

1. Creator: Stephen Sack

Title: "See No... Hear No... Speak No..."

Publication: Ft. Wayne Journal

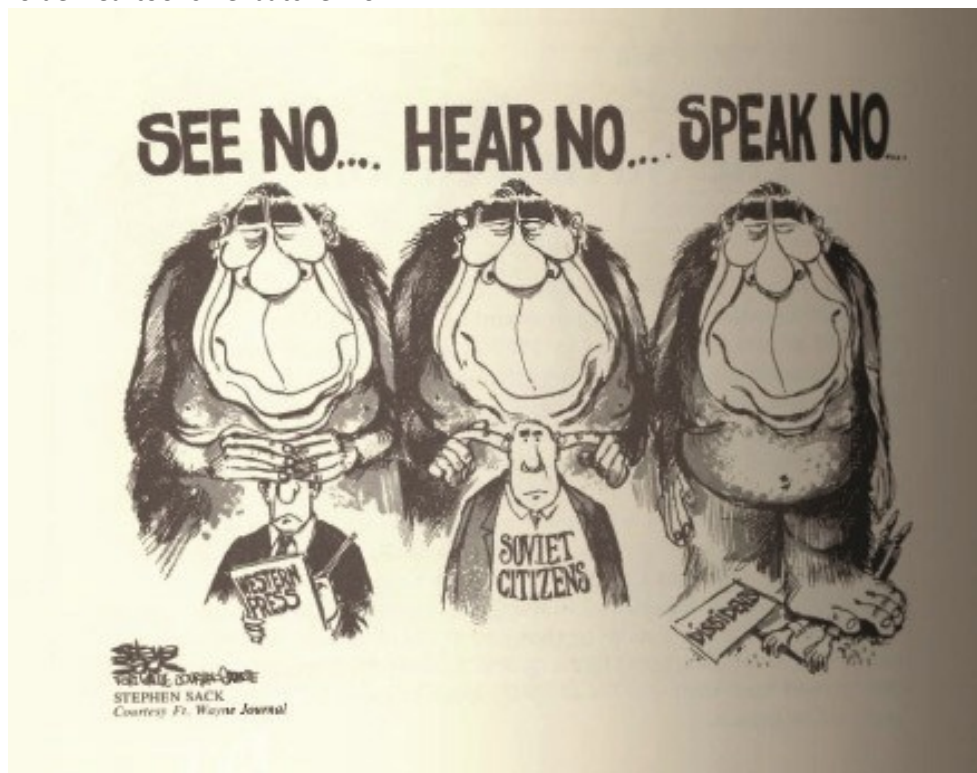
Publication Date: Unknown, 1978-1979

Description: In 1964 Leonid Brezhnev took over as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Part of the Soviet Union after Nikita Khrushchev was removed from power. He presided over the USSR from 1964 until his death in 1982. Some of Brezhnev's early changes were to remove the liberalizing reforms made of Khrushchev. Cultural freedom was limited and the secret service, the KBG, regained power. In 1973, the Soviet Union entered an era of economic stagnation which led to unhappiness among the Soviet people. Brezhnev continued the policy of détente with the United States, limiting arms but at the same time building up Soviet military strength.

Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks.

Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1979

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2. Creator: Mike Keffe

Title: Untitled

Publication: Denver Post

Publication Date: Unknown, 1980- 1981

Description: Elections were held in the USSR and the United States in 1979 and 1980 respectively. The 1980 presidential campaign was between incumbent Democrat Jimmy Carter and Republican candidate, Ronald Reagan. The election was held on November 4, 1980. Reagan won the electoral college vote by a landslide. In the Soviet Union, elections were held but for appearances only. Vladimir Lenin and the other Bolshevik leaders dissolved the Constituent Assembly in 1918. Under Stalin's rule the position of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party became synonymous with "leader of the Soviet Union." In 1980, the government was controlled by nonelected Communist Politburo

members, the Central Committee and a parliament type group called the Supreme Soviet, who only met briefly throughout the year. In Soviet elections, citizens voted for members of the Supreme Soviet but only candidates approved by the Communist leaders were listed on the ballot.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1981

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3. Creator: Jack Ohman

Title: Untitled.

Publication: The Detroit Free Press

Publication Date: Unknown, 1982- 1983

Description: Leonid Brezhnev, leader of the Soviet Union, died on November 10, 1982 and was quickly succeeded by Yuri Andropov. Andropov was the former head of the KGB, the secret service in the USSR. During his time as leader, he continued the Communist hard line and dismissed those who violated party, state, or labor discipline. Also, during this time relations between the USSR and US deteriorated. It was during Andropov's reign that President Ronald Reagan referred to the USSR as the "evil empire." In 1983, Andropov suffered renal failure and died in February 1984, after just fifteen months in office. Konstantin Chernenko succeeded him, despite concerns for his failing health. Chernenko died after only a year in office and it was then the leaders of the Communist Party decided it was time for younger leadership and appointed Mikhail Gorbachev, aged 54, as leader.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1983

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4. Creator: David Horsey

Title: Untitled.

Publication: Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Publication Date: Unknown, 1987-1988

Description: On March 11, 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected General Secretary by the Soviet Politburo, the high-ranking policy making government authority in the USSR. He instituted reforms such as glasnost ("openness") and perestroika ("restructuring") to fix the stagnating Communist Party and the economy. During this time, there was less censorship and greater freedom of information. Glasnost did allow more discussion but Communist leaders still tried to control it. Those speaking out too loudly were harassed by the KGB or arrested. By 1989, the reforms had moved beyond what Gorbachev has expected and some of the Soviet states used glasnost to assert their rights. The media began to expose social and economic problems and the negative aspects of Soviet life were brought to life.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1988

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5. Creator: Jim Borgman

Titled: Soviet Economy

Publication: Cincinnati Enquirer

Publication Date: Unknown, 1989-1990

Description: Along with the policy of glasnost, Mikhail Gorbachev also instituted the reform of perestroika, or restructuring. It was mostly associated with the economy as Gorbachev allowed some market-like reforms. The goal of perestroika was to make the socialist system more efficient not to dismantle it. The 1988 Law of Cooperatives allows some private ownership of businesses but with high taxes and employment restrictions. The state decentralized some aspects of the economy but maintained price controls and control over the means of production. By 1990, the government had lost control over economic conditions and the reforms had created new problems in the USSR.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1990

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6. Creator: Chip Beck

Title: Trick or Treat '89

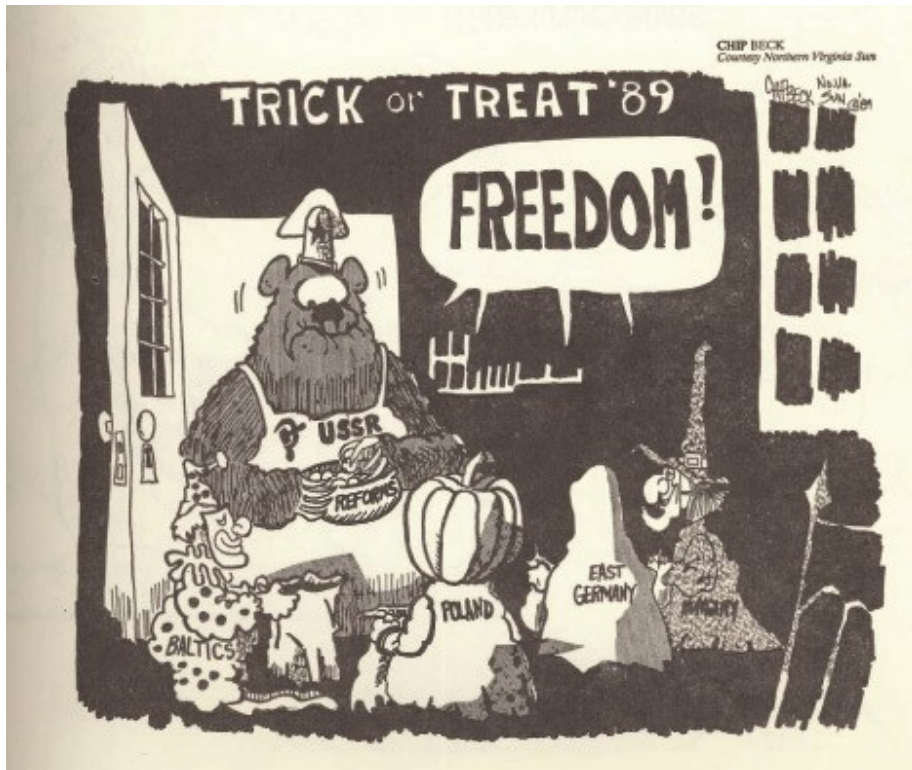
Publication: Northern Virginian Sun

Publication Date: Unknown, 1989-1990

Description: Mikhail Gorbachev took control of the USSR in 1985 and instituted reforms such as glasnost and perestroika. These reforms had unanticipated consequences, such as when Soviet states and satellite countries began asserting their rights. Nationalist feelings strengthened, and calls for greater independence grew louder. In 1989, semi-free elections were held in Poland and the Communists were voted out of office with Solidarity, trade union federation winning the election. Hungary and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania soon followed. Gorbachev abandoned the Brezhnev Doctrine and said he would not interfere in Eastern European countries.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1990

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7. Creator: Robert Ariail

Title: Unknown

Publication: Columbia State

Publication Date: Unknown, 1990- 1991

Description: The USSR dissolved between 1990- 1991. Many factors contributed to the collapse but failures of the Gorbachev reforms are a large part. It was difficult to control the changes within the confines of the Soviet Communist Party. In June 1991, Boris Yeltsin won the first democratic elections in Russia to become the president of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. In August, Communist hardliners, who wanted to maintain Soviet control staged a coup in an attempt to overthrow Gorbachev. The coup collapsed after three days, followed by the Soviet Union. The USSR officially ceased to exist on December 31, 1991.

Source: Source: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* ed. Charles Brooks. Pelican Publishing Press, Gretna, 1991.

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ROBERT ARAIL  
Courtesy Columbia State (S.C.)

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