

When Blocs Broke

Trace how Soviet reforms reshaped Europe and the wider world.

10.6c “The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the communist bloc in Europe had a global impact.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one Soviet reform in paragraph 1. Circle one change in Eastern Europe in paragraph 2 and one international effect in paragraph 3.

Reforms That Reached the World

- ① In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev inherited a Soviet economy with shortages, slow growth, and costly military commitments. Perestroika, or restructuring, introduced limited economic reforms to improve efficiency. Glasnost, or openness, allowed more public discussion and criticism. Gorbachev wanted to renew the Soviet system, not dissolve it. Yet economic problems persisted, and greater openness exposed government failures. Citizens demanded rights and accountability, while nationalist movements challenged central control. Reform interacted with older problems rather than causing collapse by itself.
- ② Changes spread through the Soviet bloc, but local opposition movements also had their own histories and goals. In 1989, protesters and reformers challenged communist governments in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, and elsewhere. Gorbachev did not use Soviet troops to preserve those governments, unlike earlier interventions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968. Berlin Wall checkpoints opened that November. Communist rule collapsed across much of Eastern Europe, weakening the division between rival blocs.
- ③ Within the Soviet Union, economic disruption, independence movements, and a failed hard-line coup weakened central authority. By the end of 1991, its fifteen republics were independent states, including Russia, Ukraine, and the Baltic countries. The United States emerged as the sole remaining superpower, changing the global balance. Former Soviet allies lost a major source of support. Nuclear security became urgent because Soviet weapons were located in several successor states. Arms-reduction cooperation continued, but the end of bipolar rivalry did not end regional wars or guarantee democracy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What were perestroika and glasnost? State the goal of each reform.

2 Why did the reforms have effects Gorbachev had not intended?

3 Why were reform movements in Eastern Europe more able to challenge communist governments in 1989?

4 Identify two global effects of the Soviet Union's collapse or the end of the Cold War described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain a chain of change. Include one Soviet reform, one change in Eastern Europe, and one global impact of the end of the Cold War.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one Soviet reform in paragraph 1. Circle one change in Eastern Europe in paragraph 2 and one international effect in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were perestroika and glasnost? State the goal of each reform.	Perestroika was economic restructuring intended to make the economy more efficient. Glasnost was openness that allowed more public discussion of government problems.
2	Why did the reforms have effects Gorbachev had not intended?	He wanted to renew the system, but openness exposed failures and encouraged demands for rights, while economic problems and nationalist challenges persisted.
3	Why were reform movements in Eastern Europe more able to challenge communist governments in 1989?	Gorbachev did not send Soviet troops to stop the changes, unlike earlier Soviet leaders who had used force against challenges in Eastern Europe.
4	Identify two global effects of the Soviet Union's collapse or the end of the Cold War described in the passage.	Examples: the United States became the sole remaining superpower; former Soviet allies lost support; weapons in successor states created nuclear-security concerns; arms-reduction cooperation continued.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Glasnost allowed criticism that exposed Soviet government failures. Local opposition and Soviet nonintervention helped communist governments fall in Eastern Europe in 1989. The later Soviet collapse left the United States as the sole superpower and raised nuclear-security concerns across successor states.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect a reform, change in the communist bloc, and a global result stated in the passage. Students may use different valid examples of global impact from the final paragraph.