1. Why was there opposition to Soviet control in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968), and how did the USSR react to this opposition?

**Causes:**

De-Stalinisation caused problems because people in Hungary looked at Russia slackening control and wanted that in their country

Religion as the Communists had practically banned worshipping religion and imprisoned Cardinal Mindszenty for opposing communism, angering Catholics

Poland: Gomulka had managed to make changes in Poland without a Russian reaction

Excessive Soviet control: people were annoyed because of censored media, the secret police (AVH) and the Russians exploiting their economy

**Causes:**

Novotny: he had begun to lose control due to a few things such as: A clumsy handling of a student protest (death involved), a broken economy being exploited by the Russians, huge censorship of the media and lack of other freedoms.

Dubcek: A more liberal and popular communist who took over from Novotny. He announced some changes he wanted to make under his ‘New Model of Socialism’ (see next box down for details). Popular with the people.

Believed USA would help them: Many people there believed that they would receive assistance if challenged by the Soviets

**Opposition leader and changes made:**

**NAGY**

Removed state control of media.

Encourages political and economic reform.

Encouraged democracy, freedom of speech and religion.

Freed Mindszenty and others.

Said he would leave the Warsaw Pact.

Appealed to NATO to recognise Hungary’s independence.

**Opposition leader and changes made:**

**DUBCEK (Dubstep): The Prague Spring**

Increased individual liberties.

Allowed other political parties (even though he was supposedly communist).

Freedom of speech.

Less government control over Industry.

Wanted to stay in the Warsaw Pact, but had a visit from Josef Tito, a communist not in the Warsaw pact who resided on the other side of the Iron Curtain

**Soviet reaction:**

Fighting: 25th Oct—the Soviets try to oppose this violently and are met with 4000 Hungarians with machine guns. Soviet Union send in 1000 tanks and many men to end this by force, and do!

Punishment: Many ring leaders of the resistance are killed or imprisoned

Change of leadership: The Russians replace Nagy with Kadar and Nagy is executed in June 1958

**Soviet Reaction:**

Brezhnev Doctrine: A policy announced which meant that the USSR would not allow any Eastern European country to reject communism and would use Warsaw Pact troops to maintain it.

Fighting: 500,000 Warsaw pact troops march into Czechoslovakia and are met with peaceful resistance (as advised by Dubcek). Only 70 civilians were killed and student, Jan Palach, burnt himself to death in protest to the Soviet invasion.

Change of leadership: Gustav Husak put in as new leader, Dubcek allowed to live

**Summary:** Both Hungary and Czechoslovakia are examples of nations being oppressed by an almost tyrannical regime and rising up against this control and making changes. The USSR did not want to lose Eastern Europe because they made a lot of money from them, kept a buffer zone between themselves and the capitalist word and had a huge symbol of dominant communism on one side of the continent. Although there are some similarities, there are huge differences also. You will find a comparison on the next page...