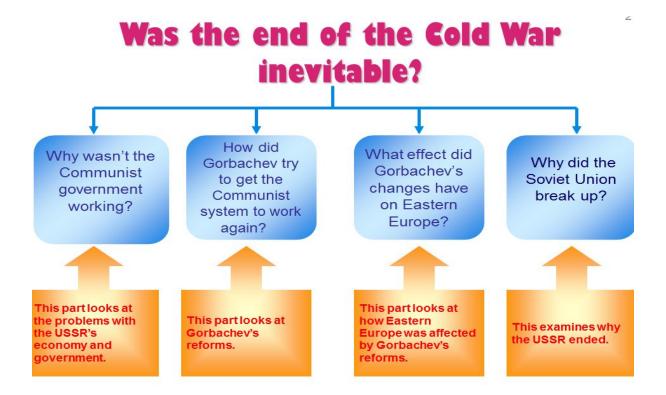
The End of the Cold War



In a Nutshell

- In 1991, the Cold War came to an end.
- There were many causes to this.
- In Eastern Europe, many people did not want the USSR to control their countries.
- By the late 1980s, the USSR was facing many economic problems.
- People in the Soviet Union were unhappy with the government for its failure to meet the people's needs.
- The reforms introduced by Gorbachev caused new problems.
- All these resulted in the breakdown of Communism in the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

Why wasn't the communist system working?

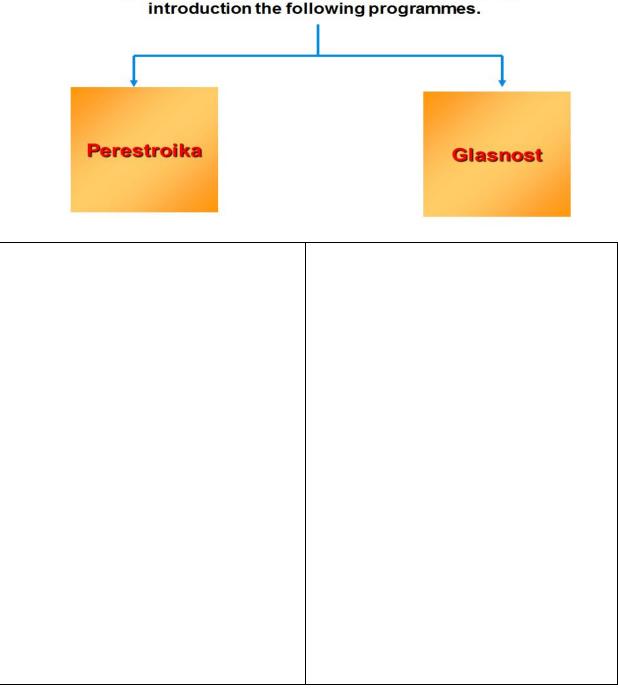
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Inefficient economy	Poor decisions by the central government	Slow decisions by the central government
No quality control	No incentive to work hard	Most of the money was spent on the military
Fewer consumer goods were made	Alcoholism made workers less efficient	Farms and factories were not improved
Inefficient transport and distribution system	Basic needs of the people were not met	

Ineffective government People not interested **Conservative and** Not willing to change in improving The central government/ corrupt leaders government politburo consisted of The selection of leaders for Most felt that they could many leaders who were the politburo was not based not do anything to not willing to introduce on merit. Rather it was improve the system. changes. These hardliners based on favouritism and Most chose not to be saw changes as threats to friendship or seniority. involved in politics. Hence, their positions. As a result Such a system led to the government efforts to introduce corruption and conservatism. was unable to obtain changes to improve the feedback on its country was opposed. performance.

Ronald Reagan's Star Wars Programme	Anti-Soviet feelings in the republics	Increased spending

How did Gorbachev try to get the Communist system to work again?

Gorbachev aimed to change the situation with the introduction the following programmes.



Poland Hungary 1988: Strikes in many parts organised by 1988: Hungary allowed political parties to be trade union Solidarity. formed. Apr 1989: Communist government agreed to May 1990: Free elections were held which was hold free elections. won by the Democratic Forum. Jun 1989: Solidarity won the elections with leader Lech Walesa elected as President of Poland. Rumania Dec 1989: Rebellion in capital **East Germany** Bucharest. The army joined in Oct 1989: Following Gorbachev's later. Rebellion ended with announcement that Soviet troops will not Rumanian Leader Nikolai stop demonstrations, protests were held to Ceausescu being shot by call for a new government. firing squad. Nov 1989: The Berlin Wall was torn down. May 1990: Free elections were Oct 1990, Germany was reunified. held which was won by the National Salvation Front. Czechoslovakia Nov 1989: Anti-Communist demonstrations began. Communist Party announced it would give up control. Bulgaria Nov 1989: Bulgarian leader Zhikov Dec 1989: Dubcek elected as Speaker of resigned. Parliament while Havel became President of Czechoslovakia. Feb 1990: Communist Party gave up control. 1990: First free elections since 1946. Jun 1990: First free elections.

Why did the Soviet Union break up?

Gorbachev's changes failed to solve the problem	Loss of the Communist Party's authority	Years of Cold War competition bankrupted the Soviet Union
Rise of nationalism	August 1991 Coup	