

# 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 Nakhichevan
- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – 600<sup>th</sup> 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



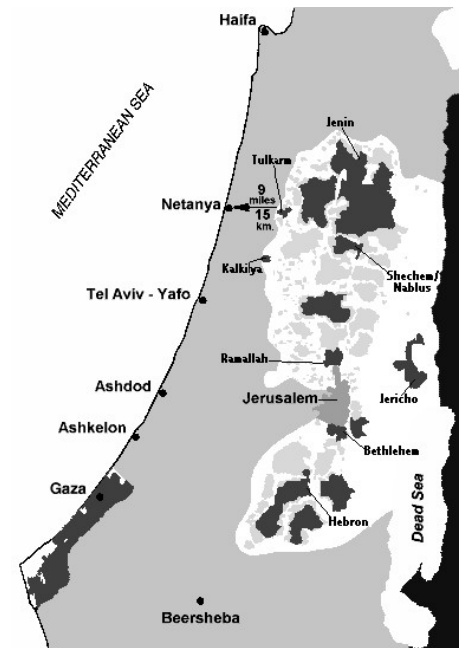
## Israel and Palestine

### 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





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### 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 ministr 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 stronk in Pakistan, especially the regions by the Afghan border





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