End of the Cold War Ted Talk

I.B. History

**Instructions:**

In order to explore the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, you are going to work in table groups to plan, produce and deliver a 5-7 minute talk in the style of a TED Talk on the question:

*Who is responsible for the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union?*

The goal of the talk is to construct a thesis on why the Cold War ended from either a Post-Revisionist **or** Post-Cold War historical perspective. To develop that thesis into a fully developed argument you will support it with key events from the Cold War, selections from the primary sources available, and quotes from your colleagues (other historians).

**Roles:**

There are a number of jobs that go into producing a TED Talk. Below is a list to help your group allocate responsibilities. Some people will do multiple jobs depending on how efficient they are while other jobs might take two or three people to tackle If you ever find yourself idle, just ask Mr. Johnson and he will help you find something productive to do.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Presenter | Primary Source Researcher | Cold War Expert  (Selecting Key Events, Individuals, etc…) |
| Director  (Organize the vision of the talk) | Music/Special Effects Producer | Script Writer |

**Resources:**

Use the resources and activities already on the unit page as your first stop but feel free to supplement as needed. There will be a folder for each table with required primary documents that all groups must consult. Feel free to annotate the documents as needed.

**Process:**

1. Review the primary documents and annotate them. The documents are divided into three groups: Reagan, Gorbachev and Others. Everyone in the group should be involved in the review of these documents.
2. Craft a thesis that responds to the question: *Who is responsible for the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union?*
3. Develop the script and connect events from the Cold War (focusing mainly of the 1980’s)
4. Produce your episode (add musical, visual and special effects) to make it compelling to watch
5. Film or Rehearse for a Live Performance of your TED Talk