

## **Back in the USSR**

### **Active Vocabulary:**

- Fall of the Soviet Union – падение Советского союза
- To collapse – развалиться, распадаться
- Russian empire
- Nostalgia – ностальгия
- To feel nostalgic about smth – ностальгировать о чем-либо
- To feel homesick – скучать по дому (или родине)
- High morale – крепкий боевой дух
- To be committed to Soviet ideas - быть приверженным
- comrade - товарищ
- The Axe of Evil – Ось зла
- socialist state/ single-party state – социалистическое государство
- To suppress people – подавлять людей
- To intimidate and humiliate sb – запугивать и унижать
- To seize power – захватить власть
- To pose a threat – представлять угрозу для кого-то
- To launch a satellite - запустить спутник
- To be equal – быть равными
- To brainwash people – промывать мозги людям
- To exterminate freedom of press – уничтожить свободу слова
- To breach human rights – нарушать права человека
- Soviet legacy – советское наследство
- one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – один из пяти постоянных членов совета безопасности ООН
- self-sufficient – самодостаточный
- original, unique, off the beaten track – самобытный
- cultural identity – самобытность культуры
- to be deprived of smth – быть лишенным чего-то

### **Questions for discussion:**

- 1) Do you happen to remember Soviet times? Are these your personal memories or stories told by your relatives or friends?
- 2) Do you miss anything from USSR times? What in particular?
- 3) Did you feel brainwashed in Soviet times? Do you feel it now?
- 4) Do you agree that many things in modern Russia's reality are very alike with the Soviet times?
- 5) What political regime fits our people most?
- 6) What can you call Soviet legacy which modern Russia may still be using?
- 7) What are the biggest advantages and disadvantages of USSR times?
- 8) What are the most famous USSR stereotypes?

- 1) In the Soviet army it takes more courage to retreat than advance. - **Joseph Stalin**
- 2) Ronald Reagan used to alarm his Soviet counterparts by saying that surely they'd both unite against an invasion from Mars. - **Christopher Hitchens**
- 3) Whoever does not miss the Soviet Union has no heart. Whoever wants it back has no brain. - **Vladimir Putin**
- 4) "The rules are simple: they lie to us, we know they're lying, they know we know they're lying, but they keep lying to us, and we keep pretending to believe them." – Elena Gorokhova.
- 5) "In Russia we only had two TV channels. Channel One was propaganda. Channel Two consisted of a KGB officer telling you: Turn back at once to Channel One." — Yakov Smirnoff, commenting on his life under Soviet rule.
- 6) I take small bites of the carrot to make it last; the carrot is delicious. When hunger gnaws inside my belly, I tell myself that a future Pioneer has to repress cravings for such unimportant matters as food. – unknown records