

Example 1

Communism in the 20th century went through a transformation that resulted in it being viewed as a pariah among the various other economic and political systems available to the world. When Karl Marx first developed his theory, it was generally well received by members of the working class and peasantry across Europe, though the monarchy and bourgeoisie despised and feared it. In the Soviet Union it was the utopian ideas of Marx that prompted the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. Once in practice however, it didn't take long for an oligarchic system to take hold which was not significantly different than the aristocracy and monarch that had preceded it. Around the world, communism remained a system that the disenfranchised looked to as a beacon of hope, with rebel movements that supported it continuing to the close of the 20th century. In America and the Western world however, initial feelings of distaste for communism became mixed with admiration during World War 2 (despite Stalin having killed almost as many of his own people as the Wermacht did), but these feelings soon were transformed into a total abhorrence after the close of the war and the alliance of convenience came to a close.

In most of the 3rd world communism was regarded as a wonderful system that would help the poor become middle class, and bring the wealthy oppressor down from their perch. Every rebel group from the Vietcong to the Sandinistas used it as their rallying cry to rouse the people into action, but never did any of these revolutions yield anything other than an oligarchy or autocracy. In Eastern Europe communism was brought about at gunpoint by the Red army. After pushing all the way to Berlin in 1945, the Soviets simply remained there after the conclusion of the war. Events such

as the 1956 uprisings in Hungary and Poland revealed that this was simply a system of brutality and oppression that had strayed far from the ideas of Marx. In the PRC Mao Tse-Tung went on a rampage against his own people that made Stalin and Hitler appear tame by comparison, all in the name of communism and the revolution. Anywhere a communist government could be found, a trail of blood was found as well. Be in the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot or the Korean Workers Party under Kim Il Sung, communism everywhere in the world was quickly establishing itself as the most reviled political system ever devised. When this is combined with the fact that the Soviet Economy, once 2nd in the world, crippled itself as a result of its communist practices, communisms status as a liability was guaranteed.

Example 2

Communism stopped being an attractive political ideology after WWII and became a political liability. Before and during the WWII soviet nation being the first communist nation was doing better than the European nations in poverty and it was attracting the proletariat class even though it was an opposing ideology to the imperialist governments like Britain it was not a bigger threat than the Nazis to the western nations. Communism became a liability when Soviets became more powerful and gained more land and was going for more control in Eastern Europe as it gained more enemies. After WWII and during Cold War people of communist government under harsh government control not getting back what they deserve from the government and being deprived of their property (places like Poland) had no sympathy to communism. People comparing east to west could now see Imperialism recovered after WWII and communism lost its attraction. People of East Berlin fleeing to West these were all signs of communism losing its power. Even today Communism in World continues its descend.

Example 3

I believe Communism was a liability after WWII because the Great Depression's fall and its affects, support from other countries, and new concepts for balancing employment and increase in the economy and living standards. Author of "*On the Homefront*" named Gregory explained in 1930's and 40's where Americans were suffering from the Great Depression, unemployment and capitalism seemed to have failed therefore homeless people, crime rates, and death increased while economy and living standards decreased, so people were attracted to the idea of equality and guaranteed employment. While in the other side of the world Stalin gave citizens almost no say in the government, took away freedom of speech and religious rights, other countries therefore did not support Communism. There was no such thing as class, unemployment and suffering for money in Communism, especially during World War Two when it was even harder to make a living, people were blinded by this idea. Once the idea of a better living came about called "New Course", which allowed the economy to increase by using resources properly and efficiently and raising living standards again, Communism did not seem so attractive to people. People then realized that communism is not the way to go; capitalism was taken away, the right to religious freedom was taken away, and production and supply was at a constant level with no increase or decrease in the economy or in life's standards (found on MSN's Encarta). Once people understood this fact it was a little too late and became a big problem by the 1990's, because it had spread through many countries and war had broke out.

Example 4

Soon after the defeat of the Germans and the Japanese in World War II, many countries wanted peace and to make their countries prosper. The postwar economic boom helped the United States increase their GNP and a free market society contributed to the United States and their Allies success. This led to an increase in the overall industrialization in these countries and foreign trade flourished. Communism created unfavorable economic conditions, decreased productivity among workers, food shortages and failure to keep up with technological advances. Stability within Communist governments diminished when the dictators of those countries who did not believe wholly in Communism, in turn this created a negative effect among its peoples. Corruption within these governments led other countries to not trust Communist countries and their practices.

Example 5

After the Second World War there was incredible economic growth due to a boom in technological innovation and changes in global economics. Many countries reacted to this boom by looking to socialist ideologies to create the "Great Society" by ways of the guarantor state. The idea behind the guarantor state is the redistribution of money through taxes so that that money can benefit the greater good. These ideas lead to programs that hoped to solve the problems of poverty, hunger, infrastructure and healthcare. When the economy slowed, which it was bound to do, and when Soviet communism collapsed, it became obvious to the entire world that brand of communism could not work. The economy could not keep up with the growth of capitalist countries because of the growth of the global economy. The reason the ideology of communism became a political liability in the 1990's is the economies of different countries could no longer support the programs that they had put in place. When many companies became multinational, the labor that companies were able to get in developing countries was much cheaper than at home. This lead to a high rate of unemployment in their country and thus more people relying on welfare. As economic growth slowed, tax payers were less likely to support the benefits given to the poor and many conservatives thought that those benefiting from the guarantor state found it easier to collect government benefits than to work. By the 1990's leaders found that in-order for their economies to thrive they must minimize the role of government.

Example 6

The origins of communism are political and social and thus were an attractive option for many countries plagued by poverty and ravaged following WWII. In theory communist countries were established around a centrally-planned economy and single party rule that were intended to eradicate the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" and have everyone live in affluence, wanting for nothing. Life at the end of WWII was characterized by the scramble for political power and global dominance, and in communist countries this resulted in the rise dictatorial governments who squelched individual freedoms and were vehemently opposed to Western capitalism and all it entailed. Fast forward 50 years, however, and what was once a desirable political ideology has become a political liability. Life in the second half of the twentieth century was marked by economic growth and technological change, two things that communist countries were unable to bring about at any relevant pace. The world trend of globalization meant that people in countries where outside information was once heavily censored now became aware of just how behind they were in terms of social and economic development. Additionally, communist ideology implied sameness and national commonality. However, by the late 80s globalization had also brought about notions of individual identity and difference (Findley and Rothney, p. 447). This is directly counter to the premise of sameness and commonality that is communism. Sparked by Gorbachev's policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, (Findley and Rothney, pp 307, 308) the Soviet Union became the first to examine its guiding principles in the hopes of reforming itself. Ironically it was these very policies that exposed the deep and irreparable cracks and led to the unraveling of communism in the end.