

Pressure, Reform, Change

Trace how several forces weakened Soviet power and ended the Cold War.

11.9d "A combination of factors contributed to the end of the Cold War, including American policies and Soviet economic and political problems that led to the loss of Soviet control over Eastern Europe."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline U.S. policies. Circle Soviet problems and reforms. Mark developments that weakened Soviet control in Eastern Europe.

Why Soviet Control Faded

- ① In the 1980s, President Reagan combined pressure on the Soviet Union with negotiations. Higher defense spending and NATO missile deployments intensified competition. The proposed Strategic Defense Initiative raised questions about future missile defense. Reagan also met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Their 1987 INF Treaty required elimination of a category of land-based missiles, whether nuclear or conventionally armed. Diplomacy offered a way to reduce tensions as military competition continued.
- ② The Soviet economy struggled with shortages, inefficient production, and the costs of military commitments. Communist Party restrictions limited debate, while daily problems weakened confidence in official claims. Gorbachev introduced perestroika, economic restructuring, and glasnost, greater openness. Restructuring did not quickly resolve economic problems. Openness enabled criticism and demands for political change. Reforms intended to strengthen the system helped expose its weaknesses and loosen party authority.
- ③ Eastern European citizens and reformers also drove change. In 1989, Solidarity won a sweeping victory in Poland's partly free elections, followed by a noncommunist-led government. Hungary opened its border with Austria, allowing East Germans to leave through that route. Mass protests challenged East Germany's leaders; the Berlin Wall opened in November. Gorbachev did not send Soviet forces to preserve those governments. His restraint gave movements more room to act. The Wall's opening symbolized the Cold War's end, but the Soviet Union itself dissolved in 1991. No single leader or event explains all these changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two different approaches did the Reagan administration use toward the Soviet Union during the 1980s?

2 How did military competition add to the Soviet Union's economic problems?

3 How did perestroika and glasnost affect Communist Party authority, according to the passage?

4 Explain how Gorbachev's decision about using force affected political change in Eastern Europe in 1989.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, explain how U.S. policy, a Soviet problem or reform, and two developments in Eastern Europe combined to weaken Soviet control.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline U.S. policies. Circle Soviet problems and reforms. Mark developments that weakened Soviet control in Eastern Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two different approaches did the Reagan administration use toward the Soviet Union during the 1980s?	Reagan increased military pressure through spending and NATO missile deployments while negotiating arms limits with Gorbachev.
2	How did military competition add to the Soviet Union's economic problems?	Military commitments consumed resources while shortages and inefficient production already strained the Soviet economy.
3	How did perestroika and glasnost affect Communist Party authority, according to the passage?	They did not quickly fix the economy, but glasnost allowed more public criticism and weakened the authority of Communist Party leaders.
4	Explain how Gorbachev's decision about using force affected political change in Eastern Europe in 1989.	By not sending Soviet forces to preserve those governments, Gorbachev gave citizens and reformers more room to challenge communist rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

American defense spending and negotiations increased pressure on Soviet leaders while creating a path for arms reduction. Inside the Soviet Union, shortages and costly military competition weakened an economy that could not easily support control over its allies. Gorbachev's reforms encouraged criticism, and his refusal to use force gave Eastern European citizens more room to challenge communist governments. After Poland changed governments and Hungary opened its border, East German protests helped bring down the Berlin Wall.

Accept equivalent descriptions of American pressure and diplomacy, Soviet economic weakness or political reform, and the loss of Soviet control in Eastern Europe. In the final response, look for a causal explanation that connects the factors instead of listing unrelated facts.