

### Outline for Term Paper

As I began to research the foundations of the *National Salvation Front*, and in so doing looked for ways to connect the Soviet Union to the demise of Nicolae Ceausescu, I came to the conclusion that I would indeed be reporting on the basis of mere speculation. However, in the midst of my research I came to find a very dynamic and interesting relationship between Romania and the Soviet Union under Communist rule. For this reason, I have chosen to write about the antagonisms that define Soviet-Romanian relations during Communist rule.

➤ **Early Politics: Foundations of Russian-Romanian relations after WWII.**

1. Communist party unpopular in Romania
2. After 1947, under leadership of Gheorghiu-Dej and Stalin, party consolidates  
⇒ purges
3. Stalin in control: nationalization, no civil liberties, coercion, forced industrialization.
4. Religion consolidated: Ministry of Cults, Orthodox Church, Uniate Church.  
⇒ Romanian identity seriously undermined; antagonisms abound.

➤ **"From Minion to Maverick"--Katherine Verdery: early signs of Romanian nationalism.**

1. Late 1950's early 1960's: Romanian industry crisis.  
⇒ Romania refuses to focus on agriculture.  
⇒ "Declaration of Independence"(1964)--against control from a supranational body.  
⇒ Only industry = autonomy.  
⇒ Industry = National Pride
2. Soviet Troop Withdrawal in 1958
3. Warsaw Pact invasion of Czech.

➤ **Rise of Ceausescu: Dej protégé, Ministry of Agriculture (1949), Ministry of Armed Forces(1950), Central Committee (1952), Politburo (1954), First Secretary (1965).**

1. Ceausescu accelerates national identity and independence from Soviet Union: Overview
2. Ceausescu builds National Ideology  
⇒ Devout Socialist, but believed in "more than one path".  
⇒ "July Theses"--the "new man".  
⇒ Country's right to internal diversity--"mutual non-interference".

➤ **Ceausescu and the Soviet Union: 1964-1981**

1. Political Differences:

- ⇒ Refused Comintern terms
- ⇒ Distanced himself from Warsaw Pact:
  - Denounced Czech invasion
- ⇒ Distanced himself from Soviet policy
- ⇒ Friendly with West:
- ⇒ Different Military style: Insisted on his own system
- Patriotic Guards, Securitate, Guerillas.



2. Economic Differences:

- ⇒ Distanced from Comecon
  - By 1970, Romanian trade w/ Soviet Union reduced from 2/3 to less than 1/2.
  - Trade with West rose dramatically
  - Signed GATT in 1971
  - Joined IMF in 1972
  - Trade Preferences with Europe in 1973
  - U.S. Most-Favored status in 1975.
- ⇒ Ceausescu wanted heavy industry--Stalinist model
  - Very high rates of investment--carried into 1980s.

➤ **Ceausescu rule in the 1980s: Romania becomes its own worst enemy, its own Russia.**

1. By 1980s, Romania was more centralized than the Soviet Union

- ⇒ "Over-organized Chaos"
  - Persecuted entrepreneurship
  - Raided private plots
  - No free enterprise; no reforms

2. 1981: Debt and bad economy--beginning of end for Ceausescu

- ⇒ (To pay debt) Forced up investment and limited imports
  - Shortages
  - Resources become source for struggle.

3. 1985-1987: Gorbachev reforms, speech in Bucharest in 1987

- ⇒ Ceausescu's demise:
  - Romania questions price of autonomy
  - Romanians now looked to Soviet Union for hope!!
  - Gorbachev seen in 1987 as the savior that Ceausescu portrayed in 1965.
  - Many preferred rule from Moscow
- ⇒ Perestroika and Glasnost:
  - Ceausescu against property rights, market economy, decentralized planning
  - Ceausescu ardent Leninist--Centralized planning.
  - Refused to enact slow reforms--called for even more rapid eco. Development.
  - Penalty over incentive



4. Demise of Ceausescu: "Miracle of December"