

Mikhail Gorbachev

- leader of Soviet Russia in 1985
- brought in elements of democracy and capitalism to help the failing Soviet Union
- policies of Glasnost and Perestroika to help reform and rebuild the economy
- They failed and weakened the Soviet economy leading to its collapse in 1991
- Ended the Cold War (tore down Berlin Wall 1989)
- Eastern European countries broke from Soviet Russian rule to create new democratic and capitalist societies

Sample Questions

“By gently pushing open the gates of reform, he unleashed a democratic flood that wiped out the Soviet universe and washed away the Cold War.”

1. This statement most likely describes the actions of
 - (1) Ruholla Khomeini
 - (2) Ho Chi Minh
 - (3) Pol Pot
 - (4) Mikhail Gorbachev
2. In the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev’s attempts to change the Soviet Union resulted in
 - (1) an increase in tensions between India and the Soviet Union
 - (2) a strengthening of the Communist Party
 - (3) a shift from producing consumer goods to producing heavy machinery
 - (4) a series of economic and political reforms
3. Mikhail Gorbachev instituted the policies of glasnost and perestroika to
 - (1) reinforce the basic economic principles of communism
 - (2) bring the Soviet Union into the European Economic Community
 - (3) reform the Soviet Union politically and economically
 - (4) gain acceptance for free political elections
4. One way in which Lech Walesa, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Nelson Mandela are similar is that each
 - (1) led the people of his nation toward a more democratic government
 - (2) fought for power for the black majority over the white minority
 - (3) worked to end communism in his country
 - (4) refused to participate in the United Nations
5. Mikhail Gorbachev’s reforms of perestroika and glasnost resulted in
 - (1) an era of world peace and Soviet prosperity
 - (2) conditions that helped lead to the breakup of the Soviet Union
 - (3) a successful transition to a command economy in Russia
 - (4) censorship of the news media in Russia