# Voices Against Control

Goals and methods of resistance to communist rule

**MWH.C.7.6.A** "Examine the goals of Poland's Solidarity Movement and other civil resistance movements that challenged communist rule."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** In each paragraph, underline two goals and circle one nonviolent action to compare what the movements wanted with how they challenged communist rule.

### Three Movements, Many Demands

1. In August 1980, striking shipyard workers in Gdańsk, Poland, hung demands at their gates. They wanted independent trade unions, the right to strike, and greater freedom of speech. Their protests helped create Solidarity, a union led by Lech Wałęsa that grew into a broad opposition movement. Communist leaders imposed martial law in 1981 and banned the union. Solidarity members kept organizing underground, then negotiated with the government. Talks opened the way to partly free elections in 1989.

2. In East Germany, groups met in churches to discuss rights and the country's future. In 1989, large crowds joined peaceful Monday demonstrations in Leipzig. Protesters demanded freedom to travel and free elections, challenging the communist party's control over both daily life and government. Authorities had often punished dissent, so gathering in public carried risks. As protests spread, leaders loosened travel restrictions, and the Berlin Wall opened in November 1989. East Germany held free parliamentary elections in March 1990.

3. In Czechoslovakia, police attacked a student march in Prague in November 1989. The attack sparked huge nonviolent demonstrations and strikes. A group called Civic Forum pressed for an end to one-party rule, free elections, and civil liberties such as free speech. Playwright Václav Havel became a leading voice in the movement. Within weeks, communist leaders gave up their monopoly on power. People called this rapid, largely peaceful change the Velvet Revolution, though the initial police violence showed that resistance was not risk-free.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Solidarity's goals reach beyond workers' rights?

2. Which goal did Solidarity and Civic Forum share?

3. How did East German protesters' goals challenge communist control of both daily life and government?

4. How did Civic Forum's goals go beyond replacing communist leaders?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing Solidarity with one other movement in the passage. Give one goal for each, explain one shared challenge to communist rule, and name a different nonviolent action each used.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline two goals and circle one nonviolent action to compare what the movements wanted with how they challenged communist rule. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did Solidarity's goals reach beyond workers' rights? | **Solidarity also sought greater freedom of speech and, through negotiations, a path to partly free elections.** |
| 2 | Which goal did Solidarity and Civic Forum share? | **Both sought freedom of speech.** |
| 3 | How did East German protesters' goals challenge communist control of both daily life and government? | **Freedom to travel would loosen control over daily life, while free elections would challenge the party's control of government.** |
| 4 | How did Civic Forum's goals go beyond replacing communist leaders? | **Civic Forum wanted an end to one-party rule and civil liberties, including free speech, as well as free elections.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Solidarity in Poland sought independent trade unions and the right to strike. East German protesters demanded free elections and freedom to travel. Both challenged a communist party's control over public life. Solidarity negotiated with the government, while East Germans held peaceful Monday demonstrations.

Accept any two stated goals and one nonviolent action from each paragraph for the marking job. For the museum label, accept either East Germany or Czechoslovakia if the goals, shared challenge, and distinct actions match the passage.