Brezhnev, Soviet Politician

Paul J Murphy

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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 led the Soviet Union from 1964 until his death in 1982. He was the Soviet leader who oversaw the period of détente with the West. However, the Brezhnev era was also marked by increasing authoritarianism and repression within the Soviet Union.

Paul J. Murphy

Brezhnev: Soviet Politician

In 1968, Soviet tanks rolled into Prague, crushing a brief wave of political reform in Czechoslovakia. Brezhnev, who had been a key figure in the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, now became the de facto leader of the Soviet Union. He held this position until his death in 1982.

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