

How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Explain the Who, What, Where, When, and Why involved for each question. Create a memory word to remember the main ideas for each question.

1. Why was there opposition to Soviet control in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, and how did the USSR react to this opposition? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the opposition in Hungary and Czechoslovakia and in USSR's reaction to opposition:

What did the opposition and the USSR's response mean for USSR security:

Where did the opposition to the USSR cause problems for security:

When did the opposition and USSR responses occur (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why did the opposition to the USSR occur and how did the response effect USSR control (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

2. How similar were events in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the event in Hungary and Czechoslovakia (Major individuals in each country):

What did these events mean for those countries:

Where did the events occur in each country:

When did these events take place (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why were these events in Hungary and Czechoslovakia important to the USSR's control in Eastern Europe (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

3. Why was the Berlin Wall built in 1961? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the building of the Berlin Wall:

What did the USSR hope to the Berlin Wall would do:

Where was the Berlin Wall built (Think of the bigger picture of Germany/Eastern Europe):

When was the Berlin Wall built (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was the Berlin Wall an important moment for the security of the USSR's control in Eastern Europe (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

4. What was the significance of “Solidarity” in Poland for the decline of Soviet influence in Eastern Europe? Memory Word=_____

Who was involved in the “Solidarity” movement and the USSR’s leadership:

What was “Solidarity”:

Where did “Solidarity” have an effect (country, region, land mass, etc):

When was “Solidarity” and the decline of the USSR’s involvement in Poland (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was “Solidarity” an important moment for the security of the USSR’s control in Eastern Europe (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

5. Was Gorbachev personally responsible for the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe?
Memory Word=_____

Who was Gorbachev:

What did Gorbachev do in his position of leadership:

Where did Gorbachev's actions impact Eastern Europe (country, region, land mass, etc):

When did Gorbachev's decisions impact Soviet control over Eastern Europe (Timeline or sequence of events):

Why was Gorbachev to blame for Soviet control in Eastern Europe (I.e. what factors influenced this event):

Sample Exam Questions

1. Read the extract, and then answer the questions which follow.

Mr. Gorbachev did not set out to abolish the Soviet Union, nor the Communist Party. These events happened in spite of his resistance and because, in the long run, the entire Soviet system was heading for disaster.

From an article published in an English newspaper in December 1991, shortly before Gorbachev resigned.

- (a) Describe events in Berlin leading up to the building of the Wall in 1961. [5]
- (b) Why were the Soviets worried about events in Czechoslovakia in 1968? [7]
- (c) How far can Gorbachev be blamed for the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe? Explain your answer. [8].

2. The Soviet Union found it hard to control its Eastern European satellites.

- (a) What aspects of Soviet control were hated by the Hungarian people by 1956? [4]
- (b) Why did the Polish government agree to meet the demands of Solidarity? [6]
- (c) 'The Berlin Wall was built for economic reasons.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

3. Read the extract, and then answer the questions which follow.

The time is ripe for abandoning views on foreign policy which are influenced by an imperial standpoint. Neither the Soviet Union nor the USA is able to force its will on others. It is possible to suppress, compel or bribe, but only for a certain period. We must respect one another and everybody.

Gorbachev speaking in 1987.

- (a) What impact did the construction of the Berlin Wall have on the citizens of Berlin? [5]
- (b) Why was the Solidarity Movement a problem for the Polish government? [7]
- (c) How far was the low standard of living in Eastern European countries responsible for the end of Communist control? Explain your answer. [8]