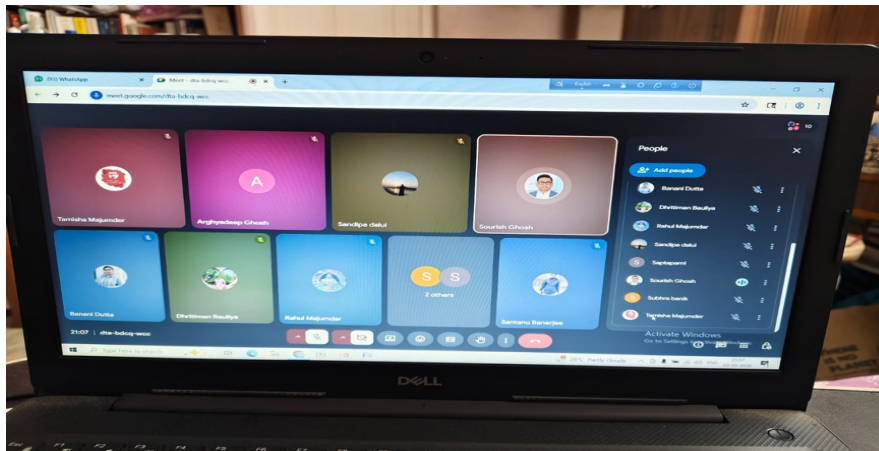


Online Lecture on Fall of the Soviet Union 03.05.2026



Dr. Sourish Ghosh, Faculty, Department of Political Science, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College was invited by the Department of History, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College to deliver a lecture to the students of Semester VI on Sino-Soviet Border Conflicts on 3rd May, 2026 at 7pm via Google Meet.

The online lecture began with the argument from Francis Fukuyama in his seminal text “The End of History” written on the backdrop of the fall of the Soviet Union which argues that the triumph of Western liberal democracy marks the endpoint of humanity's ideological evolution. He said “at the end of history, it is not necessary that all societies become successful liberal societies, merely that they end their ideological pretensions of representing different and higher forms of human society.” At that very time, Jacques Derrida delivered a plenary lecture at “Whither Marxism?” conference at the University of California in 1993 which later turned into a book named “Spectre of Marx” where he contradicted the claim of liberal writers like Fukuyama on the fall of the Soviet Union and deconstruction of Marxism after the Cold War.

Turning from this ideological debate that had unfolded after the fall of the Soviet, the lecture briefly touched upon the rise of the Soviet Union and the role of the satellite states. The lecture then caresses through the factors that were/are believed to have contributed in the fall. First, the political factors were discussed, especially focusing on the role of the Soviet Communist Party and the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev. Second, the economic factor where policies like Glasnost and Perestroika have been briefly analysed. Third, in the military factor, the rat race for armaments and how it took a toll on the Soviet's budget were taken into account. Fourth, in the social factor, the opening of Mc. Donald's in Moscow and the role of Jazz music which led to the triumph of the “American Dream” in the 1990s and which had a profound impact on the satellite states were discussed. Fifthly, the nuclear factor, which dealt with the making of the atom bomb and the Chernobyl crisis, which led to final dissociation of the satellite states were discussed as well. And finally, the Afghanistan war of 1979 and how it put a knell in the Soviet's coffin was mentioned in the conclusion.