

Consequences of Soviet invasion

States	Consequence
Czechoslovakia	Demonstrations against the Soviet invasion went on until April 1969. In January 1969, Jan Palach, a student, set fire to himself in Wenceslas Square to protest against the Soviet invasion
Soviet Union	It gave rise to the Brezhnev Doctrine. This redefined communism as a one-party state where all member countries had to remain part of the Warsaw Pact. It also sent out a message to the members of the Warsaw Pact that the Soviet Union would suppress any attempt to relax Communist control
Warsaw Pact states	Some Communist countries began to move away from Moscow. President Ceausescu of Romania refused to send troops to join the forces invading Czechoslovakia

3.4 International reaction

The Soviet invasion temporarily worsened relations between East and West. The West, especially Britain and the USA, protested at Soviet actions. The USA did nothing else because they were preoccupied with the war in Vietnam.

Western European countries followed the USA's lead – they condemned the invasion but provided no military help. Western European Communist parties in Italy and France were outraged by the Soviet invasion.



Relevance

Below are an exam-style question and a series of statements on the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Decide which statements are:

- relevant to the question (R)
- partially relevant to the question (PR)
- irrelevant to the question (I).

Tick the appropriate column.

Explain **two** consequences of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia (1968).

Statements	R	PR	I
The Soviet invasion temporarily worsened relations between East and West			
In the 1960s, there was growing opposition to Soviet control of Czechoslovakia			
Western European countries condemned the invasion but provided no military help			
Some Communists, including Ceausescu of Romania, began to move away from Moscow			
On 20–21 August 1968, hundreds and thousands of Warsaw Pact troops entered Czechoslovakia			
Czechs threw petrol bombs at the Soviet tanks as they moved through Prague			
Novotný had been the Czech leader since 1957 and was unpopular because he was a hardline Communist			
It gave rise to the Brezhnev Doctrine. This redefined communism as a one-party state			
Many Czechs began to demand greater democracy, including Dubček			
During the Soviet invasion, buildings were set on fire and protesters assembled in Wenceslas Square			
The 'Prague Spring' refers to a series of reforms introduced by Dubček in the spring of 1968			
In January 1969, Jan Palach, a student, set fire to himself in Wenceslas Square to protest against the Soviet invasion			

Now write an answer to this question.

Key topic 3 The end of the Cold War, 1970–91

Cold War relations changed greatly during these years. During the 1970s, the policy of *détente* improved East–West relations. However, the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 brought about the Second Cold War. By 1989, the leaders of the USA and the Soviet Union had announced that the Cold War was over.

1 Attempts to reduce tension between East and West 1

REVISED

After the Cuban Missile Crisis there was a move to improve relations and relax tension between the USA and Soviet Union. This became known as *détente* or a policy of *thaw*.

1.1 *Détente* in the 1970s

Détente emerged due to developments in the late 1960s and early 1970s:

- The threat of a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis had had a sobering effect on all concerned.
- Both the USA and the Soviet Union were keen on arms limitation talks in order to reduce their ever-increasing defence spending.
- By 1968, the USA was seeking to end the war. After **Richard Nixon** became president, it was hoped that if the USA improved trade and technology links and made an offer of arms reduction, then Brezhnev might persuade his North Vietnamese ally to negotiate an end to the war. The idea of offering concessions was called ‘linkage’ by Nixon’s advisers.
- Nixon had visited China three months earlier and Brezhnev did not want to see a Chinese–US alliance develop. The Soviet leader was keen to gain access to US technology and further grain sales.

1.2 SALT 1

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (**SALT 1**) began in 1969 and were completed in May 1972:

- The two superpowers agreed that there would be no further production of strategic **ballistic** missiles (short-range, lightweight missiles).
- Both powers agreed that submarines carrying nuclear weapons would only be introduced when existing stocks of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) became obsolete.

SALT 1 was significant because it was the first agreement between the superpowers that successfully limited the number of nuclear weapons they held.

1.3 The Helsinki Agreements

These were signed in 1975. The USA and the USSR, along with 33 other nations, made declarations about three distinct international issues (called ‘baskets’ by the signatories).

Security	Cooperation	Human rights
Recognition of Europe’s frontiers The Soviet Union accepted the existence of West Germany	There was a call for closer economic, scientific and cultural links – these would lead to even closer political agreement	Each signatory agreed to respect human rights and basic freedoms such as thought, speech, religion and freedom from unfair arrest

Key terms

Ballistic The flight of an object through space, such as rockets that are fired from weapons. A ballistic missile is guided only when it is first launched

Détente The relaxing of tension or hostility between nations

SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks: attempts by the USA and the Soviet Union to agree to limit the arms race

Thaw A period of improved relations between East and West

Key individual

Richard Nixon Served as US president from 1969 until his resignation in 1974. He was responsible for improved relations with both China and the Soviet Union

Exam tip

Détente is the least well-known period of the Cold War. Ensure you know what it means and its key features.

1.4 SALT 2

SALT 2 began in 1974 and the treaty was signed in June 1979. The terms were:

- A limit of 2400 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles for each side.
- A limit of 1320 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) systems for each side.
- A ban on the construction of new land-based ICBM launchers.
- The agreement would last until 1985.

However, the US Senate refused to ratify the SALT 2 agreements following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 (see page 26).

Revision task

How did the following improve relations between the superpowers?

- SALT 1
- the Helsinki Agreements
- SALT 2.

Organising knowledge

Use the information on pages 22–23 to complete the table below to summarise the key features of *détente*.

Meaning of <i>détente</i>	
SALT 1	
Helsinki Agreements	
SALT 2	

Linking events

Below are an exam-style question and a series of statements:

- Place the statements in the correct sequence.
- Show links between the events. You could use link phrases such as 'this led to', 'as a result of this'.

You may use the following information in your answer:

- SALT 1 (1971)
- Helsinki Agreements (1975)

You must also use information of your own.

Write a narrative account analysing the key events of *détente* in the 1970s.

Statement	Order	Linking statements
The Helsinki Agreements were signed in 1975. The USA and the Soviet Union, along with 33 other nations, made declarations about three distinct international issues		
The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks began in 1969 and were completed three years later		
Each signatory at Helsinki agreed to respect human rights and basic freedoms such as thought, speech, religion and freedom from unfair arrest		
SALT 2 was signed in June 1979. However, the US Senate refused to ratify the SALT 2 agreements following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979		
In 1975 there was a joint space mission in which an American Apollo spacecraft and a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft docked high above Earth. This marked the beginning of superpower cooperation in space		
The two superpowers agreed that there would be no further production of strategic ballistic missiles and that submarines carrying nuclear weapons would only be introduced when existing stocks of intercontinental ballistic missiles became obsolete		
At Helsinki there was a recognition of Europe's frontiers. The Soviet Union accepted the existence of West Germany		

2 Attempts to reduce tension between East and West 2

REVISED

2.1 Gorbachev's 'new thinking'

Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Soviet Union and was prepared to adopt drastic policies to improve superpower relations. He had to attempt to improve the relationship, as he knew that, without change, the Soviet Union would collapse.

Gorbachev's 'new thinking' involved three important strategies which greatly changed relationships with the West:

- he initiated sweeping reforms in the Communist Party and Soviet system in the USSR:
 - *perestroika* (restructuring) included economic reforms designed to make the Soviet economy more efficient
 - *glasnost* (openness) ensured censorship of the press was relaxed
- he ended the arms race with the USA and signed various arms reduction agreements
- he stopped Soviet interference in Eastern European satellite states such as Poland and Czechoslovakia.

2.2 The summit conferences

A series of summit meetings took place in the years 1985–90 to discuss arms limitations.

Meeting	Result
Geneva, November 1985	Although nothing was decided, the Geneva Accord was set out which committed the USA and Soviet Union to speed up arms talks. Both Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan promised to meet in the near future. It was clear to many observers that the two men had got on well
Reykjavík, 1986	The leaders failed to reach agreement on arms limitation
Washington, December 1987	This was more successful and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed (see below)
Washington, 1990	President Bush and Gorbachev agreed on the Treaty for the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Arms (START) in which they agreed to reduce their strategic forces over seven years

2.3 The INF Treaty, 1987

- The INF Treaty eliminated nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500–5500 kilometres (300–3400 miles). By the treaty's deadline, 1 June 1991, a total of 2692 of such weapons had been destroyed, 846 by the USA and 1846 by the Soviet Union.
- Also under the treaty, both nations were allowed to inspect each other's military installations.
- It was the first treaty to reduce the number of nuclear missiles that the superpowers possessed. It therefore went much further than SALT 1 (see page 22), which simply limited the growth of Soviet and US stockpiles.

Key individuals

Mikhail Gorbachev

Served as leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until 1991. During this period he reformed the Soviet Union through his policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, improved relations with the USA and was mainly responsible for the ending of the Cold War

Ronald Reagan Served as US president from 1981 to 1989. At first he was determined to 'get tough' with the Soviet Union and communism but this approach softened in the later 1980s due to closer relations with Gorbachev

Key term

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

A treaty between the USA and the Soviet Union for the elimination of their intermediate- and short-range missiles.

Revision task

Put the following key developments in chronological order:

- Reykjavík summit
- INF
- Geneva summit.

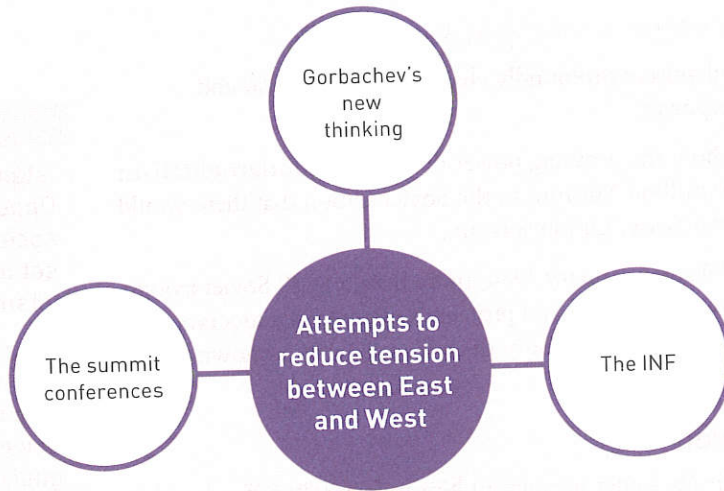
Give a brief explanation of the importance of each for the Cold War.

Exam tip

You will not need detailed knowledge of Gorbachev's policies in the Soviet Union but an understanding of how they affected relations with the USA

Memory map

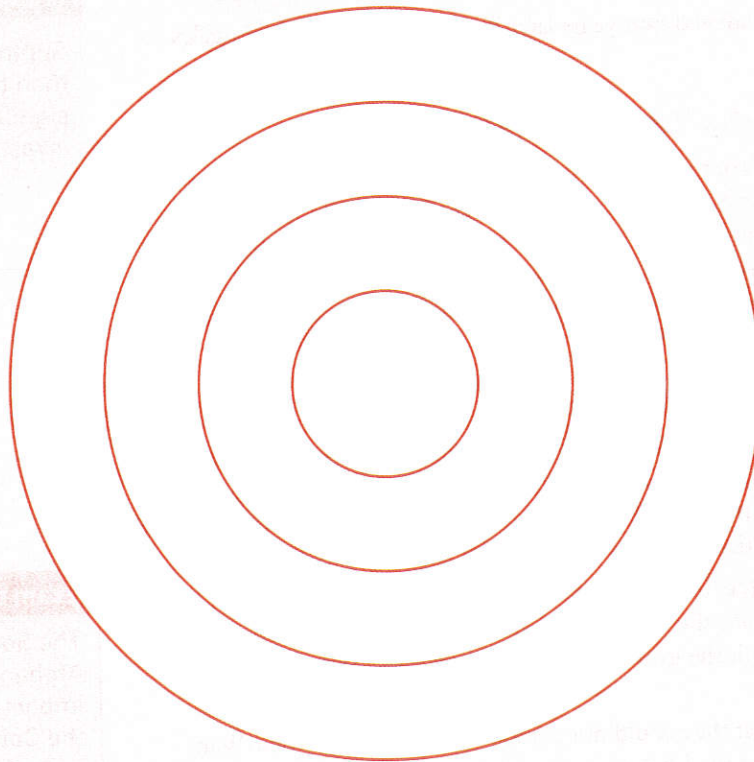
Use the information on page 24 to add details to the diagram below about the consequences and importance of Gorbachev's new thinking, the summit conferences and the INF.



Concentric circles

In the concentric circles below, rank order the importance of the summit conferences of the later 1980s and early 1990s for the Cold War, beginning with the most important in the middle to the least important on the outside. Explain your decisions.

- Geneva, 1985
- Reykjavik, 1986
- Washington, 1987
- Washington, 1990.



3 Flashpoints

REVISED

The attempts at *détente* in the 1970s had been quite serious, but there were a number of flashpoints in the world where the superpowers were at loggerheads.

3.1 The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 1979

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan profoundly changed the Cold War and relations between the superpowers.

Brezhnev was concerned about the growing power of **Islamic fundamentalism** and wanted to show the 30 million Muslims in the Soviet Union that there would be no changes in the way the Soviet Union was run.

Between 25 December 1979 and 1 January 1980, more than 50,000 Soviet troops were sent to Afghanistan to restore order and protect the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) from the Muslim guerrilla movement known as the *mujahideen*.

Significance of invasion

US President Carter was already under pressure in November 1979 following the seizure of US embassy staff as hostages in Iran. He had failed to solve that problem by the end of the year, and some in the USA were accusing him of being a weak leader. He therefore made a firm approach with the Soviet Union over the invasion:

- The Carter Doctrine stated that the USA would use military force if necessary to defend its national interests, especially oil interests, in the Persian Gulf region. It also promised US military aid to all the countries bordering Afghanistan.
- The tough line was continued when Carter asked the Senate not to ratify the SALT 2 treaty.
- Carter pressured the US Olympic Committee to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games of 1980. Sixty-one other countries followed the USA's example.
- The Soviet Union retaliated four years later by boycotting the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

3.2 Reagan and the 'Second Cold War'

Reagan, who defeated Carter in the 1980 presidential election, believed in taking a far tougher line with the Soviet Union than Carter. Reagan had no interest in *détente* and was prepared to confront the Soviet Union whenever possible. He described the Soviet Union as the 'evil empire'. The US Congress agreed to Reagan's demand for increased defence spending, which would cost more than a trillion dollars in the years 1981–87.

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI)

- Reagan's plan was to launch an army of satellites equipped with powerful lasers which could intercept Soviet missiles in space and destroy them before they could do any harm to the USA. He believed that 'Star Wars' technology would make Soviet nuclear missiles useless and force the USSR to disarm.
- The **Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI)** proved to be a turning point in the arms race. During *détente*, the superpowers had been evenly matched and had worked together to limit the growth of nuclear stockpiles. SDI was a complete break from this policy.
- Soviet leaders knew that they could not compete with Reagan's 'Star Wars' plan. They were behind the USA in space and computer technology and the Soviet economy was not producing enough wealth to fund even more defence spending.

Key terms

Islamic fundamentalism
Opposes secular Western society and seeks to set up a state based on Islamic law

Mujahideen Afghan Muslim freedom fighters who fought against the Soviet occupation using guerrilla tactics

Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) Also known as 'Star Wars', the plan was to develop a sophisticated anti-ballistic missile system in order to prevent missile attacks from other countries, specifically the Soviet Union

Revision task

Summarise in no more than ten words the significance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Exam tip

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a very important turning point in the Cold War. Ensure you have thorough knowledge of its features and significance.



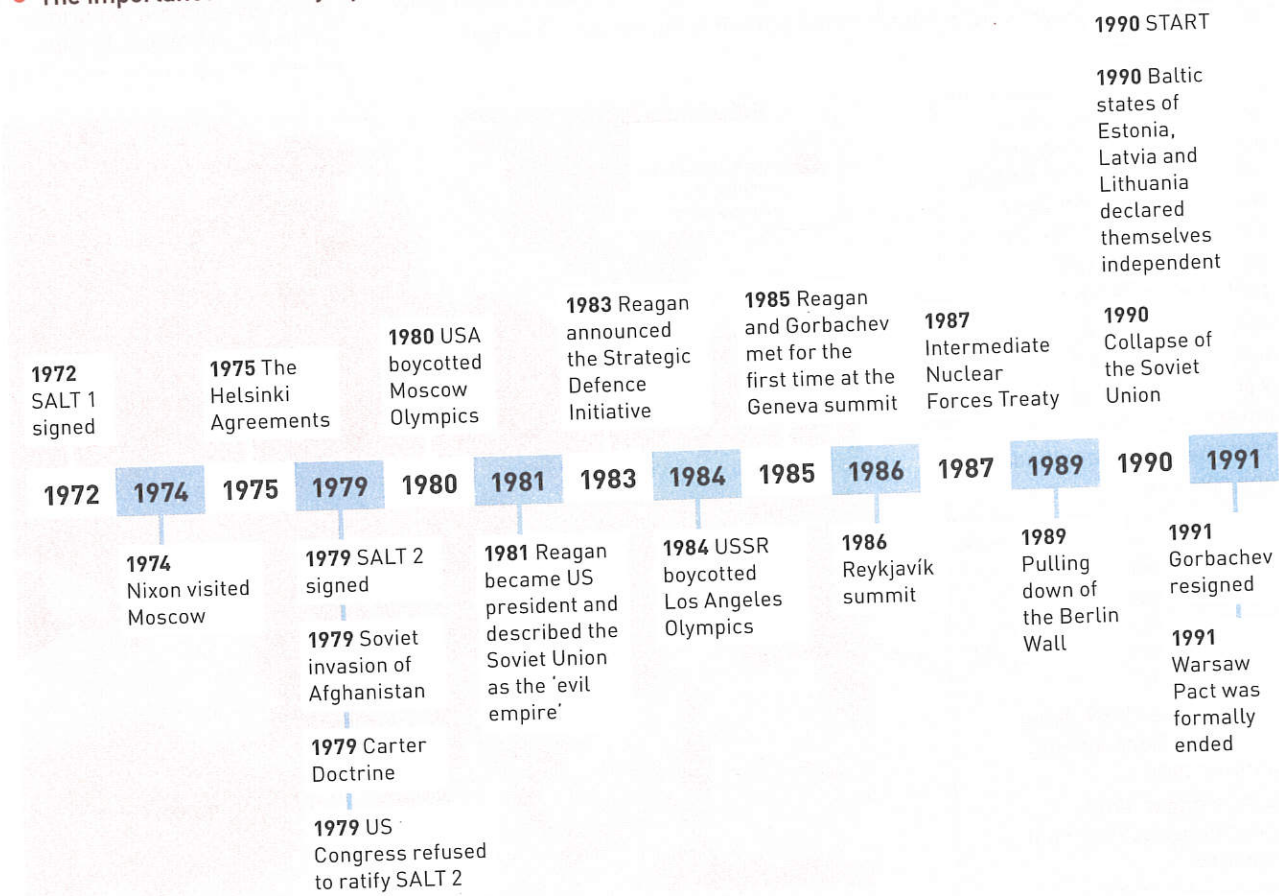
RAG: Rate the timeline

Below are an exam-style question and a timeline. Read the question, study the timeline and, using three coloured pens, put a **red**, **amber** or **green** star next to the events to show:

- Red:** events and policies that have **no** relevance to the question
- Amber:** events and policies that have **some** significance to the question
- Green:** events and policies that have **direct** relevance to the question

Explain **two** of the following:

- The importance of the invasion of Afghanistan (1979) for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The importance of the SDI for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The importance of the Olympic Games of 1980 and 1984 for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.



Develop the detail

Below is part of an answer to the first option in the question above. The paragraph contains a limited amount of detail. Annotate the paragraph to add additional detail to the answer.

The invasion of Afghanistan was important because it ended the period of *détente* and increased rivalry between the Soviet Union and the USA. It was important because it led to the Carter Doctrine. It was also important because it led to the USA boycotting the Moscow Olympics of 1980.

4 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe 1

REVISED

In the Soviet Union, Gorbachev's reforms (see page 24) encouraged criticism and eventually the downfall of Gorbachev, as well as the break-up of the Soviet Union and the end of the Warsaw Pact.

4.1 The impact of Gorbachev's 'new thinking' on Eastern Europe

The Soviet economy could no longer stand the strain of supporting forces in Eastern Europe.

In 1988, Gorbachev rejected the Brezhnev Doctrine and in 1989 he accepted that members of the Warsaw Pact could make changes to their own countries without expecting outside interference. This became known as the Sinatra Doctrine.

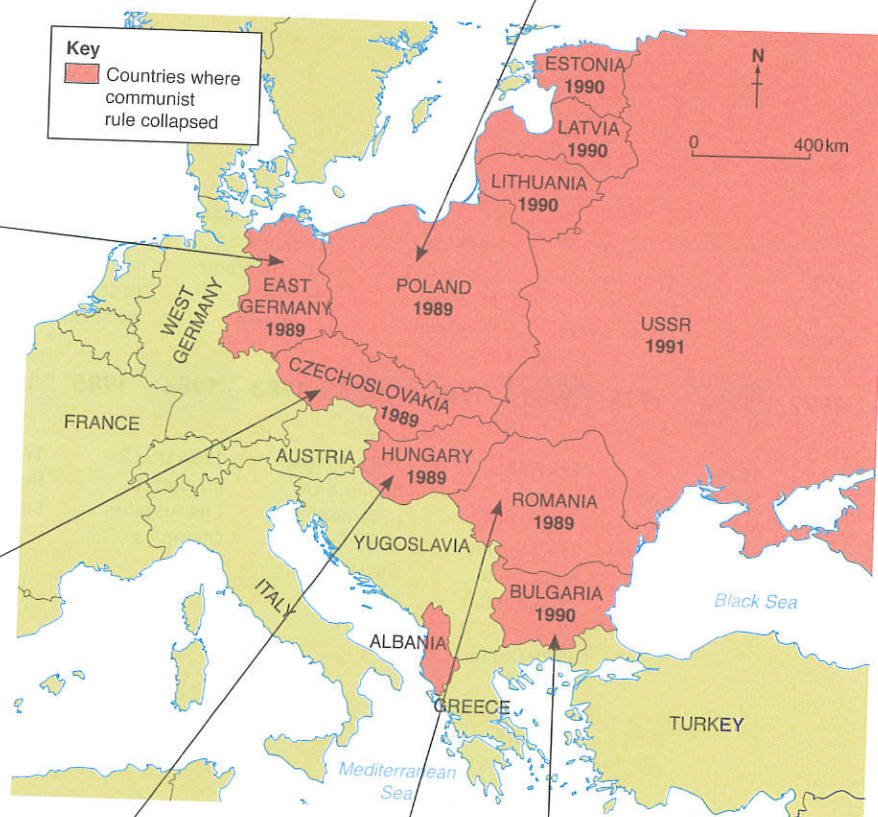
1988: strikes throughout the country
1989: free trade union – Solidarity – won elections. Mazowiecki became the first non-Communist prime minister in Eastern Europe

October 1989: Gorbachev visited East Germany and told them that Soviet troops would not put down East German demonstrations
23 October: 300,000 protested in Leipzig
4 November: 1 million protested in East Berlin
9 November: Berlin Wall pulled down
1991: Germany reunified as one country

'The Velvet Revolution': a bloodless revolution that brought about the overthrow of the Communist government
17 November 1989: huge demonstrations against communism
24 November 1989: Communist government resigned
9 December 1989: Havel became the first non-Communist Czech president since 1948
1990: democratic elections won by Civic Forum – an alliance of non-Communist groups

1988: Gorbachev accepted that Hungary could become a multi-party state
1989: democratic elections won by Democratic Forum, an alliance of non-Communist groups
21 October 1989: the opening of Hungary's borders to East Germans and the West

16 December 1989: secret police fired on demonstrators
21 December 1989: huge crowd in Bucharest booed President Ceausescu who fled but was later captured
1990: democratic elections won by National Salvation Front containing many non-Communists





Organising knowledge

Use the information on page 28 to complete the table below to show developments in each country in the years 1988–91 as a result of Gorbachev's new thinking and their importance.

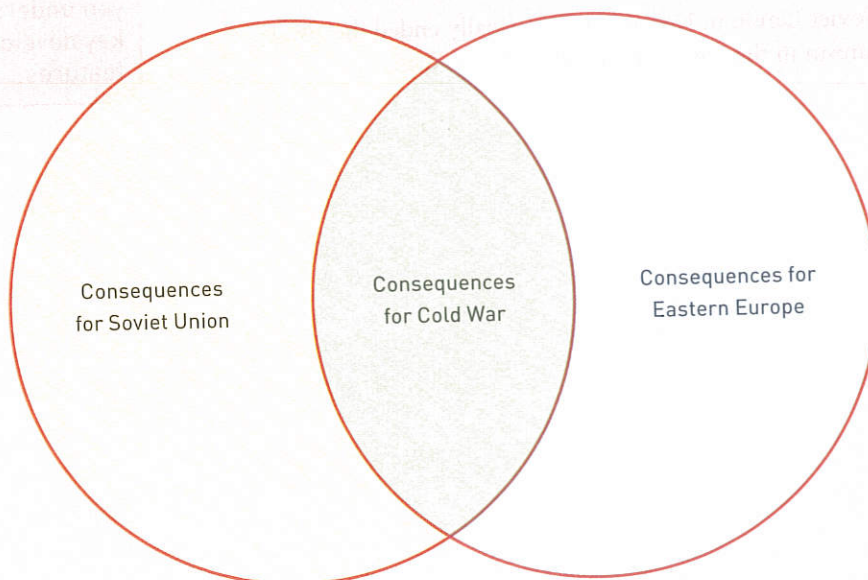
State	Developments	Importance
Poland		
Czechoslovakia		
East Germany		
Romania		
Bulgaria		
Hungary		



Venn diagram

Complete the Venn diagram below showing the consequences of Gorbachev's policies for:

- the Soviet Union
- Eastern Europe
- the Cold War.



5 The collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe 2

REVISED

5.1 The fall of the Berlin Wall

- On 9 November 1989, the East German government announced the opening of the border crossings into West Germany. The people began to dismantle the Berlin Wall.
- Within a few days, over 1 million people had seized the chance to see relatives and experience life in West Germany. West and East Germany were formally reunited in October 1990.

5.2 The collapse of the Soviet Union

- Events in Eastern Europe had a catastrophic impact on the Soviet Union. The many nationalities and ethnic groups saw how the satellite states had been able to break away from Moscow.
- In 1990, the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declared themselves independent, which was accepted by Moscow in 1991. This led to other demands for independence within the Soviet Union.
- Gorbachev found that he was opposed by most sections of Soviet society. In August 1991, there was an attempted *coup d'état* which was defeated by Boris Yeltsin, who was president of the Russian Socialist Republic. Gorbachev was restored but he had lost his authority. Gorbachev resigned in December 1991 and the Soviet Union split into several independent states. Now there was only one superpower left – the USA.

5.3 The end of the Warsaw Pact and Cold War

In 1989, US President Bush had declared at the Malta Conference that the Cold War was over. However, communism was still undefeated and the Russian coup of August 1991 which overthrew Gorbachev could well have revived rivalry with the West.

- As Soviet control of Eastern Europe fell away, it became obvious that the Warsaw Pact could not survive.
- First Poland, then Hungary and finally East Germany all rejected communism and the Pact no longer served any purpose. Military cooperation stopped in early 1990 and the Warsaw Pact was formally ended in July 1991.
- The fall of the Soviet Union in December 1991 finally ended the rivalry between communism in the East and capitalism in the West.

Key term

Coup d'état Armed rebellion or revolt against the existing government

Revision task

Explain why Gorbachev was so liked and so hated at the same time.

Exam tip

Events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, 1988–91, are complicated. Make sure you understand the key developments and features.



Complete the paragraph

Below are an exam-style question and a paragraph which is part of an answer to this question. Complete the paragraph by providing a further explanation about each consequence.

Explain **two** consequences of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

One consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union was the ending of the Cold War. A second consequence was the break-up of the Soviet Union.



How important

Complete the table below.

- Briefly summarise the importance of each factor in bringing an end to the Cold War.
- Make a decision about the importance of each factor in bringing an end to the Cold War. Give a brief explanation for each choice.

Factor	Key features	Decisive/Important/Quite important
Gorbachev's 'new thinking'		
Summit conferences		
Fall of the Berlin Wall		
INF		
Collapse of the Soviet Union		

Exam focus

Your History GCSE is made up of three exams:

- Paper 1 on a thematic study and historic environment.
- Paper 2 on a British depth study and a period study, in your case Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91.
- Paper 3 on a modern depth study.

For the period study on Paper 2 you have to answer the following types of questions. Each requires you to demonstrate different historical skills:

- **Question 1** is a consequence question in which you have to explain two consequences of a given development or event.

- **Question 2** is a narrative question. You have to write an account which analyses events or developments during a given period in the Cold War and support each with detail. You can choose to write about the two given events, but you must also write about an event or development of your own.
- **Question 3** is an importance question. You are asked to make a judgement on the importance of two different events/developments, supported by a precise and developed explanation.

The table below gives a summary of the question types for Paper 2 and what you need to do.

Question number	Marks	Key words	You need to ...
1	8	Explain two consequences of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure you focus on consequence ● Fully explain each consequence
2	8	Write a narrative account analysing ... You may use the following in your answer: [two given events/developments]. You must also use information of your own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyse at least three events/developments ● Fully explain each with supporting detail
3	16	Explain two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The importance of ... for the ... ● The importance of ... for the ... ● The importance of ... for the ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choose two of the three developments ● Ensure that you focus on importance ● Fully explain its importance using precise evidence

Question 1: Consequence

Below is an example exam-style consequence question. It is worth 8 marks.

Explain **two** consequences of Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.

How to answer

- Underline key points in the question. This will ensure that you focus sharply on what is required.
- Identify two consequences of Gorbachev's 'new thinking'.
- Begin each paragraph by stating the consequence. For example, 'One consequence of Gorbachev's "new thinking" was ...'
- Give a fully developed explanation about the consequence including precise details.
- State the second consequence. For example, 'A further consequence of Gorbachev's "new thinking" was ...'.
- Give a fully developed explanation about the second consequence including precise evidence.