



AIR FORCE ONE  
DISCOVERY CENTER

**OPERATION URGENT FURY: HIGH SCHOOL BRIEFING FILE**





# PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

*“ As for the enemies of freedom...they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it—now or ever.”*

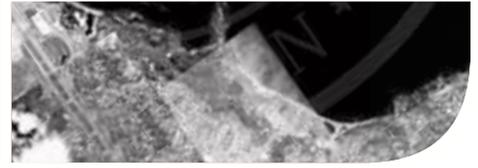
-Ronald Reagan, 1981

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



COMMUNISM	2
GOLD WAR TIMELINE	4
PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENT	6
STORIES OF SURVIVAL	8
GLOSSARY	9

# COMMUNISM



Karl Marx, 1867. Photograph by Feidrich Karl Wunder (1815-1893). Courtesy of marxists.org.

***“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.”***

- Karl Marx, *Das Kapital* <sup>1</sup>

Karl Marx (1818 – 1883) was a philosopher, co-author of *The Communist Manifesto*, and is credited with developing the ideas and principles that led to the foundation of Communism. While he never lived to see his dream of a communist state realized, politicians such as Vladimir Lenin studied his works and formed governments like the Soviet Union, the Republic of Cuba, and Grenada.

**In your own words, what do you think Marx meant in the quote above?**

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## THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

### 1936 Constitution of the USSR Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

**ARTICLE 123.** Equality of rights of citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life, is an indefeasible law. Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, any establishment of direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

**ARTICLE 124.** In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the USSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of antireligious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.

**ARTICLE 125.** In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the USSR are guaranteed by law: a. freedom of speech; b. freedom of the press; c. freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings; d. freedom of street processions and demonstrations. These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.<sup>2</sup>

**Based upon the excerpt above, do you think you would like to live in this kind of a society? Why or why not?**

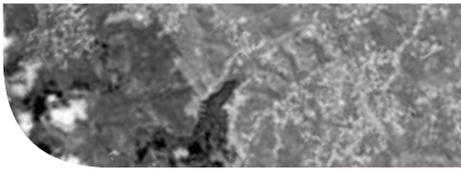
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<sup>1</sup> From *Das Kapital* (translated as *Capital* in most English publications), by Karl Marx (1867-1894).

<sup>2</sup> From the Constitution of the United Soviet Socialist Republic (1936). Courtesy of Bucknell University.



## 1791 THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AMENDMENT I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. <sup>3</sup>

**What similarities do you notice between the Soviet Constitution and our own?**

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## COMMUNISM TURNED OUT TO BE VERY DIFFERENT IN THEORY FROM HOW IT WAS PRACTICED.



Joseph Stalin, Secretary General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (circa 1942). Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Instead of gradually fading away as it was first conceived, the Soviet government grew in size and became one of the most oppressive dictatorships in modern history. Under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, the communist regime adopted a policy of ruthlessly suppressing individual liberties and any opposition to their control of the country. Millions were imprisoned in Siberian labor camps called “Gulags,” where they were literally worked to death. Communism was supposed to bring freedom and prosperity to the Russian people, yet it is estimated that ten to thirty million Soviet citizens starved to death between 1922 and 1953 alone. Due to a lack of government documentation, the reason for these deaths is unknown.



Gulag workers constructing the bridge through the Kolyma, part of the “Road of Bones” (circa 1930’s). Author unknown. Courtesy of the Russian Federation.

**Since many Soviet constitutional freedoms sound so similar to our constitution, what is it about Democracy in the United States that ensured America would turn out so differently?**

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<sup>3</sup> Amendment I, from The Constitution of the United States (1971). Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.

1945

February 4-11: Yalta Conference divides Germany into separate zones

September 2: End of World War II

1946

February 9: Stalin gives Capitalism vs. Communism speech

February 22: Kennan's "Long Telegram" introduces "containment"

March 5: Churchill gives speech describing the "Iron Curtain" of Communism

1947

March 12: Truman announces U.S. policy towards Communism

**1947 Truman Doctrine:** As the Soviet Union pushes to expand their sphere of influence, the U.S., under the leadership of President Truman, institutes two major policies. First, the U.S. must "contain" communism and prevent it from spreading to other countries. Secondly, the U.S. would provide economic and military aid to any country threatened by communist or totalitarian ideologies.



Truman giving Truman Doctrine address, March 12, 1947. Courtesy of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

1950

January: Joe McCarthy begins communist witch hunt and loyalty tests, ending in the late 1950's

June 25: Korean War begins; ending on July 27, 1953

1940

1948

February: Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia

April: Marshall Plan provides aid to help rebuild Europe and stop the spread of communism

1950

1955

May 14: Creation of the Warsaw Pact

November 1: U.S. involvement in Vietnam begins; ending with the fall of Saigon April 30, 1975

1949

September 21: Communist Mao takes control of China

April 4: Creation of NATO

October 7: East Germany is created

1959

January 8: Cuba taken over by Fidel Castro

1961

April 13: Construction of Berlin Wall begins



1. East German construction workers building the Berlin Wall, November 20, 1961. Courtesy of the National Archives (United States Federal Government).  
2. Taken from bathroom window at Bethaniedamm in Berlin-Kreuzberg of GDR pioneer Cleaning Squad sweeping waste from West Berlin tossed over the wall, 1986. Courtesy of Thierry Noir.

April 19: The Soviet Government constructs secret nuclear missile bases in Cuba.

1962



Map of the western hemisphere showing the full range of nuclear missiles under construction in Cuba, October 16, 1962. Courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

1960

1962

October 14-28: Cuban Missile Crisis

President Kennedy orders a naval blockade of all shipments to Cuba and demands the Soviets cease construction. After a tense thirteen days, the Soviets agree to dismantle their bases, and the U.S. agrees not to invade Cuba.



Two vehicle-mounted Soviet R-14 intermediate-range ballistic missiles, 1977. Courtesy of U.S. Dept. of Defense.

1965

April 28: United States Marines fight Communism in the Dominican Republic ending in 1966

# COLD WAR TIMELINE

1970

1979

**November 4:** Iranian Hostage Crisis, ending on January 20, 1981

**1979: Grenada Becomes a Communist Nation.** Maurice Bishop and the socialist New Jewel Movement (NJM) stage a revolt and seize control of Grenada, a small Caribbean island. No elections are held, and all political parties other than the NJM are banned. Bishop allies with communist Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Soviet Union. With aid from Cuba, construction on a military-grade airport begins. Located on the island is St. George's Medical School.



Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop (left) meets with Cuban dictator and Communist ally Fidel Castro (right). Courtesy of Freedom Archives.

1980

1980

**November 4:** Ronald Reagan is elected President. His "peace through strength" strategy builds up U.S. defense forces in an attempt to defeat communism, not just contain it. This ultimately forces the Soviets to begin negotiating for peace on equal terms.

1983

**October 25: The Grenadian Crisis.** Concern mounts for the 800 U.S. citizens studying at St. George's Medical School.



1. Photograph of Grenada used in address to the nation on National Security, 1983. Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.  
2. President Reagan meets Howard Baker, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Bob Michel, and other Congressmen in the cabinet room on the invasion of Grenada, 1983. Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

1990

1987

**June 12:** President Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech



Ronald Reagan giving his famous "Tear Down This Wall" speech, at Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on June 12, 1987. Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

**December 8:** Reagan and Gorbachev sign Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty

1989

**November 9:** Fall of the Berlin Wall

1990

**October 3:** Reunification of Germany

1991

**December 25:** Dissolution of the Soviet Union; Official End of the Cold War

2000

## Essential Questions

1. How do you think the policy of containment from 1947 could have influenced President Reagan's foreign policies in the 1980's?

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2. How are President Truman's and President Reagan's foreign policies still influencing American Government today?

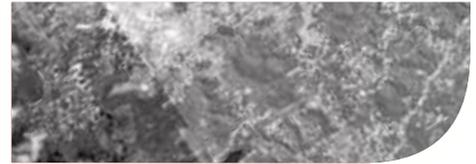
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# PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENT



SITUATION: GRENADA  
SUBJECT CATEGORY: FILE

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

EHA479  
OO RUEADWW  
DE RUEHWN #6380 2922040  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 192034Z OCT 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6935

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 06380

THE WHITEHOUSE FOR NSC  
USIA FOR OPS CENTER, C, AND AR  
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, GJ  
SUBJECT: GRENADA UPDATE: BISHOP RE-ARRESTED  
REF: BRIDGETOWN 6372

1. (ENTIRE TEXT).
2. SUMMARY: BISHOP FREED, GOES TO DOWNTOWN AND FORT RUPERT AREA AND IS RE-ARRESTED. LATEST UNCONFIRMED REPORT IS THAT BISHOP HAS BEEN SHOT. SOME FIRINGS BY PRA AND DEATHS REPORTED. SITUATION WORSENING.
3. WE HAVE BEEN PHONING IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS TO ARA/CAR AS THEY OCCUR. TO RECAPITULATE BRIEFLY:
4. PEARLS AIRPORT IN GRENADA CLOSED CIRCA 10:00 WHILE EMBOFFS KURZE AND FLOHR IN FLIGHT. LEEWARD ISLAND AIR TRANSPORT (LIAT) NOT FLYING ANYMORE TODAY. WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO TRY TO USE EMBASSY AIRCRAFT. OFFICERS BOOKED FOR 0530 FLIGHT OCTOBER 20 TO PEARLS, ALONG WITH UK HIGH COMMISSION DIPLOMATIC COURIER.
5. BISHOP AND EDUCATION MINISTER JACQUELINE CREFT WERE FREED FROM PM'S RESIDENCE BY "THE MASSES" AND WENT DOWNTOWN WITH LARGE CROWD OF PEOPLE. KENRICK RADIX AND FITZROY BAIN ALSO REPORTED FREED. PER UK HIGH COMMISSION, BISHOP AND CREFT LOOKED HAGGARD AND WERE TREATED AT A PHARMACY. THEY WENT TO FORT RUPERT (PRA HEADQUARTERS). AT SOME POINT, A PRA ARMORED CAR DROVE UP AND FIRED INTO THE CROWD. OTHER NEWS REPORTS SAID LOADS OF TROOPS ARRIVED AND OPENED FIRE. BISHOP, CREFT AND RADIX HAVE BEEN RE-ARRESTED.
6. CBC RADIO REPORTS FOUR DEATHS AT FT. RUPERT, WHERE THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXPLOSIONS. AN AUTOMOBILE WAS SAID TO BE BURNING AND THE FIRE SERVICE HAD TO BE SUMMONED. LATEST UNCONFIRMED RADIO REPORT FROM VOICE OF BARBADOS IS THAT BISHOP HAS BEEN SHOT.
7. COMMENT: SITUATION OBVIOUSLY WORSENING. "THE MASSES," BISHOP'S FIRST WORDS ON HIS EARLIER RELEASE, DECIDED NOT TO LET NJM CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SECURITY FORCES FOIST COARD ON THEM. THE FOLLOW-UP VIOLENCE MEANS NOW THERE CAN BE NO PEACEFUL "JOINT LEADERSHIP" SOLUTION. ONE GROUP OR THE OTHER WILL HAVE TO COME OUT ON TOP, AND IT COULD GET BLOODIER. BISH



## DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

1. What was the date and time of this message? \_\_\_\_\_
2. From where was this message coming? \_\_\_\_\_
3. To which two places was this message sent? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. What organization at the White House received this message, what does it stand for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was a summary of this report needed?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What has happened to Pearls Airport and all flights into and out of Grenada?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was reported to have happened to Bishop?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What has happened to the people of Grenada?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What does Ambassador Bish claim will probably happen?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do you think this report was confidential?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Remembering the Soviet freedoms you learned, read the biographies below.

## Irina Ratushinskaya

In 1983, Russian poet Irina Ratushinskaya was charged with “disseminating slanderous documentation in poetic form.” In addition to possessing human rights documents and articles about the pro-western Polish labor movement, five of her own poems, including one entitled “The Hateful Motherland,” were deemed by the court to be “anti-Soviet.” On the day after her 29th birthday, Irina’s husband watched helplessly as she was sentenced to seven years in a Gulag (labor camp), followed by five years of internal exile. After four years, Irina was freed on the eve of the Reykjavik Summit between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in October 1986. She visited President Reagan in the White House and delivered a note congratulating the president on his election. She had managed to smuggle it out of the Soviet Gulag upon her release. It came from ten women still imprisoned there. Irina’s memoir *Grey is the Color of Hope* chronicles her four years in the Gulag. Describing how she survived her incarceration, Irina wrote, “Yes, we are beyond barbed wire, they have stripped us of everything they could, they have torn us away from our friends and families, but unless we acknowledge this as their right, we remain free.”<sup>4</sup>



Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation

Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation



## Natan Sharansky

Natan Sharansky was a mathematician and chess prodigy in the Soviet Union. At age fifteen he was beating adults at the game and was the local chess champion of his home town of Donetsk, Ukraine. He was also from a Jewish family. Like many religious individuals, Natan felt out of place growing up in a country where the state expected every citizen to be an atheist. As a young man Natan dreamed of living in a place where it would not be his patriotic duty to also dismiss his faith. In 1973, he was denied a visa to emigrate to Israel and began to protest the decision. Charged with treason, he survived eleven years in Siberian labor camps and prisons. Isolated much of the time, Natan would play chess games against himself in his head. Despite his solitude, Natan somehow learned of President Reagan’s declaration that the Soviet Union was an evil empire. This view resonated deeply within Natan’s spirit. In 1986, he was exchanged for two Soviet spies and finally emigrated to Israel. At his first meeting with Ronald Reagan he said, “Thank you for telling the truth in your speeches. They were smuggled into the Gulag.”<sup>5</sup> Natan Sharansky defeated fellow Russian and world chess champion Garry Kasparov at an exhibition in 1996.<sup>6</sup>

**While there are many, many more personal stories to research, how did the Soviet government violate the rights of its own citizens: Irina and Natan?**

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<sup>4</sup> Courtesy of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

<sup>5</sup> Courtesy of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

<sup>6</sup> From *Kasparov Beaten in Israel*, by *Russians*, written by Serge Schmemmann (October 16, 1996). Courtesy of the New York Times.



## GLOSSARY

**Autonomy:** self-government, or the right of self-government; independence.

**Atheist:** a person who believes that there is no God.

**Bishop, Maurice:** born 1944, a Grenadian socialist politician who seized power in a coup in 1979 and served as Prime Minister of Grenada until he was overthrown and executed in 1983.

**Blockade:** the surrounding of a place (port, harbor, or city) by hostile ships or troops to prevent entrance or exit.

**Capitalism:** an economic and political system characterized by a free market for goods and services and private control of production and consumption.

**CBC Radio:** Canadian Radio.

**Circa:** about, used especially in approximate dates.

**Classless:** not having membership in a social or economic class or group.

**Cold War:** a state of political hostility and military tension between two countries or power blocs, involving propaganda, subversion, threats, economic sanctions, and other measures short of open warfare, especially that between the American and Soviet blocs after World War II.

**Communism:** form of government under which one party owns all property and businesses; citizens enjoy few rights.

**Conscience:** the complex of ethical and moral principles that controls or inhibits the actions or thoughts of an individual.

**Containment:** the U.S. method of keeping communism from spreading during the Cold War.

**Conversely:** in a contrary or opposite way; on the other hand.

**Democracy:** form of government run by elected officials under which all citizens enjoy many freedoms and rights.

**Deposed:** removed from office or position, especially high office.

**Dictators:** a person exercising absolute power, especially a ruler who has absolute, unrestricted control in a government without hereditary succession.

**Dismantle:** to take apart.

**Disseminating:** to spread widely; broadcast.

**Dissolution:** breaking up of a bond, union, or dissolving into parts.

**Egalitarian:** asserting, resulting from, or characterized by belief in equality of all people, especially in political, economic, or social life.

**Equality:** quality or state of being equal.

**EMBOFFS:** Embassy Officers.

**Foist:** to force upon or impose fraudulently or unjustifiably.

**Free Enterprise:** free trade and the abstention from interference in the market (see free market).

**Free Market:** economic system of private ownership; free trade (see free enterprise).

**Grievances:** affront, injustice, hurt, injury, or distress.

**Gulag:** forced prison labor camp in the Soviet Union.

**Haggard:** having a gaunt, wasted, or exhausted appearance, as from prolonged suffering, exertion, or anxiety.

**Incarceration:** imprisonment; jail.

**Indefeasible:** not liable to be annulled or forfeited.

**Interferes:** to act in a way that impedes or obstructs others.

**Internal Exile:** a state of comparative isolation imposed upon certain political dissidents within the former Soviet Union, in which the subject was forced to live in a remote and often unfamiliar place and in which freedom of movement and personal contact with family, friends, and associates were severely restricted.

**Iron Curtain:** a barrier to understanding the exchange of information and ideas created by ideological, political, and military hostility of one country toward another, especially such a barrier between the Soviet Union and its allies and opposing countries.

**Irrespective:** without regard to something else, especially something specified; ignoring or discounting.

**Lenin, Vladimir:** born in 1870, he was a Marxist leader forced into exile until 1917, when he led the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and became the first leader of the Soviet Union (died- 1924).

**Means of Production:** the raw materials and means of labor (tools, machines, etc) employed in the production process.

**Medium - and Intermediate - Range Ballistic Nuclear Missiles:** Nuclear missiles that when launched can travel from 700 miles to over 3,000 miles dependent on its range.

**NATO:** (North American Treaty Organization) collection of Western nations, for the purpose of collective defense against aggression.

**NJM:** New Jewel Movement, socialist or communist political party in Grenada.

**NSC:** National Security Council of the United States.

**Philosopher:** a person who offers views or theories on profound questions in ethics, politics, and other related fields.

**PM:** Prime Minister, the leader of the government in some countries.

**Political Ideology:** certain set of ideals, principles, doctrines, myths, or symbols of a large group that explains how society should work, and offers some political and cultural outline for social order.

**PRA:** People's Revolutionary Army, Grenada's military in the early 1980's that supported the rebel government following Bishop's death.

**Processions:** the act of moving along or proceeding in an orderly manner, such as a line of people.

**Prodigy:** a marvel; a person so extraordinary as to inspire wonder.

**Propaganda:** media used to influence others toward a cause or position.

**Recapitulate:** to review by a brief summary, or summarize.

**Redress:** the setting right of what is wrong.

**Regime:** a government in power.

**Requisites:** needed, needful.

**Resonated:** to resound; influence profoundly.

**Reunification:** to bring together again.

**Siberia:** an extensive region of northern Russia, a typical place of miserable banishment.

**Slanderous:** false statement or report causing injury to reputation.

**Socialism:** a theory or system of social organization that advocates the vesting of the ownership and control of the means of production and distribution, of capital, land, etc., in the community as a whole.

**Socialist/Socialist Political Party:** a supporter or advocate of socialism or any party promoting socialism.

**Socioeconomic:** the combination or interaction of social and economic factors.

**Solitude:** a lonely or secluded place.

**Stateless Society:** a society that is not governed by a state, there is little authority; if authority does exist it is very limited in power and are generally not permanent.

**Stalin, Joseph:** born in 1879, he succeeded Lenin as the leader of the Soviet Union, created a totalitarian state, crushing all opposition. He instigated rapid industrialization and the collectivization of agriculture and established the Soviet Union as a world power (died- 1953).

**The Communist Manifesto:** a book written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848 which outlined the problems with capitalism and presented an alternative to the class struggle.

**Totalitarian:** centralized government that does not tolerate parties of differing opinion and that exercises dictatorial control over many aspects of life.

**Warsaw Pact:** collection of Soviet bloc nations, for the purpose of collective defense against aggression.



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