

## History of Romania under the Ceausescu Regime – Key Points

- Nicolae Ceausescu was born in 1918.
- He came into power in 1965 as the General Secretary of the Communist Party.
- Under his reign the electricity was often cut. It was turned off between the hours of 6 and 8pm. It was switched back on for an hour and a half for the news. The news consisted of Ceausescu speaking for an hour to the country.
- Ceausescu would make the people of Romania wake up as early as 4am and queue for food.
- He denied the people of Romania access to contraception at a time of severe food and energy shortages in order to boost the countries declining population.
- He believed that a bigger population equated to power.
- He also offered women money and other significant benefits if they had 5 or more children. Mothers with 10+ were deemed to be “heroin mothers”.
- With such large families and such little resources many Romanian mothers often abandoned their new born children, leaving thousands suffering in underfunded state run orphanages.
- Nicolae Ceausescu was responsible for the deaths of thousands of people before being assassinated on Christmas Day 1989.