

December 13th



3 Cold War Crises  
The Prague Spring



**Learning Gain:** By the end of this sequence of lessons I...  
Will be able to *explain* the causes, events and consequences of the Prague Spring.



**Learning Steps:**

- Examine the context of the Cold War in the late 1960s.
- Explore the causes of the Czechoslovakian Uprising.
- Learn what happened during the Uprising.
- Study the Soviet Response.
- Reflect on the consequences of the Uprising.

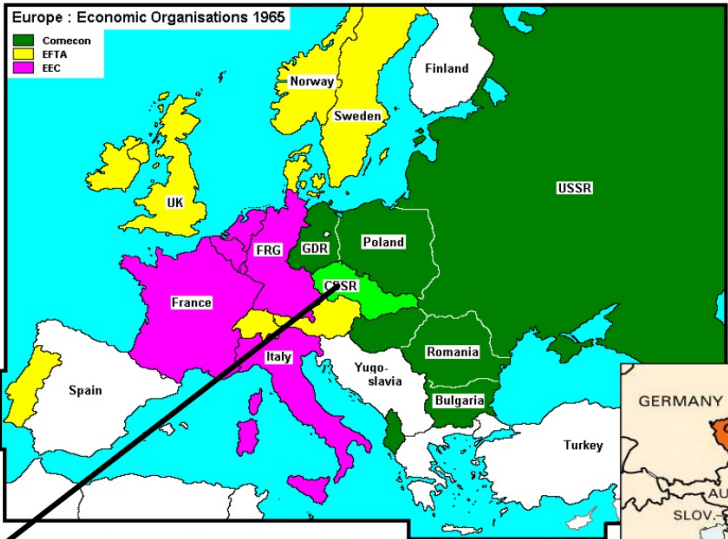


## A New Communist Leader -



He replaced Khrushchev as leader of the USSR in 1964 after Khrushchev was regarded to have failed in his handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Brezhnev's first challenge came in 1968 with the Czechoslovakian Revolution:**



## CAUSES OF THE PRAGUE SPRING:

Czechoslovakia had been a Soviet satellite state since 1948.

However the Czech people felt bitter towards the loss of their political and economic independence.

Czechoslovakia had been a strong democracy in the years between the two wars.

They resented the fact that the Czech economy seemed to be run entirely for the benefit of the USSR.

After the shock of the Cuban Missile Crisis a period of Detente between east and west gave the Czech's some hope that they could free themselves of repressive rule.

Some even hoped the USA might support them.



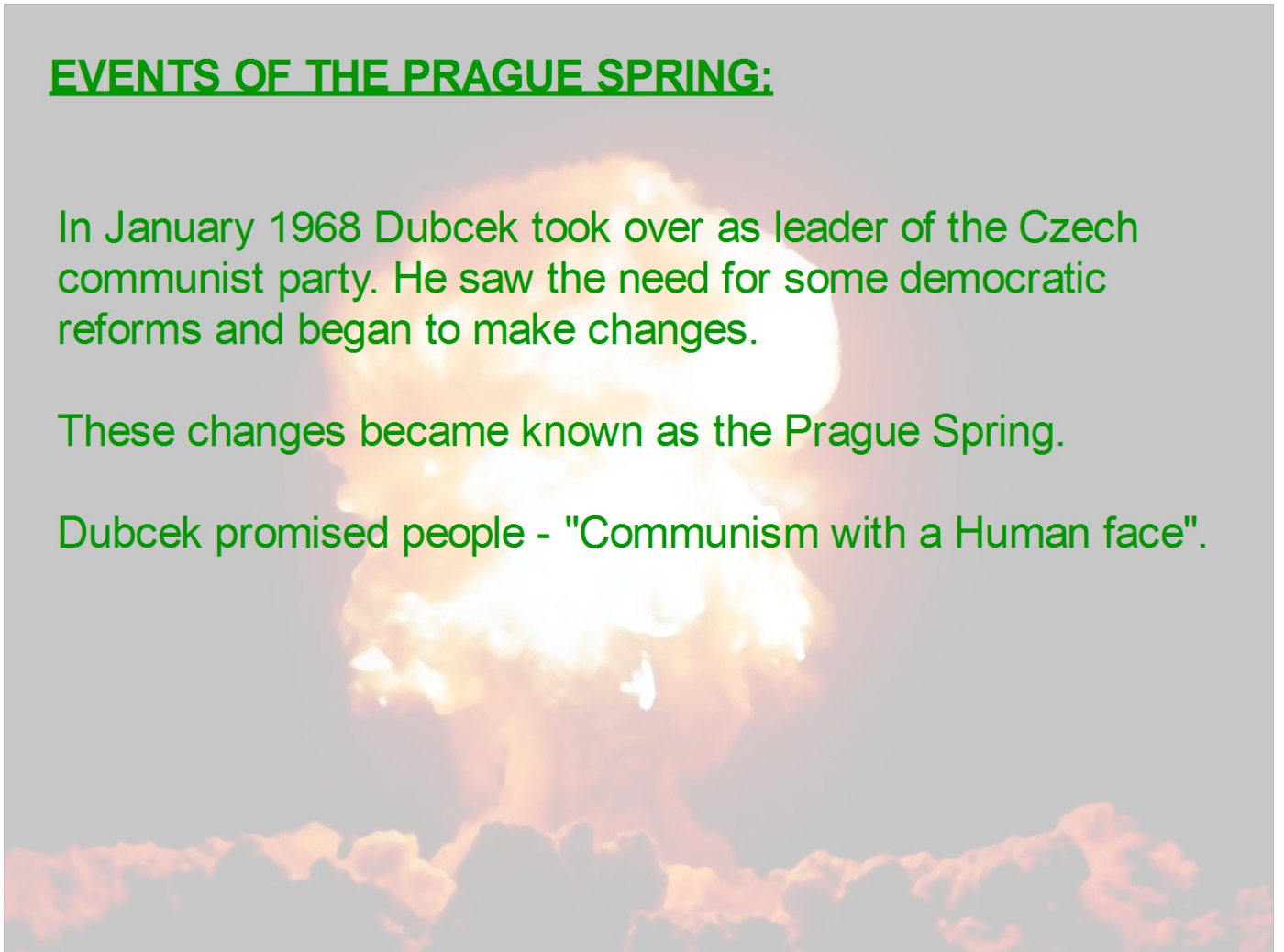
Protests demanding change led to the fall of the leader of Czechoslovakia in 1967 - Novotny the hard line Soviet supported leader was replaced with the reformer Dubcek.

## EVENTS OF THE PRAGUE SPRING:

In January 1968 Dubcek took over as leader of the Czech communist party. He saw the need for some democratic reforms and began to make changes.

These changes became known as the Prague Spring.

Dubcek promised people - "Communism with a Human face".



Increased standard  
of living.

Freedom to travel  
abroad.

Powers of the  
secret police  
reduced.

Plans to trade with  
the west.



End of media  
censorship

Free elections

Opposition parties  
allowed.

Provision of basic  
human rights.

This was all unheard of in the Soviet sphere and Dubcek did try to reassure Brezhnev that his changes would not threaten the security of the Soviet Union and that he would not leave the Warsaw Pact.

Sorry Dubcek I remain unconvinced Comrade, like Truman I have my own Doctrine ya!

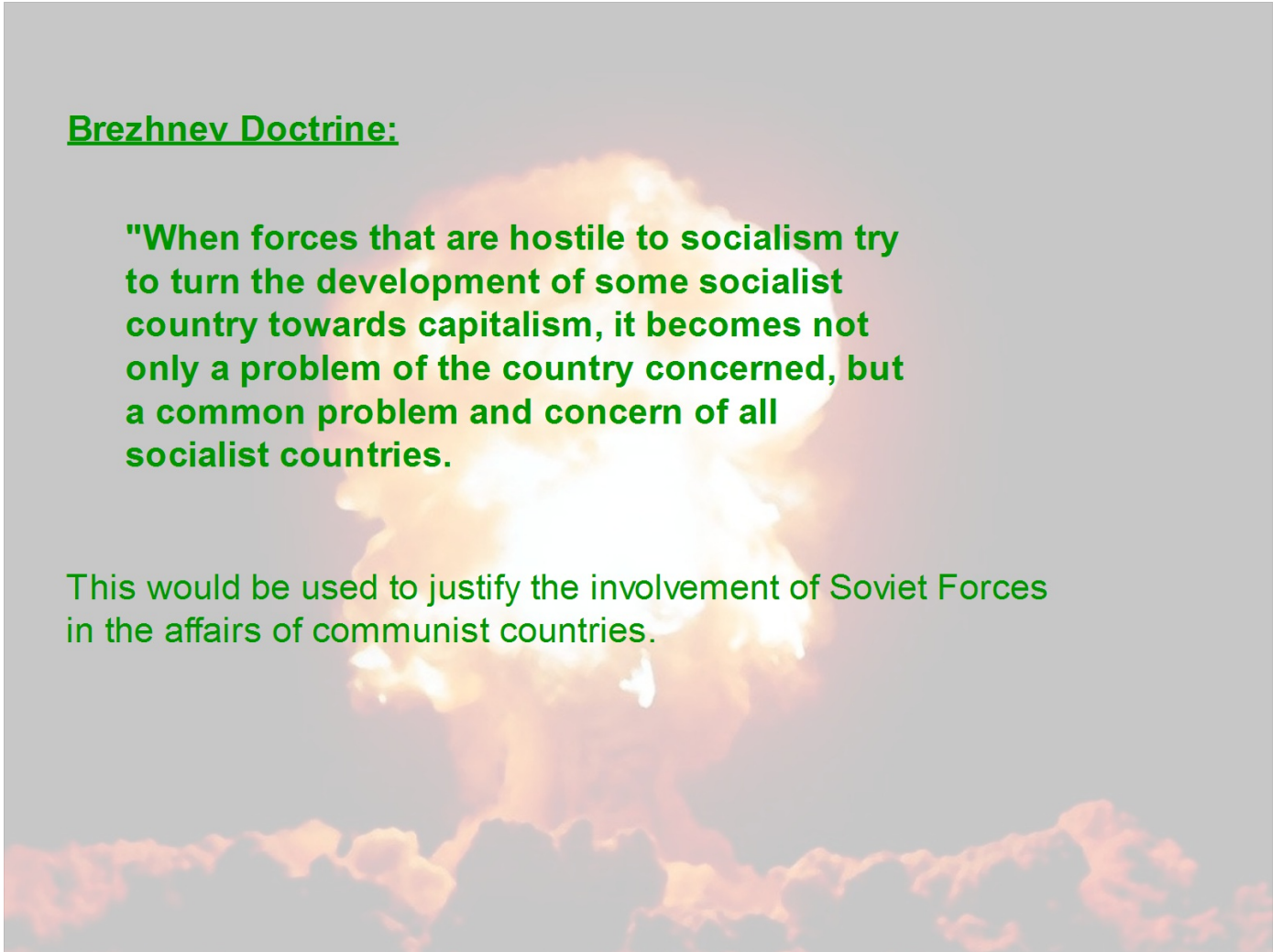




### Brezhnev Doctrine:

**"When forces that are hostile to socialism try to turn the development of some socialist country towards capitalism, it becomes not only a problem of the country concerned, but a common problem and concern of all socialist countries.**

This would be used to justify the involvement of Soviet Forces in the affairs of communist countries.





Faced with the continued defiance of Dubcek - Brezhnev ordered in the tanks.

Warsaw Pact forces numbering 500,000 invaded Czechoslovakia.

The Czechs had learned from Hungary in 1956 and only resisted in non-violent means.

Eventually all resistance was crushed.

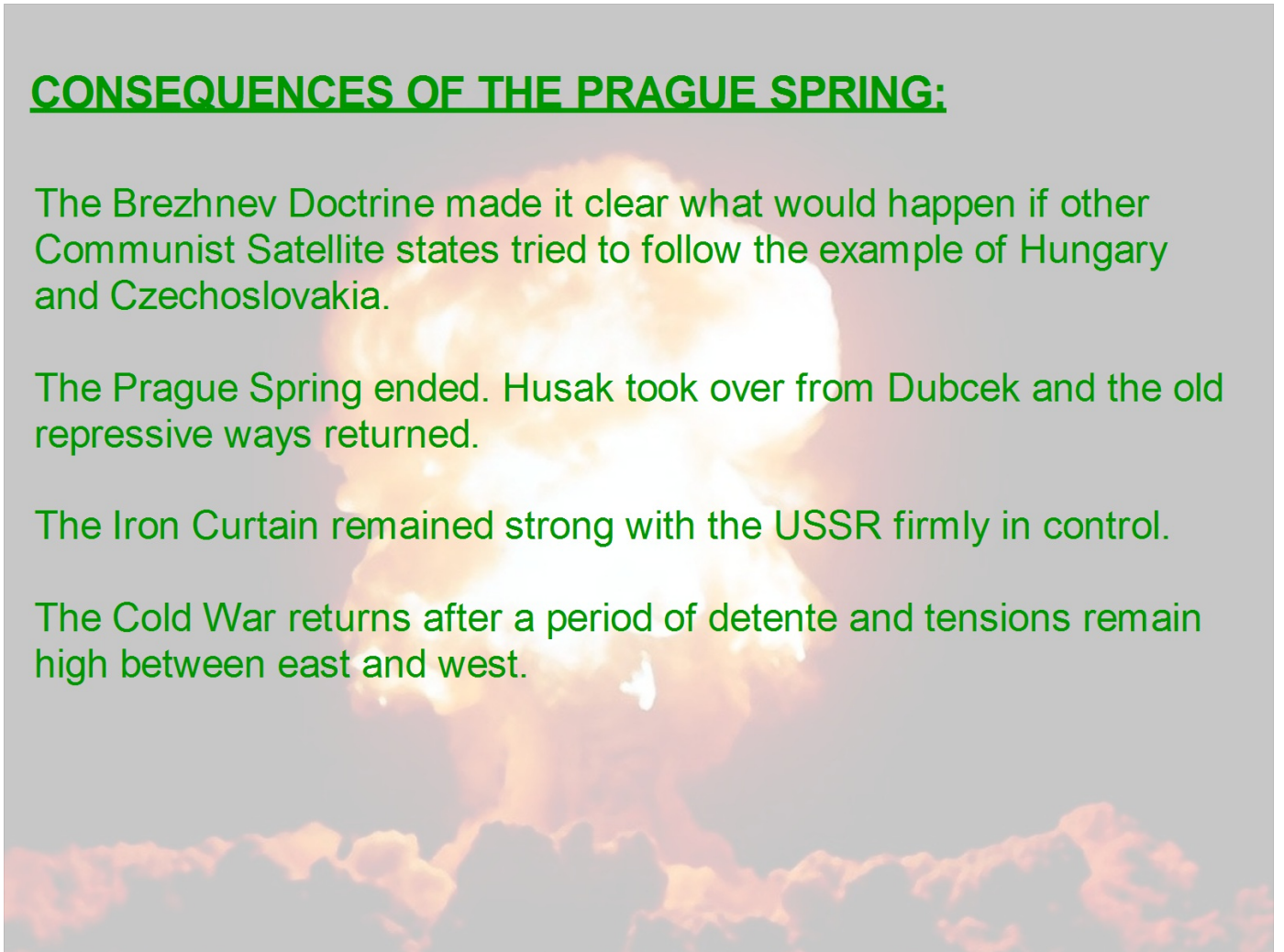
## CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRAGUE SPRING:

The Brezhnev Doctrine made it clear what would happen if other Communist Satellite states tried to follow the example of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Prague Spring ended. Husak took over from Dubcek and the old repressive ways returned.

The Iron Curtain remained strong with the USSR firmly in control.

The Cold War returns after a period of detente and tensions remain high between east and west.

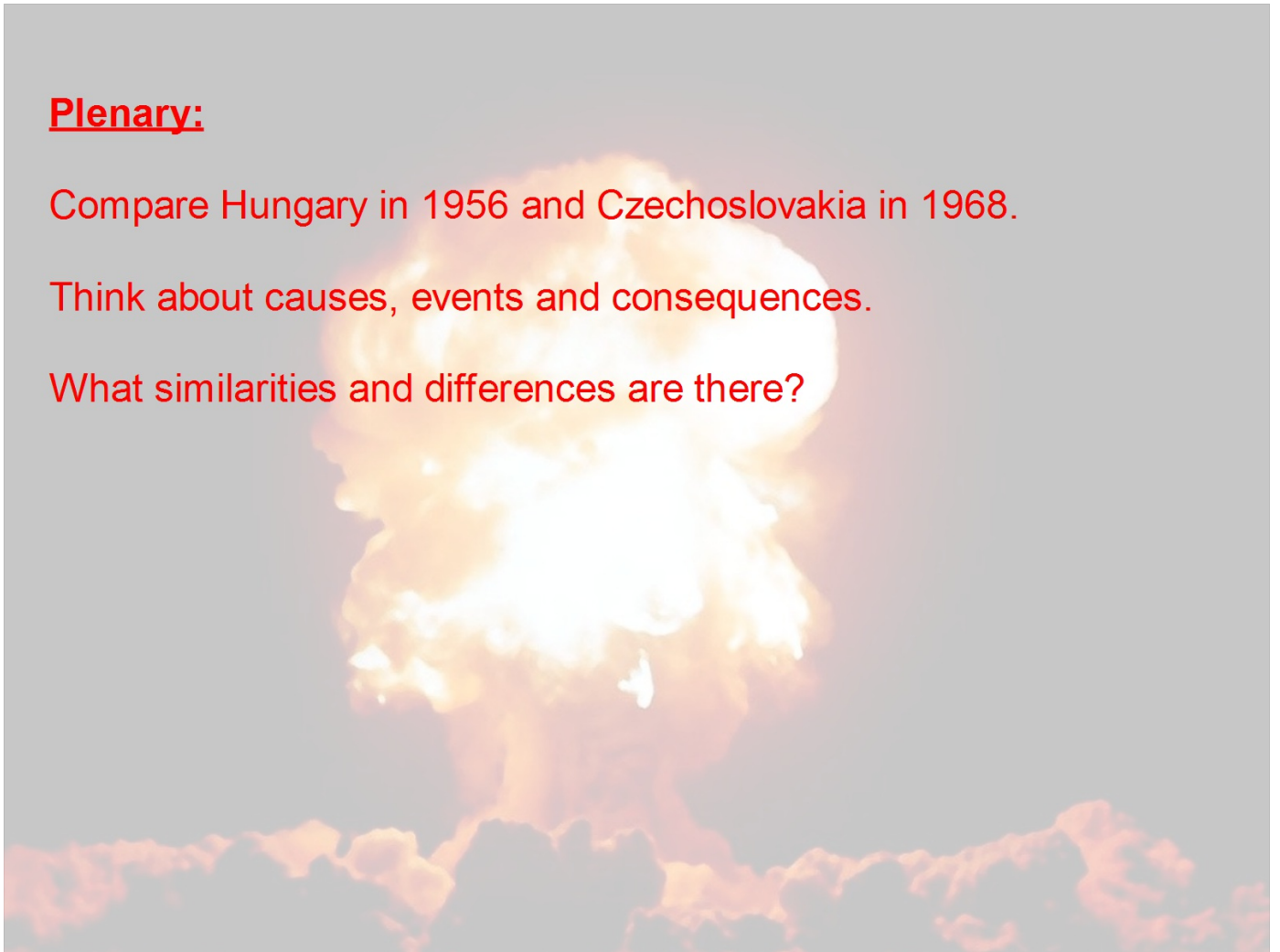


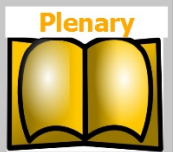
**Plenary:**

Compare Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Think about causes, events and consequences.

What similarities and differences are there?





## Similarities

Hungary

Czechoslovakia

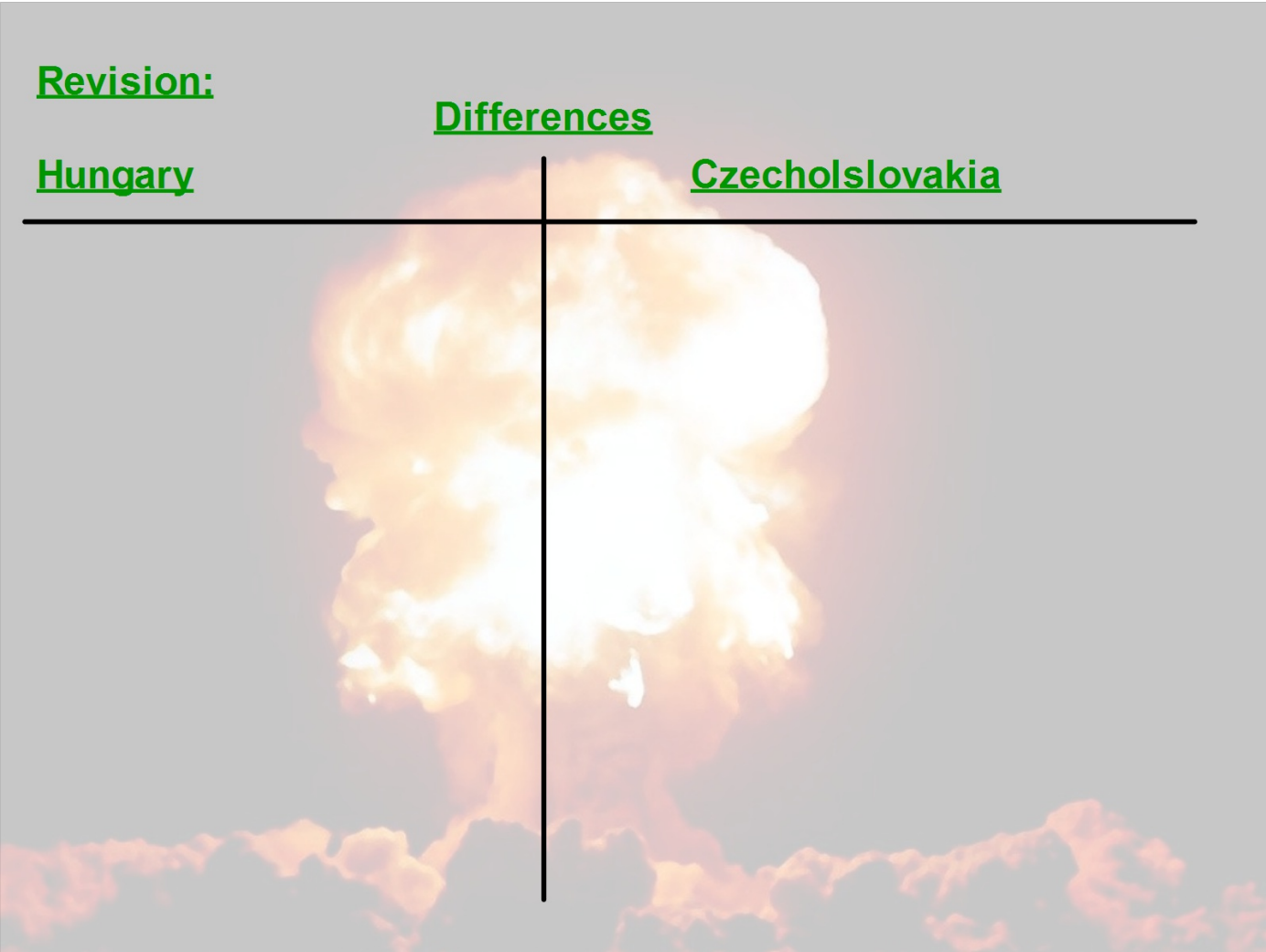


Revision:

Differences

Hungary

Czechoslovakia





## Paper Chain Challenge



**Using the slips of paper provided create a historical paper chain that compares and contrasts the uprisings in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.**



**On one colour write a SIMILARITY between the two uprisings then write its matching pair on another colour.**

**Then link them together to form a chain.**

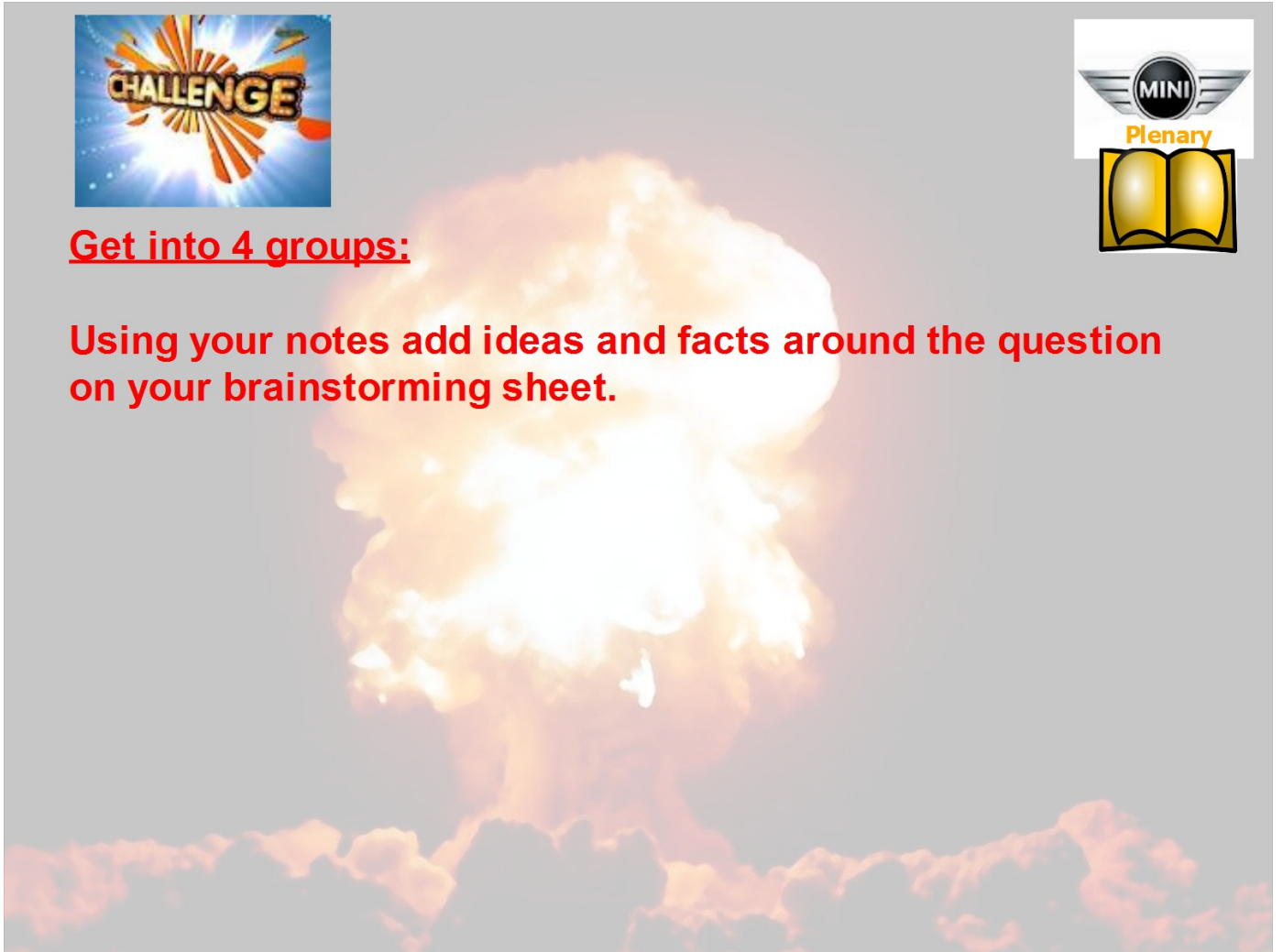
**See how long you can make the chain.**

**REPEAT the process for differences between the two uprisings.**




**Get into 4 groups:**

**Using your notes add ideas and facts around the question on your brainstorming sheet.**







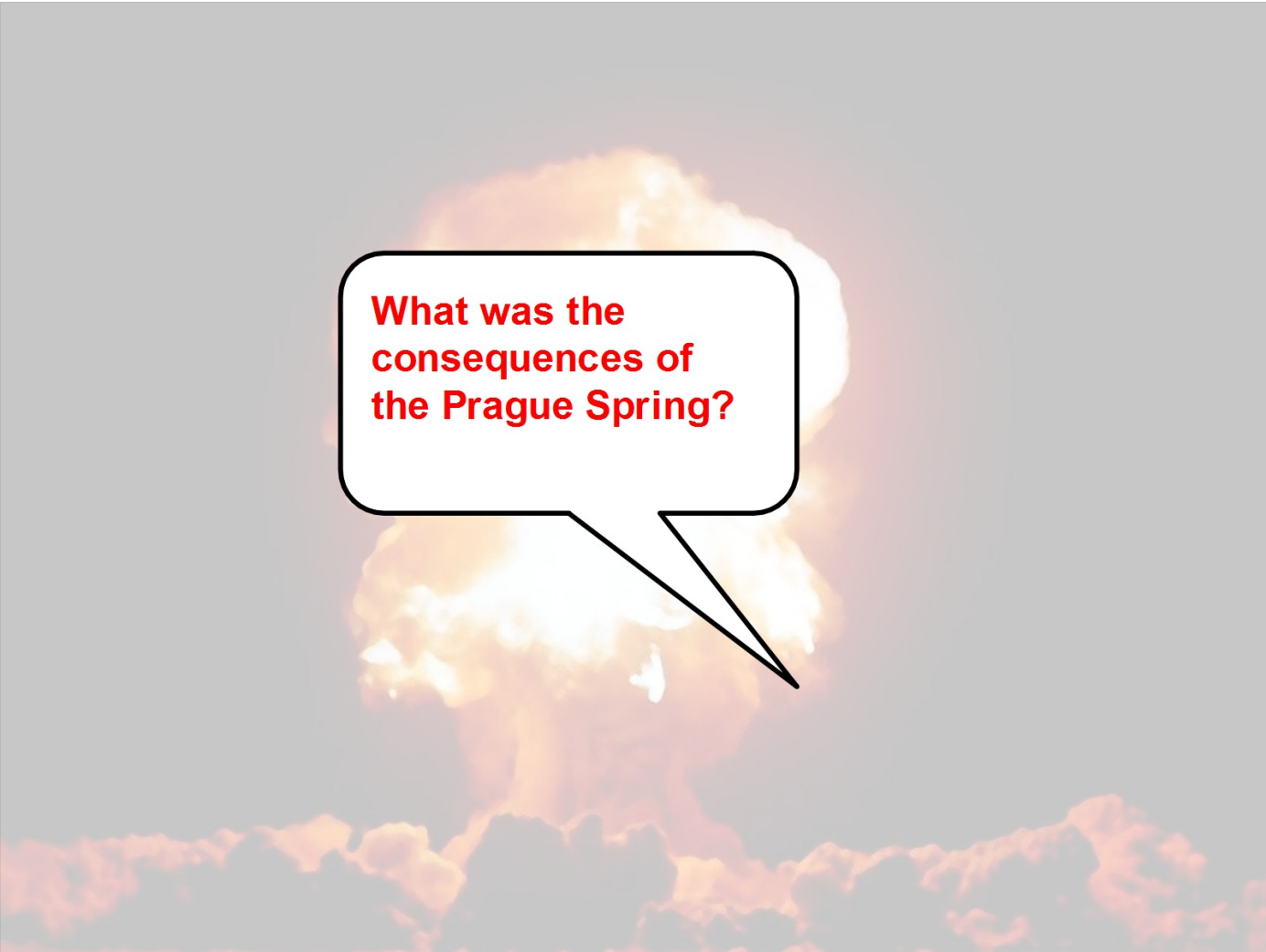
**Why was there a  
revolution in Czech.  
in 1968?**

A large, glowing orange and yellow nuclear mushroom cloud is centered in the background. The cloud has a bright, intense core at its base, which fades into a more diffuse, billowing top. The entire scene is set against a dark, greyish-blue background. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the center of the image, overlapping the mushroom cloud. Inside the speech bubble, the text "What happened in the Prague Spring?" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**What happened in  
the Prague Spring?**

A large, glowing orange and yellow nuclear mushroom cloud rises from a layer of dark, smoky clouds at the bottom. The background is a solid grey color.

**Why did the Soviets  
crush the  
revolution?**

A large, glowing orange and yellow nuclear mushroom cloud is centered in the background. The cloud has a bright, fiery core at its base, which transitions into a thick, billowing column of smoke and fire. The top of the cloud is a large, billowing, white and orange-tinted cloud that spreads out. The background is a dark, greyish-blue gradient.

**What was the  
consequences of  
the Prague Spring?**