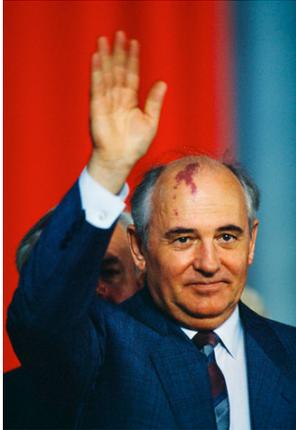


Gorbachev: Glasnost and Perestroika

Task 1: Revision and Review

- In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the USSR. He was comparatively young (54), energetic and charming. More importantly, he was determined to make a difference.



- Imagine that you are an advisor to Gorbachev. Using your existing notes, prepare a graphic for him outlining the main Socio-Economic, Military, and Political problems that face the USSR. This could be in the form of a mindmap, venn diagram, table, Google Earth Tour or something else of your choice. Consider highlighting key words / concepts in bold and using colour to highlight different categories / countries and so on.

The following information, which summarises how we have so far studied the topic, may help you:

1. Internal Problems

- Political Tensions within the USSR
- Social-Economic Problems within the USSR

2. External Problems

- Tensions in Eastern Europe: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland
- Tensions in the Middle East: War in Afghanistan
- Tensions with USA: The Nuclear Arms Race

Task 2: What Gorbachev did next

Overleaf is a table which helps you to assess the problems Gorbachev faced, how he chose to deal with them and how appropriate you consider these policies were.

- Working individually, complete the second column of the table ("What was the problem?") using your existing notes.
- Your teacher will put the class into two teams. Team 1 should consider how they could answer each question in column [c] with a "No, because..." response. Team 2 should try to formulate a "Yes, because..." response. The teacher may even wish to specify one particular question for each person to start with to speed up the process.

After you have had time to prepare, go through each issue as a class. After hearing the "Yes" and "No" arguments on each side, your teacher will tell you what Gorbachev actually chose to do. Make notes in the final column of the row.

Before moving on to each fresh row, your teacher will present the class with a primary source relating to the particular issue just discussed and pose some questions about it.

Task 3: Conclusions

- Place a mark along this line to indicate whether you think Gorbachev's reforms were the result of desperate necessity or genuine commitment:



- In a 2009 interview, Gorbachev stated that had he only been interested in power, he could easily have remained as leader of the USSR by not pursuing any reforms. Do you agree?

A. Internal Factors	B. What was the problem?	C. What should Gorbachev do?	D. What Gorbachev actually did
<p>Political Tensions within USSR: General / Gerontocracy</p>		<p>Q. Should Gorbachev support a new policy of Glasnost ("openness") which will allow citizens to criticise the government without fear of persecution?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>	
<p>Social-Economic Problems within the USSR: General / Specific</p>		<p>Q. Should Gorbachev support a new policy of perestroika ("restructuring") which will introduce capitalism: competition, profit, flexible wages/prices?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>	
External Factors	What was the problem?		
<p>Tensions in the Middle East: War in Afghanistan</p>		<p>Q. Should Gorbachev pull out of Afghanistan even if this means it will be the first war lost by the USSR?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>	
<p>Tensions with USA: The Nuclear Arms Race</p>		<p>Q. Should Gorbachev pursue not just arms limitations agreements, but even disarmament deals, with the United States?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>	
<p>Tensions in Eastern Europe: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland</p>		<p>Q. Should Gorbachev withdraw support for communist regimes even if this creates revolutions in those countries?</p> <p>Your Answer:</p>	