



ISD Virtual Learning

**World History/Gorbachev and  
Reagan.**

**May 8, 2020**



## World History

Lesson 35: **May 8, 2020**

Objective/Learning Target:

**I can explain diplomacy and reform through the efforts of Gorbachev and Reagan.**



## Warm Up

What does this political cartoon show?



# Warm Up

**What does this political cartoon show?** Students may not recognize Reagan and Gorbachev, but they should notice how each frame sees a less hostile outlook by each man. Represents the evolving relationship the two men had.





**1972**  
SALT 1 signed

**1975** The Helsinki Agreements

**1980** USA boycotted Moscow Olympics

**1983** Reagan announced the Strategic Defence Initiative

**1985** Reagan and Gorbachev met for the first time at the Geneva summit

**1987** Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty

**1990** Collapse of the Soviet Union

**1990** START

**1990** Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declared themselves independent

**1972**

**1974**

**1975**

**1979**

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**1974** Nixon visited Moscow

**1979** SALT 2 signed

**1979** Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

**1979** Carter Doctrine

**1979** US Congress refused to ratify SALT 2

**1981** Reagan became US president and described the Soviet Union as the 'evil empire'

**1984** USSR boycotted Los Angeles Olympics

**1986** Reykjavik summit

**1989** Pulling down of the Berlin Wall

**1991** Gorbachev resigned

**1991** Warsaw Pact was formally ended

# Meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev

## List of Soviet Union–United States summits

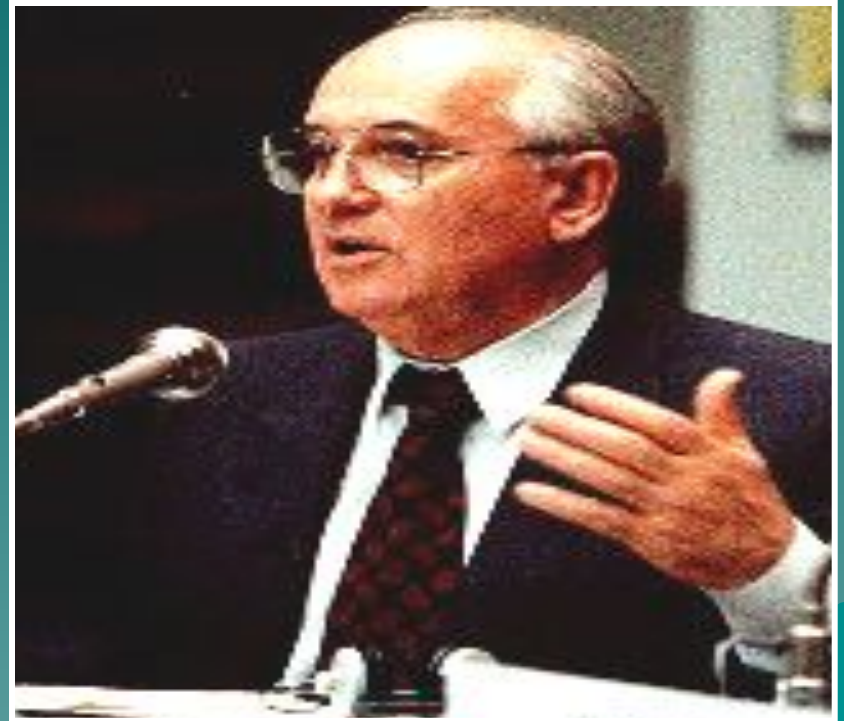
First one:

## Reagan and Gorbachev: The Geneva Summit



# The Gorbachev Revolution

- ◆ **Mikhail Gorbachev, who came to power in 1985 as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), recognized that the Soviet Union could not remain politically and economically isolated and that the Soviet system had to be changed if it was to survive.**





# Gorbachev's Five-Point Plan

- ◆ The key pieces to Gorbachev's plan for the survival of the Soviet Union were a series of reforms:
  1. Glasnost (openness) – greater freedom of expression
  2. Perestroika (restructuring) – decentralization of the Soviet economy with gradual market reforms
  3. Renunciation of the Brezhnev Doctrine (armed intervention where socialism was threatened) and the pursuit of arms control agreements
  4. Reform of the KGB (secret service)
  5. Reform of the Communist Party

# The Objective: Survival

- ◆ Gorbachev knew that the Soviet Union would have to change if it was to survive.
  - ◆ Central planning in a modern industrial economy brought many inefficiencies.
  - ◆ The factory management system provided little incentive to make technological improvements and every incentive to hide factory capacities to ensure low quotas
  - ◆ The socialist farm system was inefficient – there were poor worker incentives and storage and transportation problems.
  - ◆ The Soviet State could no longer afford the high defense spending that accompanied the Cold War.

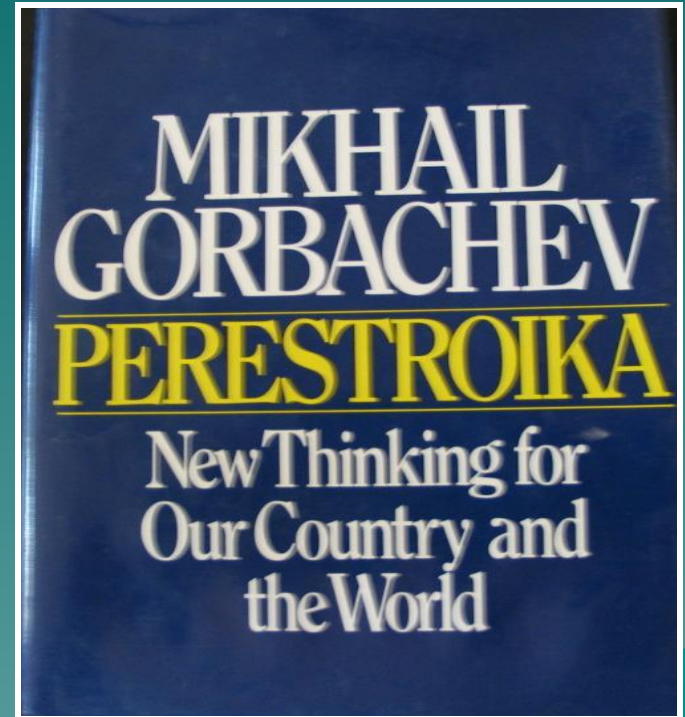
# Insistent Calls for Change

- ◆ He believed that his reforms were necessary and used his leadership and power to attempt to implement them.
- ◆ The policy of glasnost (openness) made it possible for people to more freely criticize the government's policies. When people realized it was safe to speak out, the calls for change became more insistent.



# Reforms Were Too Slow

- ◆ The gradual market reforms and decentralization of the economy (perestroika) were too slow and failed to keep pace with the crisis and his people's demands.
- ◆ The Soviet Union was suffering a deterioration of economic and social conditions and a fall in the GNP.





# Party Reforms a Failure

- ◆ His attempts to reform the Communist Party were a failure. Change was too slow to keep pace with events and he was continually hampered by his need to give in to the hard-liners in order to retain power. As communism collapsed in Eastern Europe, reform of communism in the Soviet Union became unlikely.



# Release from Soviet Domination

- ◆ The renunciation of the Brezhnev Doctrine (armed intervention in support of socialism) released the Eastern European states from Soviet domination.
- ◆ The communist rulers of these states could not survive without the support of the Soviet Union.



The Brezhnev Doctrine was articulated in 1968 when the Soviet army occupied Czechoslovakia to end the Prague Spring, an attempt by Alexander Dubcek to build "socialism with a human face."

# Reagan and Gorbachev's Relationship Warmed Cold War Tensions

How does the relationship between Reagan and Gorbachev influence the Cold War and the nuclear arms race?

Write a paragraph describing this relationship after watching the video





President Reagan giving a speech at the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Federal Republic of Germany. June 12, 1987



## Ronald Reagan: "Mr. Gorbachev, Tear Down This Wall!"

**Why was this speech so important to helping end the Cold War?**



## Ronald Reagan: "Mr. Gorbachev, Tear Down This Wall!"

**Why was this speech so important to helping end the Cold War?** Students should be able to identify that Reagan was putting pressure on Gorbachev to end his control over Eastern Europe and continue his reforms.



# Reagan's Brandenburg Gate Speech

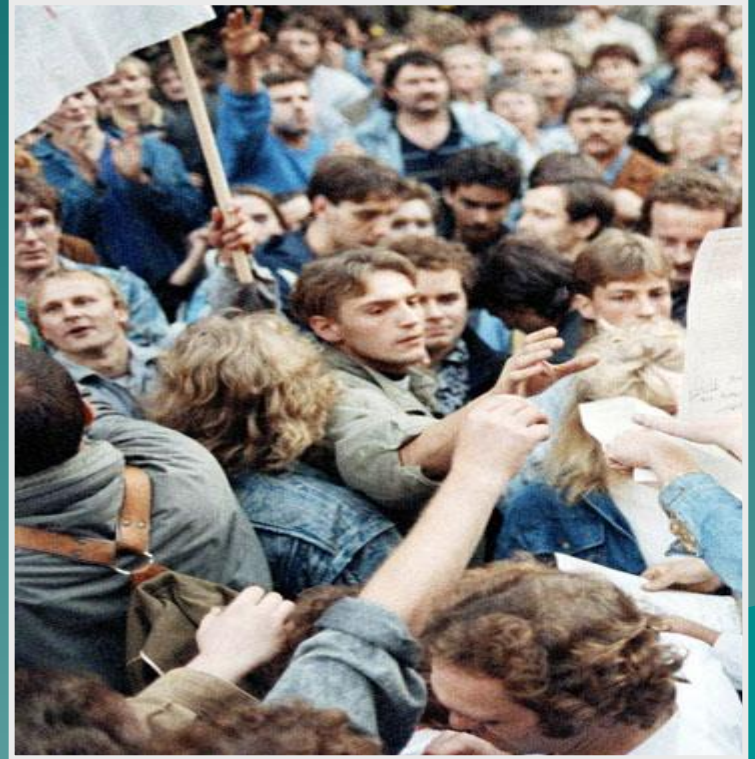
- ◆ President Ronald Reagan called upon Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall:

*"In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards... Even today, the Soviet Union cannot feed itself. The inescapable conclusion is that freedom is the victor. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate!*

*Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"*

# Wave of Demonstrations

- ◆ Beginning in September 1989, a wave of huge demonstrations shook Communist regimes across eastern Europe. A massive tide of East German emigrants surged through Czechoslovakia and Hungary to the West, undermining the authority of the Communist hard-liners who still clung to power in the German Democratic Republic (GDR).





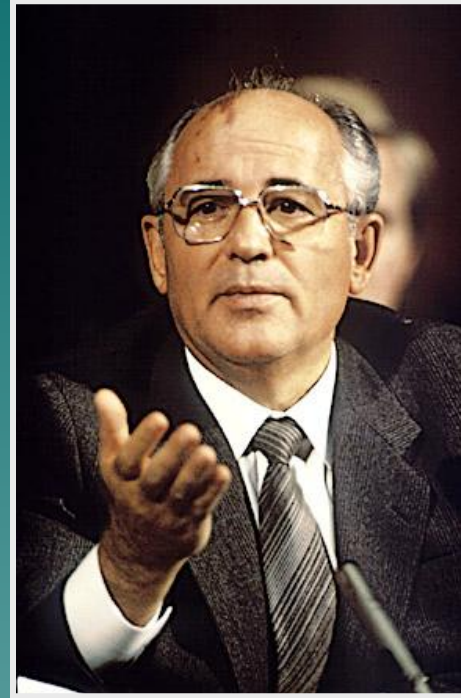
# The Wall Came Down

- ◆ Finally, on the night of November 9, 1989, ordinary Germans poured through the Berlin Wall. The GDR quickly disintegrated, and by the end of 1990, all of East Germany had been incorporated into the wealthy, powerful Federal Republic of Germany.



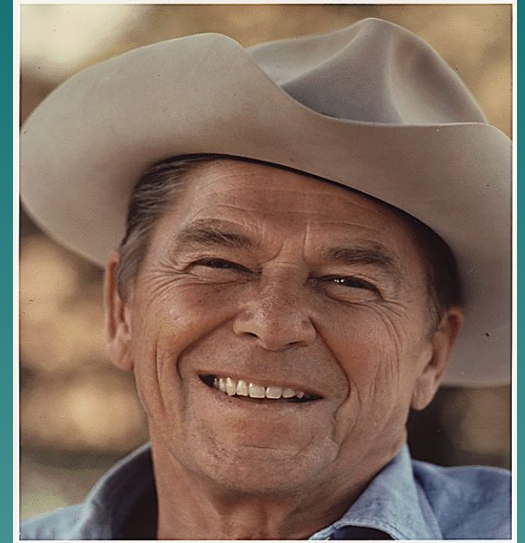
# Nobel Peace Prize

- ◆ Gorbachev won the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. He brought a peaceful end to the cold war, and dramatic change to his country's economy, though not in the way he intended.



# Ronald Reagan's Role

- ◆ In the United States, partisans of Ronald Reagan claimed much of the credit for ending the Cold War. Reagan's frank denunciation of the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," along with his administration's military buildup, were said to have inspired eastern bloc dissidents at the same time the arms race exhausted the productive capacity of the Soviet Union and other inefficient Communist regimes.



## Reflection

**In your opinion after studying this lesson what role did the personal relationship between Reagan and Gorbachev play in ending the Cold War?**

