

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

LO4 hijkl

Eastern Europe under Communism and the Revolutions of 1989



Year 11

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for History SEC 2025



Curriculum Centre Annex

LO4 h - The Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, 1945–1989

Timeline of the takeover of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe

Poland	Hungary	East Germany	Czechoslovakia	Bulgaria	Romania	Yugoslavia
Jan. 1945: All the key posts in the Provisional Government were taken over by Polish Workers' Party.	Nov. 1945: The Red Army and intensified communist propaganda and intimidation to win the general elections. But the communists obtained only 17% of the votes.	Apr. 1946: Stalin forced the merger between the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party.	1946: The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was the winner in the Czech lands, while the Democratic Party won in Slovakia.	Sep. 1944: A coup d'état was organised by a communist-led coalition of parties. The coup resulted in Bulgaria becoming part of the Soviet sphere of influence.	Nov. 1946: the communist-led parties claimed 84% of the votes. These elections were marked by intimidation, fraud and assassinations.	Nov 1945: The first post-war general elections were won by the communists led by the leaders of the Partisans Josip Tito.
Jan. 1947: During the general election the opposition parties were prevented from campaigning. The communists obtained 80.1% of the votes.	Jun. 1948: The Communists, backed by Stalin, forced the Social Democrats to merge with them to form the Hungarian Working People's Party	Oct. 1949: Establishment of the East Germany as a communist state with close ties with the Soviet Union. The latter kept its Red Army forces in East Germany until the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself in 1991.	Feb.1948: The communists organised a coup d'état and seized power with Soviet backing. Non-Communist ministers resigned in protest, but Stalin ordered their replacement by communist ones. The country was then declared a People's Republic.	Sep. 1946: A referendum vote abolished the monarchy and established Bulgaria as a People's Republic.	1947: The leaders of the Peasants' Party had been meeting secretly with US officials. A show trial was thus arranged and they were put in jail. Other parties were forced to merge with the communists.	Spring-Summer 1948: The quarrel between Tito and Stalin over the future status of Yugoslavia as part of the Iron Curtain. Meanwhile, the West welcomed the Yugoslav-Soviet rift.
1952: A new constitution established the People's Republic of Poland as a one-party state under Communist control.	May 1949: In the general elections voters were presented with a single Communist list of candidates. By this time, there was no opposition left in the country.			1948–1949: All religious denominations were restrained or banned. However, the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria was left to function but many high offices within the church were assumed by communists.	Dec. 1947: King Michael was forced abdicate. Hours later, Parliament abolished the monarchy and proclaimed Romania a People's Republic.	1949: Marshall Aid was offered by the USA and this flow of economic aid, averting famine and sustain economic recovery. It also helped Yugoslavia remain free from Stalin's influence.
	Aug. 1949: A new near-carbon copy of the Soviet constitution, declared Hungary a People's Republic.			1950: Bulgaria started a process of rapid industrialization agricultural collectivisation, both modelled after the Stalin's industrialisation of the USSR in the 1930s.	Feb. 1948: The communists merged with the social democrats to form the Romanian Workers' Party. By that time many non-communist politicians were in prison or in exile.	Apr 1948: the communist regime was formalised by the new constitution which was modelled on the Soviet constitution.

Map showing the dates when Communist regimes in Eastern Europe were established

The Soviet satellite states behind the Iron Curtain



From left to right:

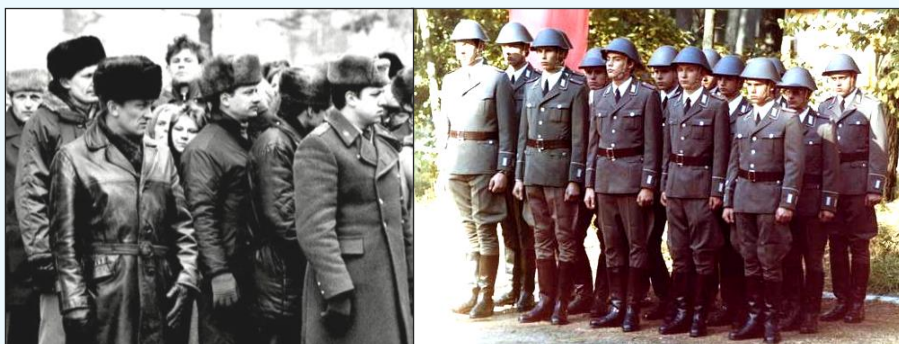
- Stalin next to Klement Gottwald (1896–1953), first Communist leader of Czechoslovakia.
- Stalin next to Boleslaw Bejrut (1892–1956), first Communist leader of Poland. The poster reads 'Polish-Soviet friendship means peace, independence and a happy tomorrow for our homeland.'
- Poster showing East German citizens happy under the Communist regime.
- Soviet poster of 1974 commemorating the 30th anniversary of the socialist revolution in Bulgaria. 'Going together to new heights!'
- Poster emphasizing the personality cult exercised by Nicolai and Elena Ceausescu over the Romanian people.

Soviet occupation of much of Eastern Europe at the conclusion of World War II facilitated Moscow's imposition of communist regimes in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. By contrast, in Yugoslavia and Albania, communist regimes came to power largely on their own and for this reason they remained outside Soviet control.

Stalin had three goals in Eastern Europe after Second World War. He first wanted to spread communism in the area. Secondly, he wanted to determine the fate of the Eastern European lands that it occupied. This would provide a Soviet 'sphere of influence' in Central and Eastern Europe to act as a geopolitical buffer zone between it and the western capitalist world. Thirdly, he also wanted to create a buffer zone of friendly governments as a defence against Germany.

First Soviet and then communist takeover of power generally followed a similar process: a coalition of left-wing forces in which the communists would have the upper hand; elimination of the other parties or forces who were not willing to accept communist domination. To achieve this, the Eastern bloc countries followed a similar formula of domination: purges of political opponents; sham elections in which the local communist party was the only one allowed to campaign; and the establishment of an authoritarian communist regime.

The communist states behind the Iron Curtain had to adopt the Soviet communist system. As in the USSR under Stalin, their economy had to be based on state-owned firms and the collectivisation of agriculture. Their foreign policy was dictated by the Kremlin. They had to follow Soviet foreign policy in international relations, such as when voting in the United Nations General Assembly. The USSR even determined which foreign states they could establish diplomatic relations. These regimes had instructions from Moscow to set up a secret police system similar to the Soviet KGB to hunt down political dissidents and preserve the communist system in Eastern Europe.



Left: KGB officers during a visit of Margaret Thatcher in Moscow in 1983.

Right: Officers of the East German Stasi with its headquarters in the background.

LO4 h - The Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, 1945–1989 (1)

1. Using the Table in page 1 as your source, briefly explain **three** ways how the communist managed to takeover power in the Eastern European states behind the 'Iron Curtain'.

(6)

2. Using the same Table as your source, place in chronological sequence the states which became communist in the immediate years after the Second World War.

	Year	State
a		
b		
c		
d		
e		
f		
g		
h		

(4)

3. In what **two** ways was post-war Yugoslavia different from the other states in Eastern Europe.

(2)

4. What common message can you identify from the propaganda posters in page 2.

(2)

5. Why did Stalin wanted to establish a buffer zone made up of 'satellite states' in Eastern Europe after the Second World War? Briefly explain **three** reasons.

(6)

(Total: 20 marks)

Common features of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe

- One-party states with all power in the hands of the Communist Party.
- Political repression exercised by a secret police force.
- Imprisonment, assassination or exile to forced labour camps for leaders of opposition parties, free trade unions and political dissidents.
- Curtailment of civil liberties (e.g. free elections, press censorship, ban on foreign travel).
- Control of the economy by the state (e.g. nationalisation of industry, firms owned by the state, collectivisation of agriculture).
- Anti-religious campaigns by the state against all religious denominations (e.g. religious ceremonies in public were banned and Church property confiscated by the state).
- All states behind the Iron Curtain had to join the Comintern and the Warsaw Pact; to adopt Soviet communism; to permit Soviet regiments in their territory; to support Soviet foreign in international fora (e.g. in the United Nations General Assembly).

Three case studies about the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe

1. The 'Stasi' secret police (founded in 1950; dissolved in 1990)

The Stasi was the official security service of the East German Government. Its motto was *Schild und Schwert der Partei* (Shield and Sword of the Party (i.e. the Socialist Unity Party of Germany)). The main job of the Stasi was to prevent opposition to the Communist Party. It was one of the most effective and ruthless secret police agencies in the world. The Stasi headquarter was situated in East Berlin. One of its main tasks was spying on the people, through a vast network of citizens who were informants who were paid or given favours for this.



A Stasi officer

After Germany was reunited in 1990, many Stasi officials were prosecuted for their crimes. The files that the Stasi had kept on millions of East German citizens were laid open. Citizens can now see their personal files on request to the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives.



Ceaușescu's Securitate police.

2. Nicolai Ceaușescu's regime in Romania

Upon his rise to power in 1968, he became very popular for easing press censorship and condemning invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces. However, his government soon became totalitarian and the most repressive in the Eastern Bloc. The *Securitate* secret police was responsible for severe repression within the country. Ceaușescu ordered the government to export much of Romania's agricultural and industrial production, in an effort to repay the national debt resulting in widespread poverty and famine among the population.

On 17 Dec. 1989, he ordered the Securitate to open fire on demonstrators, causing many deaths and injuries. These demonstrations, became known as the Romanian Revolution—the only violent overthrow of a communist government in the course of the Revolutions of 1989. Ceaușescu and his wife Elena fled the capital in a helicopter, but they were captured by the military who sided with the revolutionaries. After being tried and convicted of economic sabotage and genocide, both were sentenced to death and executed by a firing squad on 25 Dec.



Stalin vs Tito

3. Tito vs Stalin

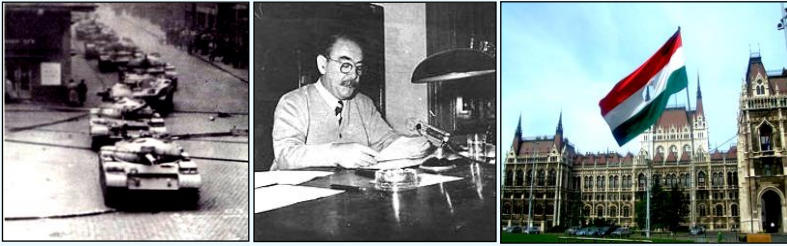
After the war, Josip Tito was the architect of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, serving as Prime Minister (1944–1963), Federal President (1953–1980). In 1948, he defied Soviet hegemony in Eastern Europe. He was the only leader in Stalin's time to leave the Comintern and begin a distinct socialist programme, which contained elements of market socialism. State firms were managed by worker' councils. Tito kept Yugoslavia out of the Warsaw Pact and was one of the leaders that founded the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961.



Original emblem of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961

LO4 i - The Hungarian Uprising and the Spring

Causes and consequences of the Hungarian Revolt of 1956



Far left: Soviet tanks entering Budapest in November 1956.

Centre: Prime Minister Nagy addressing the nation during the Soviet invasion.

Right: The Hungarian national flag in front of the Parliament building was stripped of the Communist emblem during the revolt of 1956.

Following the condemnation of Stalin by the new Soviet leader Niita Khrushchev in 1956, there developed in Hungary a situation of popular discontent. In October, students and workers demonstrated for the return of Imre Nagy as prime minister. Nagy, who sided with the demonstrators, announced the end of the one-party system and promised free elections. He promised economic reforms, freed Cardinal Mindszenty from prison, demanded the withdrawal of Soviet forces, condemned the Warsaw Pact and proclaimed Hungary a neutral state outside the Iron Curtain. Meanwhile, anti-Soviet demonstrations continued. In November, Soviet troops and tanks invaded Hungary and suppressed the Hungarian uprising. Hundreds of Hungarians were executed, thousands more were imprisoned. Prior to the Soviet invasion, some 200,000 Hungarians had managed to cross the border to the West. The Western Allies condemned the Soviet invasion but did nothing more to help the Hungarians. At the time they were involved in the Suez Canal Crisis.

The USSR was thus able to restore a communist regime with Janos Kádár as the new premier. Nagy and many of his associates were executed. Kádár, with Soviet support, remained firmly in control for more than thirty years. But in the 1980s inflation was rising. In 1987 the regime had to relax censorship laws, allowed the formation of independent political groups, and permitted the right for workers to demonstrate and even to strike. In the meantime, mass demonstrations in Budapest were demanding more democratic reforms.

Causes and consequences of the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia, 1968

Left: Czech youths demonstrating their support to the Dubcek's reforms during the 'Prague Spring' of 1968.

Right: Prime Minister Dubcek addressing a mass rally in Prague in 1968.



In January 1968 Novotný was replaced as general secretary of the party by Alexander Dubcek, a progressive Communist who introduced radical changes to avoid a major economic catastrophe. The ensuing months became known as the 'Prague Spring' saw the regime liberalizing and democratizing Czechoslovakia and breaking its dependence upon the USSR. The reformers guaranteed freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of assembly and religion. Government posts were opened also to non-Communist. Economic reforms included decentralized decision making and profit incentives. The programme won the support of the people and of the communist parties in Western Europe. But the reformers met the hostility of the Soviet Government and the members of the Warsaw Pact. They feared that popular demands for reform would spread to the other communist regimes in Eastern Europe. In the meantime, the Dubcek's Government promised to keep the Communists in power and to remain in the Warsaw Pact.

By August, the USSR and its Warsaw Pact allies decided to end the Prague Spring. On 26 August, 600,000 Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops crossed the frontier into Czechoslovakia. Dubcek was arrested and exiled to Siberia. This military intervention was condemned throughout the world. A treaty was forced upon Czechoslovakia allowing Soviet troops to remain in the country. Dubcek was replaced by Gustav Husák. The reforms of the Prague Spring were immediately scrapped. Czechoslovakia reverted as a communist state loyal to the USSR. From then onwards the resistance movement against the communist regime went underground. Its most striking act of defiance was the 'Charter of 77', a document signed by several hundred individuals accusing the Husák regime with violations of human rights.

LO4 j - Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR – *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*

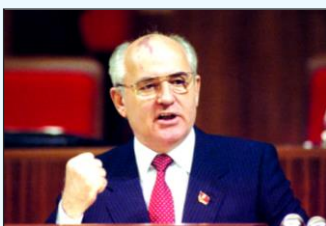
Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985. At first, he seemed little different from his predecessors. Gorbachev held the view that the Soviet economy could be rescued from total collapse by eliminating corruption and by convincing the people to work harder. Thus, his initial slogan which he adopted was *uskorenie* (meaning acceleration).



Left and right: Mass popular rallies in Moscow against the communist regime and in favour of Gorbachev's reforms.

Glasnost (the Russian word for 'openness' or 'transparency') and *perestroika* (the Russian word for 'restructuring') were the revolutionary policies initiated in the USSR by Mikhail Gorbachev between 1986 and 1991. In 1986 he started a full-scale reform programme

when he came to realise that the economy needed an entire reorganization since 'acceleration' was not enough. State firms were privatised and centralised state planning was abandoned.



Gorbachev presenting his reform of 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' to the Supreme Soviet Assembly in Moscow.



Gorbachev explaining and answering questions about his reforming policies during his frequent meetings with public.



Above left: German poster on Glasnost. 'The game about peace and understanding between the Soviet Union and the Western world.'



Above right: Perestroika, Democracy, Reform, Glasnost!, 1989.

This dynamic image shows how the Communist Party will overcome stagnation with Perestroika (the reforms of Gorbachev) and triumph over Western Capitalism. A communist ship with a superstructure comprised of Perestroika, Democracy, Reforms and Glasnost speeds over waves of economic stagnation (incompetence, bureaucracy, conformity, red tape etc.).

His reforms affected politics as well. Under the slogan *glasnost* (meaning openness), he encouraged criticism of Soviet policies and welcomed suggestions for change. Censorship was relaxed and prohibited books were started being sold openly. Many political prisoners were freed from the Gulag prison camps.

Most historians argue that these were a significant cause of the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Even in Gorbachev's time, these reforms were opposed by the conservative faction within the Communist Party (referred to as 'hardliners') who feared that Gorbachev intended to abandon communism altogether. To reduce their influence, Gorbachev pressed more forward for democracy to replaced hardline communists with his supporters.

LO4 h - The Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, 1945–1989 (2)

1. Tick the **Yes** or **No** column to determine which features in the table were found or not found in the communist regimes behind the Iron Curtain. (4)

	Feature	Yes	No
a	Supported Soviet foreign policy.		
b	Respect for human rights.		
c	Industry owned and controlled by the state.		
d	One-party state		
e	Adopted centralised economic planning.		
f	Held free elections.		
g	Eliminated all opposition.		
h	Followed a neutral foreign policy.		

2. To which of these states do the statements below apply? *East Germany, Romania, Yugoslavia.* (3)

- a. The Securitate security police: _____
- b. The first Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961: _____
- c. The Stasi secret police: _____

3. Briefly identify one aspect that made these communist regimes unique when compared to the other communist regimes in Eastern Europe.

- a. East Germany: _____
- b. Romania: _____
- c. Yugoslavia: _____ (3)

4. Fill in the blank boxes in the table below with the relevant information. (6)

	Event	Year	Leader	Major Cause	Major Outcome
a	The Hungarian Uprising				
b	The Prague Spring				

5. Give the Russian and English versions of the **two** reform policies of Gorbachev in the USSR.

- a. _____ b. _____ (2)










6. Identify **one** major cause and **one** major consequence of Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR.

- a. Cause: _____ (1)
- b. Consequence: _____ (1)

(Total: 20 marks)

LO4 k (i) - Timeline of the fall of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe in 1989

Timeline of the 1989 Revolutions in the East European states behind the Iron Curtain

1989	POLAND	HUNGARY	EAST GERMANY	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	BULGARIA	ROMANIA
JAN	Crisis talks between Solidarity and Communist Government.	Parliament passes laws permitting opposition parties to be formed.	 <p>East Berliners welcomed in West Berlin after the fall of the Berlin Wall on the night of 9-10 Nov. 1989.</p>	19 th : Police break up protesters seeking Gorbachev reforms.		
FEB				 <p>Dubcek and Vaclav Havel, the leaders of the 'Velvet Revolution' in Czechoslovakia in 1989.</p>	Free trade union like Solidarity formed.	 <p>Units of the Romanian army joined forces with the people against the Securitate during the Romanian Revolution in 1989.</p>
MAR		Demonstrations for freedom.	1 st : May Day rally broken up by police.			
APR	Ban lifted on Solidarity. Elections to be held in June.					
MAY						
JUN	6 th : Solidarity wins most seats in election.	16 th : Remains of Imre Nagy given state funeral.		 <p>Protesters in Prague in 1989 offered flowers to the riot police as a gesture of friendship and non-violence.</p>		
AUG	24 th : A non-communist becomes prime minister		Thousands travel to Hungary hoping to free to the West.			
SEP	 <p>Pope John Paul II meeting Lech Walesa on his visit to Poland in June 1983.</p>	Barbed wire on the Austrian border removed. Free elections agreed.	4 th : Huge demonstration in Leipzig broken up by police.		 <p>Demonstrations for freedom.</p>	
OCT		Communists change name to Social Democrats. 23 rd : Non-communist republic comes into being.	Huge protests after Gorbachev visit. Honecker orders use of force. 18 th : Egon Krenz takes over from Honecker.			
NOV	 <p>One of the massive protests organised by the Solidarity (Polish: 'Solidarność') Movement in Poland in the 1980s against communist regime in Poland.</p>	 <p>On 2 May 1989 Hungarian border guards received orders from the government to dismantle the 'Iron Curtain'.</p>	10 th : Berlin Wall pulled down on orders by Krenz.	17 th : Police break up demonstration in Prague. 24 th : Many communists resign but communists still rule the country. 27 th : General strike brings country to a standstill.	10 th : Hardliner Zhivkov forced out of office. 18 th : Massive protests in Sofia wanting free elections.	 <p>Ceaurescu's last public speech from the balcony of his Presidential Palace in Bucharest on 21 Dec. 1989 during which he was booed by the crowd.</p>
DEC				3 rd : Communist Party leaders resign. Free elections to be held in June 1990.	10 th : Non-communists form a new government. 29 th : Vaclav Havel, a former dissident, elected President.	

LO4 k (ii) - Consequences of the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe

Short-term and long-term consequences of the Democratic Revolutions of 1989.

1	Democratisation of society with the introduction of free elections, free press, free association and an independent judicial system.
2	Abolition of the secret police.
3	The Release of political prisoners and the closure of forced labour camps.
4	The Communist Party lost popular support and in some states it was declared illegal.
5	The reunification of Germany in 1990.
6	The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact in 1991.
7	The Eastern Bloc states ceased to be satellite states of the USSR and started following an independent foreign policy which was closer to the West.
8	The enlargement of the EU and NATO since most of the East European countries applied to become members.
9	The fast adaptation to a free-market economy led to an economic crisis, a black-market economy and a fall in the standard of living.
10	In the 1990s there was a brain-drain of qualified workers to Western Europe.
11	The breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991–1992 into independent ethnic republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, followed by the Yugoslav Wars characterized by atrocities and ethnic cleansing.
12	Disillusionment on reforms led to a rise in support of right-wing populist parties (e.g. Neo-Nazis in Germany).
13	These revolutions served as a domino effect for other democratic revolutions in other parts of the world (e.g. Tiananmen Square in China; the end of apartheid in South Africa).



Above Left: The last meeting of the heads of state of the Warsaw Pact in 1989, before its official dissolution in July 1991.

Above Centre: The first free parliamentary elections held in East Germany in 1990 since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Above Right: The breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991–1992.

Right: The return of the Eastern Bloc countries to Europe. German cartoon, 1990.



LO4 I - The dissolution of the USSR in 1991

Outside the USSR, Gorbachev's reforms led to the formation of opposition groups across Communist Eastern Europe. They soon began to press their own governments to adopt similar reforming policies. During his visits to East European cities, Gorbachev was greeted by large applauding crowds calling his name and his popular slogans. Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR spelled the end of communism in its satellite states behind the Iron Curtain. Once they had lost the support of the USSR, the communists were doomed.



Above Left: Russian tanks entering Moscow 1991 during the short-lived coup (19–22 August 1991) by the hardline communists who aimed to annul Gorbachev's reforms.

Above Centre: Boris Yeltsin defending democratic reforms in the USSR in front of the Russian Parliament building in Moscow.

Above Right: Outgoing Soviet President Gorbachev congratulating Yeltsin as the first President of the Russian Federation after the dissolution of the USSR in Dec. 1991.

Right: In 1991, the flag of the USSR was replaced by the former Russian flag in use before the Revolution of 1917.

At a time when the Soviet economy was in deep trouble and the cost of keeping a large army in Eastern Europe was becoming unsustainable. Furthermore, Gorbachev needed loans and aid from the US and from Western Europe to finance his reforming policies. At first, he was reluctant to allow the satellite states to go their own way. But in 1988 he recognised the right of these states to political independence from the USSR. The 'Brezhnev Doctrine' justifying Soviet intervention abroad to defend communism had to be replaced by the 'Sinatra Doctrine', after the famous song 'My Way' by Frank Sinatra. In 1990, it was formally agreed that all Soviet forces would be pulled out of Eastern Europe over the next four years.

The fall of the communist regimes brought about the growth of separatist nationalist movements in Eastern Europe and in the USSR itself. Following the unsuccessful coup against Gorbachev by the hardline communists in August 1991, the Soviet Union started to disintegrate. On 25th December 1991, the USSR was formally declared defunct and replaced by 15 independent republics. Twelve of the former Soviet republics joined together by a loose union called the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Russian Federation was to be the largest and most powerful of these new states. Gorbachev resigned as President of the USSR on 31st December 1991. His successor as Russian President was Boris Yeltsin, a radical democrat and the hero of the democrats during the failed coup of the previous August.



The dissolution of the USSR on 25 Dec. 1991 led to the establishment of 15 independent republics, 11 of which formed the CIS.

LO4 k (ii) - Consequences of the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe

1. Select an event a copy it in the blank column from the chart timeline in page 8 which, in your opinion, triggered the democratic revolutions of 1989 in the Communist states of Eastern Europe. (4)

	Eastern European State	Trigger event in 1989
a	Poland	
b	Hungary	
c	East Germany	
d	Czechoslovakia	

2. Using the same chart as your source, briefly explain one main contrasting outcome which the revolution of 1989 had on Czechoslovakia and Romania. (2)

3. Identify the event from the chart timeline which marked the beginning of the end of the 'Iron Curtain' in Eastern Europe. (2)

4. State one consequence of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 on the following: (6)

- a. Germany: _____
- b. the USSR: _____
- c. Yugoslavia: _____
- d. The Warsaw Pact: _____
- e. NATO: _____
- f. The European Union: _____

5. Briefly explain the message of the cartoon in page 9. (2)

6. Briefly outline the events that caused the dissolution of the USSR between August and December 1991. (4)

(Total: 20 marks)

LO4 hijkl - Easter Europe under Communism and the Revolutions of 1989

Source Question

'...he hoped that rule by the communist party alone can ultimately be strengthened and maintained through reforms... He deserves respect because he has attacked a whole series of problems, and he desires to renew his country.'

Source A. 'A Portrait of Gorbachev' in *The Soviet Union, 1987-1989* by Heinz Brahm, 1990.

'He had no idea what he hoped to achieve...Instead he took to improvisations and meaningless slogans. I could never have imagined that a General Secretary [of the Party] could have had a mind so devoid of substance.'

Source B. The View of Valentin Falin, a communist hardliner.



Source C. Yeltsin addressing supporters during the failed coup in Moscow in August 1991.

1. Identify which of these three sources are primary or secondary.

_____ (3)

2. Explain the bias in Source A and Source B.

_____ (2)

3. Identify **two** problems in the USSR mentioned in Source A.

_____ (2)

4. With reference to Source A, briefly explain how Gorbachev sought to 'renew his country'.

_____ (2)

5. To which 'slogans' is Source B referring? _____ (2)

6. (a) How were Gorbachev's in critics in the USSR known at that time? _____ (1)

(b) Mention **two** reasons why these people opposed Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR. (2)

_____ (2)

7. (a) When and where was the photograph of Source C taken? (2)

_____ (2)

(b) Why is Boris Yeltsin saluting the crowd with a fist hand in Source C? (2)

_____ (2)

(c) Explain the significant turning point in Yeltsin's political career that took place in 1992? (2)

_____ (2)

(Total: 20 marks)

LO4 hijkl - Eastern Europe under Communism and the Revolutions of 1989

Read carefully these essay titles and then choose one to answer.

PAPER Level 2-3

- (a) Briefly describe the general pattern by which the communists took-over power in Eastern Europe after the Second World War. (8)

(b) Discuss Stalin's post-war plan with respect to Eastern Europe and the USSR. (12)
- (a) Explain President Gorbachev's contribution to the end of communism in the Eastern Bloc. (8)

(b) Explain what led to the collapse of the communist system in both the USSR and in its former satellite states. (12)
- (a) Briefly explain **four** common features of the communist regimes of Eastern Europe. (8)

(b) Discuss the causes and consequences of either the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 or the Prague Spring of 1968. (12)
- (a) Briefly explain the meaning and implications of *glasnost* and *perestroika* on the USSR. (8)

(b) Discuss the events which led to the dissolution of the USSR in 1991 and the consequences of this dissolution. (12)

PAPER Level 1-2

- (a) Identify and list **four** common features of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe behind the 'Iron Curtain'. (8)

(b) Briefly explain some of the implications that the common features mentioned in (a) on the life of the citizens in these states. (12)
- (a) List **four** reforms introduced by Gorbachev in the USSR as part of *glasnost* and *perestroika*. (8)

(b) Briefly explain the terms *glasnost* and *perestroika* and briefly state what did they imply to the government and the citizens of the USSR when Gorbachev was President. (12)
- (a) List **four** common features found in most East European states that contributed to the fall of communism in 1989. (8)

(b) Briefly explain how these common features contributed to the fall of communism in Eastern Europe by 1989. (12)
- (a) Identify **four** new states that became independent when the USSR was dissolved in December 1991. (4)

(b) Mention **two** causes for the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.

(c) Briefly explain **three** consequences of the dissolution of the USSR. (12)

