Brezhnev, Soviet Politician

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Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was the archetypal Soviet politician associated with classic Cold War politics in the 1970's. Seen as a hard line Communist, Brezhnev's rise in Soviet politics was slow but sure. He was Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party from 1964, and President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1964 to 1982. Brezhnev held a number of important government posts in the former Soviet Union, and was the best remembered by Russians, as the leader of the Soviet Union in the 1970's and 1980's. He oversaw a period of growing global influence for the Soviets, but also repression and awarded patronage. Brezhnev's death on November 19, 1982 marked the end of an era in Soviet politics.

Brezhnev was born on December 19, 1906 in the Ukrainian village of Kamenskoye. In 1968, Soviet tanks rolled into Prague, crushing a brief wave of political dissent in Czechoslovakia. Brezhnev greets Gerald Ford upon his arrival at Vozdvizhenka for the Soviet Union extended its diplomatic and political influence into Eastern Europe. During World War II, Brezhnev was drafted into the army where he was a political officer. Leonid Brezhnev – Russiapedia

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