and Abbas arrange the ceasefire and plan for the autonomy of five cities on the **West Bank**
- Jan 2006 Sharon suffered a major stroke, permanent vegetative state, new leader **Ehud Olmert (Kadima** – party founded by Sharon)
- Jan 2006 **Hamas** won the elections in Gaza – the end of peace talks, the end of EU and US support of the Palestinian Autonomy
- arguments and fights between Hamas and Fatah
- 2006 Israel attacked Gaza, bombing of Lebanon and occupation of its southern districts due to neverending rocket attacks from Southern Lebanon (Hezbollah)
- 7.-15. June 2007 Hamas took over the control of Gaza, police forces loyal to Fatah forced to leave
- Ismail Haniya (Hamas) deposed from the office of the prime minister and replaced by the pro-west Salam Fayyad x Hamas ignored this change



Fatah

- set up by Yasser Arafat 1958 in Kuwait
- main aim: independence of Palestine
- 60s and 70s guerilla warfare, terrorist attacks from Syria
- 80s and 90s negotiations with Israel

Hamas

- set up during 1987 intifada
- does not accept the existence of Israel
- terrorism, suicide bombers
- 2004 political branch
- 2006 won the elections in Gaza

Hezbollah

- set up in 1982 in southern Lebanon
- cooperation with Iran – main aim to set up an Islamic state in Lebanon
- 1983 terrorist attack on the US marines barracks in Beirut – 241 dead
- 1992 political branch
- since 2005 member of Lebanese coalition governments

Islamic Jihad

- radicals active in Palestine, Egypt, Yemen, Turkey
- set up after the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979
- 1981 assassination of the Egyptian president Sadat because of his peace treaty with Israel
- The aim – to destroy Israel
- Suicide bombers, terrorism

War on Terrorism

Al-Quaeda and Afghanistan

- 90s **Taliban** approved of the existence of the Al-Quaeda training bases in Afghanistan
- UN sanctions on Afghanistan x financial support of Osama Bin Laden, Pakistan a Saudi Arabia
- 1993 the first bomb attack on the WTC (a van exploded in the underground parking lot)
- 1998 Al-Quaeda attack on US embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salam
- 1998 US bombing of the training bases in Afghanistan
- Sep 9, 2001 Ahmed Shah Massoud, the leader of the Afghan Northern Coalition assassinated
- Sep 11, 2001 WTC NY
- Oct 7, 2001 US war on Afghanistan
- Oct 13, 2001 forces of the Northern Coalition liberated Kabul
- Dec 22, 2001 Hamid Kharzai elected the prime minister of the interim government
- 2002 meeting of Loya Jirga – Kharzai elected president
- Jan 2004 constitution – president and a two-chamber parliament
- Oct 2005 parliamentary elections
- civil war with Taliban continues, 2009 attacks on the UN mission in Kabul
- March 11, 2004 Madrid train bombings
- July 7, 2005 London transport bombings
- 2009 Taliban grew strong in Pakistan, especially the regions by the Afghan border