

Cold War Unravels

Trace the changes that ended communist control and Cold War tension.

USII.7.e “explaining the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War, including the actions of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show why communist control weakened. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events or actions that helped bring the Cold War to an end.

Changes Across Europe

- ① After World War II, the Soviet Union controlled many nations in Eastern Europe. Communist governments there limited free elections, speech, and travel. By the 1980s, many people faced shortages and wanted more freedom. In Poland, the Solidarity labor movement pressed for change. Across the region, citizens held protests and demanded elected leaders. These movements weakened communist rule because governments could no longer depend on fear alone to keep people quiet. In 1989, peaceful crowds filled city streets.
- ② In the Soviet Union, leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced reforms called glasnost, or openness, and perestroika, or restructuring. He allowed more public discussion and tried to improve the struggling economy. Unlike earlier Soviet leaders, Gorbachev did not send Soviet troops to stop Eastern European protests. In 1989, communist governments fell across Eastern Europe. The Berlin Wall opened that year, showing that Soviet control over the region was ending. People celebrated new political choices in their countries.
- ③ United States President Ronald Reagan built up the U.S. military and spoke strongly against Soviet communism. Later, Reagan met with Gorbachev several times to discuss reducing nuclear weapons. In 1987, they signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which removed an entire class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles from Europe. In 1991, the Soviet Union broke apart into independent countries. Its collapse and the end of Soviet control in Eastern Europe brought the Cold War to an end.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problems and actions made communist rule weaker in Eastern Europe? Give two details from the passage.

2 How did Gorbachev's choice not to send Soviet troops affect Eastern Europe?

3 Describe one action by Ronald Reagan and one action by Mikhail Gorbachev that helped reduce Cold War conflict.

4 How did the events of 1989 and 1991 help bring the Cold War to an end?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation of how citizens in Eastern Europe, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Ronald Reagan each played a part in ending the Cold War. Include one specific action or event for each.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show why communist control weakened. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three events or actions that helped bring the Cold War to an end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problems and actions made communist rule weaker in Eastern Europe? Give two details from the passage.	People faced shortages and wanted more freedom. Citizens protested, demanded elected leaders, and groups such as Solidarity pressed for change.
2	How did Gorbachev's choice not to send Soviet troops affect Eastern Europe?	It allowed Eastern European protests to continue, and communist governments fell across the region in 1989.
3	Describe one action by Ronald Reagan and one action by Mikhail Gorbachev that helped reduce Cold War conflict.	Reagan met with Gorbachev and signed the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Gorbachev allowed more openness and did not use Soviet troops to stop Eastern European protests.
4	How did the events of 1989 and 1991 help bring the Cold War to an end?	In 1989, communist governments fell in Eastern Europe and the Berlin Wall opened. In 1991, the Soviet Union broke apart, ending Soviet control and helping end the Cold War.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizens in Eastern Europe protested and demanded elected leaders, weakening communist governments. Gorbachev did not send Soviet troops to stop those protests, so Soviet control in the region declined. Reagan met with Gorbachev and signed a treaty to remove nuclear missiles, helping reduce Cold War tension.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, students should include a specific contribution from citizens, Gorbachev, and Reagan and connect those contributions to the end of the Cold War.