

This article was published in the Scientific Journal NovaUm.Ru №28 in 2020 in Russian.  
This article has been translated into English by its author Shchemelinin K. S.  
The original article on Russian can be read at:

<http://www.schemelinin.com/KS-collapse-USSR-2020.pdf>

<https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=44499277>

---

**Konstantin Sergeyevich Shchemelinin (rus: Константин Сергеевич Щемелинин)**

**ORCID:0000-0002-3636-1583**

**NOT THE DESINTEGRATION OF THE USSR, BUT THE DEPARTURE  
OF THE REGIONAL TERRITORIES FROM RUSSIA**

**Annotation.** On the basis of historical analogies, it was concluded that in 1991 the outlying territories fell away from Russia in the form of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Keywords:** *USSR, Soviet Union, modern Russia*

**Introduction.** In 1991, an event took place, which is usually called the collapse of the USSR - a large, powerful state independently was divided into fifteen separate independent countries.

This article will not discuss the causes or consequences of this collapse. The purpose of this article is to analyze the collapse of the Soviet Union from a historical point of view by drawing analogies.

**Main part**

**Analysis № 1.** "breakup" is a term that means the spontaneous division of the object under consideration into several comparable parts.

Example № 1. The collapse of the empire of Alexander the Great. This large political formation independently divided into several separate kingdoms, comparable in strength to each other, which began to fight with each other ("wars of diadochi").

Example № 2. Division of the Roman Empire into Western and Eastern. As a result of internal processes, the great Roman Empire, united before this event, was divided into two parts, approximately equal in area and strength - Western and Eastern.

Example № 3. Collapse of the Mongol Empire. The huge Mongol empire on its own, from internal reasons, split into four independent ulus (states).

Nothing of the kind described in examples 1, 2 and 3 happened in 1991!

In 1991, on the site of the former Soviet Union, fifteen independent states were formed, and one of these countries is Russia:

1. Became the legal successor of the USSR.
2. Retained "veto power" at the UN.
3. Reserved all the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union.
4. It turned out to be the nucleus of a new post-Soviet association - the CIS (Union of Independent States).
5. It turned out to be the largest and most powerful state formation in the territory of the former USSR.
6. Kept within its borders most of the Russian people settled in the territory of the former USSR.

It is noteworthy that all the newly independent states were located on the periphery of Russia.

As can be seen from analysis No. 1, there was virtually no collapse of the USSR, but there was a falling away from Russia of its outlying territories.

**Analysis № 2.** If we take the Soviet Union as a starting point, then, indeed, in 1991 the USSR collapsed and disintegrated; but the Soviet Union cannot be taken as a starting point: the USSR existed for only seventy years, but Russia existed for hundreds of years before the Soviet Union, and, by now, it has existed for about thirty years, therefore, only Russia should be taken as a starting point, for the USSR was only one of the forms of existence of Russia (the same as, for example, the Russian Empire and the Russian kingdom).

"Also, but in a slightly different way, Russia has gathered around itself all the nations located on its outskirts: Finns, Poles, Malorussians, Caucasian peoples, Armenians, Turkmen, Tungus, etc." [1].

In addition, the events of 1991 fit into the fifth principle - the principle of over-expansion of Collins's theory: "excessive expansion of the state due to the growing alienation of distant subordinate peoples and the growth of the logistics cargo control leads to its disintegration or loss of outlying territories" [2].

As can be seen from analysis № 2, in 1991, its outlying territories fell away from Russia, which took place in the form of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The final reasoning from analyzes № 1 and № 2: in 1991, its outlying territories fell away from Russia, and the external manifestation of this political process was the liquidation of the Soviet Union.

### ***Periodization of historical processes in the territory of the former USSR***

From a historical point of view, the processes that began in 1991 on the territory of the former USSR can be described as follows:

#### ***Stage 1. Separation from Russia of some of its outlying territories***

1988-1991.

This process began in 1988, when Estonia declared its sovereignty, and ended in 1991 with the liquidation of the Soviet Union.

#### ***Stage 2. Time of internal stabilization of Russia***

1992-2007 years.

During these years, the internal political situation in Russia stabilized: in 1993, the country's Constitution was adopted, internal separatist aspirations were suppressed, and from the beginning of the 2000s, the Russian economy began to grow sharply along with the rise in world prices for oil and other minerals.

#### ***Stage 3. The process of full or partial incorporation of some territories previously lost by Russia into Russia***

Since 2008; continues at the present time.

2008 was the time of the armed conflict in South Ossetia, as a result of which two regions of Georgia - Abkhazia and South Ossetia - were recognized by Russia as independent states.

In fact, in the period from 2008 to the current 2020, only one region became part of Russia - Crimea. But on the territories of partially recognized states - Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as unrecognized countries - Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, the main currency is not some local currency, but the Russian ruble, from which it can be concluded that Russia economic partially controls these state entities. In addition, since 2019, citizens of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics have been massively receiving Russian citizenship according to a simplified procedure, which indicates the growing political control of Russia over these territories.

***Has the process of the outlying territories falling away from Russia completed?***

**From a historical point of view, the process of falling away of the outlying territories from Russia ended in 1991, and in 2008 the reverse process of the entry of some territories into Russia began.**

**Conclusions:**

1. The collapse of the USSR in 1991 is part of a longer process of separation of the outskirts from Russia, which took place in 1988-1991.
2. The processes in the Soviet Union that took place in 1991, from a historical point of view, it would be more correct to call "the falling away of the outskirts from Russia" or "the falling away of the outlying territories from Russia in the form of the collapse of the USSR" rather than "the collapse of the USSR".
3. The process of falling away of the outlying territories from Russia ended in 1991.
4. From 2008 to the present, there has been a process of full or partial incorporation of some territories of the former USSR into Russia.

**References:**

1. Nauman F. Middle Europe. Quoted from: Geopolitics: Reader / Comp. B. A. Isaev. SPb.: Peter, 2007. P. 47–61. URL: <http://grachev62.narod.ru/hrest/chapt37.htm> (date accessed 12/10/2020, on Russian).
2. Rozov N. S. Geopolitics, geoeconomics and geoculture: the relationship of dynamic spheres in the history of Russia // Social sciences and modernity. 2011. № 4. P. 111 (on Russian).