

19.5

The Cold War Ends

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Understand why the Soviet Union declined.**
- **Identify the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev.**
- **Describe the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.**
- **Evaluate how the end of the Cold War affected the remaining communist nations and the United States.**

The Soviet Union Declines



1979- The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan to influence its power in the region

Muslim groups hated the communist government & Soviet Union came to support it

Mujahedin- Muslim guerilla fighters, fought the Soviet controlled cities & defended the countryside

The U.S. funneled supplies to help insurgents battle Soviets, Soviets withdraw in 1989 facing a losing battle



Economy Problems

Soviet Union's economy begins to stagnate & collapse as it could not match Western production & consumer goods

President Reagan controlled a massive military buildup to drain the Soviets funding as they tried to keep up

1985- Mikhail Gorbachev comes to power, seeking to end Cold War tensions & remove military powers

Supports glasnost- openness with the Soviet people to talk about countries issues

Reforms

Gorbachev begins **perestroika**- the restructuring of the government & economy

He also began to lessen restraints on emigration & released prisoners of “treason”

Began to support some free-market ideas & limited private enterprise



The Soviet Union Collapses

Gorbachev's policies brought rapid change, but led to economic turmoil as prices soared & shortages grew

Factories closed & people lost jobs & critics argued for more reforms

Countries in the empire begin to break away beginning in 1989 & Soviets attempt a failed coup

1991- Gorbachev resigns & the union dissolves with 15 republics becoming independent

Eastern Europe Transformed

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the right side, there is a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. On the left side, there is a close-up of the Soviet flag, showing the hammer and sickle emblem and stars.

Republics begin to give up nuclear weapons for aid & investment from Western nations

Democracy begins to sweep the nations as seen in Poland

1980 **Lech Walesa** organized a labor union called **Solidarity** to order change

1989 Walesa is elected president beginning a transition to a market economy



Revolution & Freedom

1980s Hungary opens its borders with Austria & Germans tear down the Berlin Wall

Vaclav Havel is elected president in Czechoslovakia after **Nicolae Ceausescu** is executed

Nations begin to struggle with ethnically diverse populations & Czechoslovakia splits

Yugoslavia splits apart into 6 different countries such as Bosnia & Croatia

UN writes the Dayton Accords to end a war in Bosnia

Communism Declines

**2006 Raul Castro takes over Cuba & allows
market reforms & investments**

**China's economy skyrockets but keeps
communist monopoly of power**

**North Korea continues isolation & Vietnam allows
market reform**

**Western nations begin to help new nations of
Eastern Europe transition to democracy &
capitalism**