

**President Ronald Reagan: Evil Empire Speech House of Commons, June 8, 1982**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1982reagan1.html>

We're approaching the end of a bloody century plagued by a terrible political invention -- totalitarianism. Optimism comes less easily today, not because democracy is less vigorous, but because democracy's enemies have refined their instruments of repression. . . . **If history teaches anything, it teaches self-delusion in the face of unpleasant facts is folly.** We see around us today the marks of our terrible dilemma--predictions of doomsday, antinuclear demonstrations, an arms race in which the West must, for its own protection, be an unwilling participant. At the same time we see totalitarian forces in the world who seek subversion and conflict around the globe to further their barbarous assault on the human spirit. What, then, is our course? Must civilization perish in a hail of fiery atoms? Must freedom wither in a quiet, deadening accommodation with totalitarian evil?

We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings. So states the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, among other things, guarantees free elections. . . . The objective I propose is quite simple to state: to foster the infrastructure of democracy, the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities, which allows a people to choose their own way to develop their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means. . . .

This is not cultural imperialism; it is providing the means for genuine self-determination and protection for diversity. Democracy already flourishes in countries with very different cultures and historical experiences. It would be cultural condescension, or worse, to say that any people prefer dictatorship to democracy. Who would voluntarily choose not to have the right to vote, decide to purchase government propaganda handouts instead of independent newspapers, prefer government to worker-controlled unions, opt for land to be owned by the state instead of those who till it, want government repression of religious liberty, a single political party instead of a free choice, a rigid cultural orthodoxy instead of democratic tolerance and diversity. . . .

(T)he march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people. . . . Our military strength is a prerequisite to peace, but let it be clear we maintain this strength in the hope it will never be used, for the ultimate determinant in the struggle that's now going on in the world will not be bombs and rockets but a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve, the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish, the ideals to which we are dedicated . . . .

**Russia Following the Collapse of Communism**

Source: "A Country on the Verge" by Murray Feshbach, *The New York Times*, 5/31/03

Category	1990	Today (2000-2003)	Future Projections
Population	Soviet Union: 290 million. Projected growth by 2010: 330 million. Russia: approx. 147 million	145 million	2050: 101 million
Fertility: 2.15 children per woman needed to maintain pop.)	1.89 children per woman	1.25 children per woman	2050: 1.6 to 1.75 children per woman
H.I.V. cases	Virtually unknown	Official Russian figure is 240,000; the United Nations AIDS organization estimates 750,000 to 1.2 million	2020 estimate: 5.3 million to 14.5 million
AIDS deaths		Total to date: 593	2010 estimate: 72,000 to 120,000 per year. 2020 est.: 252,000 to 648,000 per year.
Deaths by alcohol poisoning	1991: 16,100	2001: 41,100	
Tuberculosis cases		Official Russian estimate is 135,000; World Health Organization est. 196,000	
Life Expectancy	Estimated total for all people, Soviet Union: 75 years.	Russian men average 58.2 years, women 72 years. American men average 74 years, women 79 years.	