

Observations: Chapter 26 / Section A (Pages 1033 – 1038)

1. What happened in Eastern Europe seemed to be the domino theory in reverse: nations *did not* fall to communism, but rather, as one nation rejected communism, so too did its neighbor
2. Kennan was right: the schizophrenic realities of Russia, and the cracks in the foundation, eventually caused the entire system to collapse in on itself (implosion)
3. This turn of events had a major ripple effect:
 - a. Eastern Europe
 - b. All of Europe
 - c. The US and Soviet Union
 - d. Global
4. In many ways, this resembled revolution from the past
 - a. The issue of raised expectations
 - b. How the leaders tried to stay in front of all of this
 - c. For some, the changes went too far
 - d. For others, the changes did not go far enough
 - e. The big difference is that unlike many past revolutionary leaders who were in power and who, either on purpose or inadvertently, reverted back to old habits and followed rather traditional blueprints regarding how to stay in power, Gorbachev did not; he allowed the situation to unfold in its own way
5. Keep in mind the basic definition of a revolution or a revolutionary event:
 - a. A big change...
 - b. That happens quickly...
 - c. That effects many people...
 - d. For a long time
 - e. Focus on what changes, why it changes, how does it change, the rate of change, and the impact of the change