

# Political development of USSR. Afganistan

# Cult (without) personality

- \* Single party state leads to TOTALITARISM when its leader is strong
- \* Or to AUTORITARISM when leader is weak
- \* Brezhnev like no leader before him became the most popular character of anekdotes.
- \* People lost faith in government and all they saw was elderly gentlemen who loved his medals a bit too much

# Collective power

- \* A question of letting one man to hold too much power was an active question after Stalin's terror.
- \* General motion of Communist party leadership was to introduce diversion of power inside party officials
- \* From 1964 no single person could held 2 major posts at the same time ( General Secretary and Premier)
- \* BUT throughout 1970es Brezhnev outsmarted his colleagues and gain more and more of active power
- \* HOWEVER he always remain team player open to hear opinion of other party members.

# Silent repression

- \* Being more conservative in his political views, Brezhnev hushed down previous reforms and even returned to whitening Stalin's legacy
- \* All other-thinking attempts were not allowed (trial of Yuri Daniel and Andrei Sinyavsky in 1966 was a first call)
- \* KGB under Andropov successfully controlled all opposition groups
- \* Main form of repression became putting person to mental asylum.

# dissident

- \* WHO - Human rights activists or free-thinkers or advocates for reforms
- \* HOW – main source – Chronicles of Current Events
- \* SAMIZDAT became a form of not only political protest or human rights movement but also a form to keep freedom of speech in censored media

# 1977 constitution

- \* Reason – to stress that USSR entered developed socialism stage and leading role of the Party in this process
- \* Article 6 stated that CPSU is the ONLY political force of Soviet society
- \* Soviet citizens enjoyed wide range of political rights and freedom BUT art.39 stated that “Enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of citizens must not be to the detriment of the interests of society or the state.”

- \* Article 59 of the Constitution stated that citizens' exercise of their rights was inseparable from performance of their duties
- \* Obligated to work
- \* Military service
- \* Secure social property

# Afghanistan

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