This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film My Perestroika.

My Perestroika is an intimate look at the last generation of Soviet children. Five classmates go from living sheltered childhoods to experiencing the hopes of Gorbachev's reforms and the confusion of the USSR's dissolution, to searching for their places in today's Moscow. With candor and humor, the punk rocker, single mother, entrepreneur and married teachers paint a picture of the challenges, dreams and disappointments of those raised behind the Iron Curtain. Through first-person testimony, vérité footage and vintage home movies, this beautifully crafted documentary reveals a Russia rarely seen on film.

ADULT NONFICTION

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union


Snyder, Timothy. Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin. New York: Perseus Book Group, 2010. This is the story of how two dictators ruthlessly killed millions of people in the name of colonization and collectivization of the land.


Delve Deeper into My Perestroika
A film by Robin Hessman

Ward, Christopher J. Brezhnev’s Folly: The Building of BAN and Late Soviet Socialism. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009. This is a look into the late Soviet-era 2,000 mile railway project that was intended to unite a nation and open up trade routes for Soviet products.


US/USSR Diplomacy


Schweizer, Peter, ed., and Wynton C. Hall, ed. Landmark Speeches of the American Conservative Movement. College Station: TAMU Press, 2007. This collection includes powerful speeches by noted modern conservative icons, such as Ronald Reagan’s landmark 1983 ‘evil empire’ speech.

Perestroika & the Disintegration of the USSR


Gorbachev, Mikhail. Gorbachev. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. This trilogy of essays by the former Soviet leader covers topics ranging from the 1917 revolution to the collapse of the Soviet empire, and foreign relations.


Political Leadership during the Modern Era


Gibbs, Joseph. Gorbachev’s Glasnost: The Soviet Media in the First Phase of Perestroika. College Station: TAMU Press, 1999. The evolution of the Soviet press is examined as state control loosened under Gorbachev’s reforms and as glasnost evolved. Topics examined include the media’s lack of coverage on the accident at Chernobyl and how media freedom provoked the discontent of the people as the Soviet economy collapsed.


The Post-Soviet Period


Delve Deeper into My Perestroika
A film by Robin Hessman

Colton, Timothy J. Yeltsin: A Life. New York: Basic Books, 2008. This is a comprehensive survey of Yeltsin’s rise and fall from power.


Galeotti, Mark, ed. The Politics of Security in Modern Russia. Farnham (UK): Ashgate, 2010. This is an objective and balanced examination of the ways in which security has played and continues to play a central role in contemporary Russian politics


Yurchak, Alexei. Everything Was Forever Until It Was No More. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005. Yurchak asks the question: what was it about life during the period of “late socialism” (1950s-1980s) that made the collapse of the Soviet Union so unexpected to most insiders and outsiders?

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union


Matthews, John R. The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union. Farmington Hills: Gale, 1999. This survey of the rise and fall of the Soviet Union is perfect for the junior high and high school reader.


US/USSR Diplomacy

Smith, Samantha. Journey to the Soviet Union. Santa Fe: Ocean Tree Books, 2005. This is a ten-year-old author’s account of her 1982 letter to Soviet President Yuri Andropov, his response, and her subsequent journey to the Soviet Union.