Control and Resistance

Soviet influence in postwar Europe

TOT.C.9.1 "Examine the USSR's occupation of Eastern Europe after World War II, including Soviet Communization of Eastern Europe, the coup d'etat in Czechoslovakia, chronic rebellions in the Eastern Bloc (e.g., East German Uprising..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that expanded or enforced Soviet control, and circle challenges or alternatives to that control so you can compare countries' experiences.

Different Paths After World War II

1. In 1945, Soviet troops stood across much of Eastern Europe after driving out Nazi Germany. Moscow wanted friendly governments along its western border. Under Soviet pressure, communist parties took control of police, limited rival parties, and shaped elections in several countries. This process, called communization, did not look identical everywhere. In Czechoslovakia, a postwar coalition lasted until February 1948, when communist leaders used a political crisis, control of security forces, and mass demonstrations to seize full power in a coup.

2. Control did not end resistance. In East Germany in 1953, workers protesting higher work quotas sparked a wider uprising; Soviet troops helped crush it. In Hungary in 1956, protesters demanded political change and an end to Soviet domination. Soviet forces invaded and defeated the revolt. In Czechoslovakia in 1968, reformers tried to allow freer speech and a more open form of socialism during the Prague Spring. Soviet-led forces invaded, ending the reforms. These episodes show that Moscow used force when allied governments seemed at risk.

3. Resistance also took forms beyond street revolt. In Poland, the independent Solidarity trade union formed in 1980 and pressed for workers' rights and political change. Poland's communist government imposed martial law in 1981 and suppressed the union, though it later returned. Not every neighbor joined the Soviet bloc. Finland kept its democracy and independence but avoided policies likely to provoke the USSR. Austria regained full independence in 1955 when the four occupying powers withdrew; it pledged permanent neutrality rather than joining a military alliance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Czechoslovakia's 1948 coup build on methods used to communize the region?

2. What happened when people challenged Soviet-backed rule in Hungary and during the Prague Spring?

3. How did Solidarity's challenge differ from East Germany's 1953 uprising, and how was each suppressed?

4. How did Finland and Austria differ from countries brought under Soviet-backed communist rule?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph arguing whether Soviet power worked the same way across the region. Use evidence from at least three countries, including one that stayed outside the Soviet bloc.

Control and Resistance

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions that expanded or enforced Soviet control, and circle challenges or alternatives to that control so you can compare countries' experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Czechoslovakia's 1948 coup build on methods used to communize the region?	**Communists had gained control of security forces, much as communist parties elsewhere took control of police. They used that power and a political crisis to end the coalition and seize full control.**
2	What happened when people challenged Soviet-backed rule in Hungary and during the Prague Spring?	**Soviet forces defeated Hungary's uprising in 1956. Soviet-led forces invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 and ended its reforms.**
3	How did Solidarity's challenge differ from East Germany's 1953 uprising, and how was each suppressed?	**Solidarity was an independent trade union, while the East German uprising began with workers protesting quotas. Poland's government imposed martial law and suppressed Solidarity; Soviet troops helped crush the East German uprising.**
4	How did Finland and Austria differ from countries brought under Soviet-backed communist rule?	**Finland remained an independent democracy while avoiding policies that might provoke the USSR. Austria regained independence and pledged neutrality instead of joining a military alliance.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Soviet power did not work the same way everywhere. In Czechoslovakia, communists seized full power in a 1948 coup, and Soviet-led forces later ended the Prague Spring reforms. In Hungary, Soviet forces invaded to defeat an uprising. Poland's own communist government imposed martial law to suppress Solidarity. Austria followed a different path: after the occupying powers withdrew, it regained independence and pledged neutrality. These examples show both different ways of enforcing control and a way to remain outside the Soviet bloc.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a clear claim, evidence from three countries, and at least one example of a country outside the Soviet bloc.