

9.7 The Fall of Communism

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS collapse of the ussr in 1991 苏联解体 • glasnost 开放 • perestroika 改革 • economic stagnation 经济停滞
• european union 欧盟

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **end of the Cold War** 冷战的终结.

You must be able to:

- state the purpose of the Soviet reforms and their outcome
- name the four changes to the map after 1991
- explain why the same forces produced different outcomes
- connect the pattern to 6.6's Russian reform

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Purpose and outcome

Following a long period of economic stagnation, Gorbachev's internal reforms of perestroika and glasnost, **designed to make the Soviet system more flexible**, failed to stave off the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its hegemonic control over Eastern and Central European satellites.

■ Four changes

The collapse of the USSR in 1991 ended the Cold War and led to capitalist economies throughout Eastern Europe. **Germany was reunited, the Czechs and the Slovaks parted, Yugoslavia dissolved, and the European Union was enlarged** through the admission of former Eastern bloc countries.

■ Same forces, different outcomes

9.4 said new nationalisms brought peaceful revolution in most countries but instability in some former Soviet republics. Reunification, separation and dissolution are three answers to one question — who does this state belong to?

■ The 6.6 parallel

Reform intended to preserve produced what it was meant to prevent, exactly as autocratic reform had before 1905. The CED does not draw the parallel, but noticing it is legitimate analysis.

2 Practice

2.1 State the purpose of the reforms and their outcome. [2]

2.2 Name the four changes to the map. [2]

2.3 Reunification, separation and dissolution occur in the same years.

(a) State the single question all three answer. [1]

(b) State what explains the different answers. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The USSR collapsed in [1]

- A 1985
- B 1991
- C 1989
- D 1995

3.2 The reforms were designed to make the system [1]

- A collapse
- B more flexible
- C more centralised
- D capitalist

3.3 A reform meant to preserve a system contributes to its collapse.

(a) Name the earlier parallel in this course. [1]

(b) Explain the mechanism common to both. [2]

Solutions

2.1 designed to make the Soviet system more flexible; they failed to stave off collapse and the end of hegemonic control.

2.2 German reunification; the Czech-Slovak separation; Yugoslavia's dissolution; EU enlargement with former Eastern bloc countries.

2.3 (a) who does this state belong to. (b) the arrangements inside each state, not the forces acting on all of them.

3.1 B. 1991 is the CED's date.

3.2 B. flexibility was the stated purpose.

3.3 (a) autocratic reform in Russia giving rise to revolutionary movements and 1905. (b) reform concedes that the arrangement was wrong, which licenses further demands the reformers did not intend.