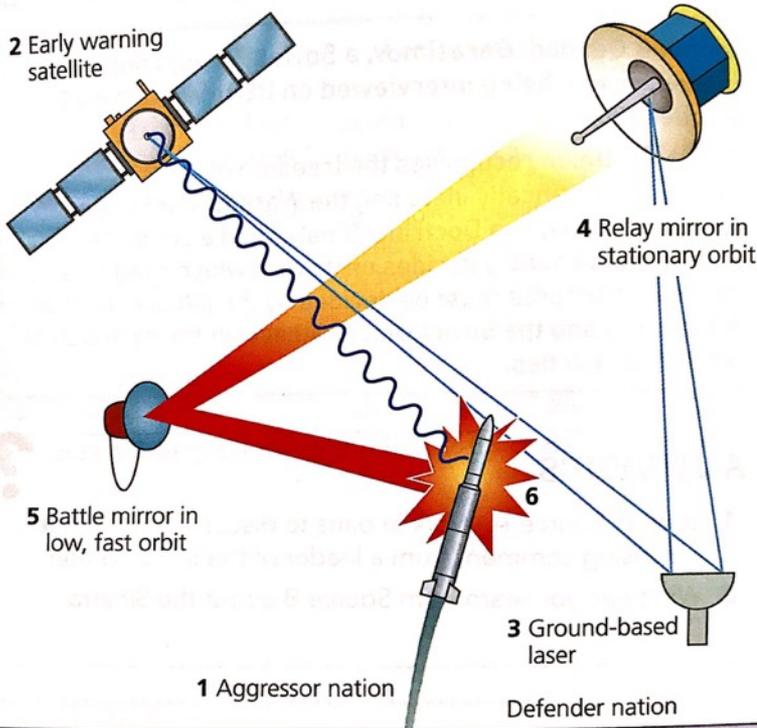


Recap:

STAR WARS

Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) was a significant turning point both in the Arms Race and the Cold War.

Why?



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nuclear missile is launched. | 4 Beam is reflected to one of many battle satellites. |
| 2 Satellite detects launch and feeds data to ground-based laser | 5 Beam is directed at missile. |
| 3 Laser beam is directed at mirror satellite. | 6 Missile is destroyed. |

- Soviet leader Andropov knew he would have to invest huge amounts of money to develop an equivalent, which they didn't have! He attacked Reagan and likened him to Hitler for fanning the flames of war!
- USA had a major advances in computer technology, another thing the Soviets would need to catch up in even before investing in their own SDI.
- New Soviet leader, Gorbachev, knew he had to change his thinking...



What impression do you get about Reagan and Brezhnev's relationship?

What do you think the message of this source is?

The collapse of the Soviet Union 1985-91



New Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev

March 1985





Gorbachev's inherited Soviet Union:

- During the Brezhnev era, huge amounts of money was spent trying to compete with USA
- Investment in Soviet economy was low leading to limited industrial growth in Soviet Union or the Satellite States.
- Standards of living had plummeted, especially in comparison to the West.
- Years of poor leadership left Soviet Union in chaos



Died 1982 after a long illness



Andropov died in 1984



Chernenko died in 1985

Satellite States:

- Unrest in Poland to poor human rights and living conditions was a problem and led to Soviet troops being placed along the Polish border, ready to invade. The '**Solidarity**' party was so dangerous, it was banned worsening relations with USA who supported Solidarity!
- Control of other Satellite States was only maintained using tight control of the secret police forces (eg Stasi in East Germany)

Chernobyl disaster added to Gorbachev's problems, releasing 100 x more radiation than Hiroshima in to the atmosphere. It is estimated that since 1986, there have been 93,000 extra cancer deaths because of the explosion.





Gorbachev's new thinking:

Gorbachev said to his wife, 'We can't go on living like this'

New policies:

- **Perestroika**: Reconstruction of Soviet economy and state to include some practices that made capitalism successful
- **Glasnost**: More openness and less corruption in government
- People should not fear the state or fear expressing their opinions
- Brezhnev Doctrine which had dominated relations with Satellite States since the Prague Spring would be dropped
- Soviet Union would no longer get involved in the internal affairs of other communist countries
- Withdrawal from Afghanistan
- Reduce spending on arms and defence

Joke:

A frightened man came to the KGB, "my talking parrot has disappeared"

"We don't deal with that kind of case here, go to the police"

"Excuse me, of course I know that I need to talk to the police. I've come here to make an official statement that I completely disagree with the parrot"

What is the meaning of this joke? What does it suggest about living in the Soviet Union



There was also a change of thinking in the USA

- Reagan began his office in 1981 saying he would stand tough against communism
- He brought about a Second Cold War with his spending on arms and his confrontational approach to the Soviet Union



By 1985, Reagan saw a real opportunity to end the Cold War and adopt a more open approach to the Soviet Union



Gorbachev wanted to reform Soviet Union from inside and not expand communism, as well as work closely with USA

Geneva Summit November 1985



Before the Geneva Summit, Gorbachev appointed a new foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, to replace the old hardliner, Andrei Gromyko. At Geneva, Gorbachev and Reagan met for the first time.

Outcome

No formal agreements but Reagan and Gorbachev established a good working relationship, and a mutual desire to improve relations between their countries.

Reykjavik Summit October 1986



Gorbachev was worried about the danger that nuclear weapons posed to the world. His desire to reduce the world stockpile of nuclear arms may well have been strengthened when the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine exploded in April 1986. Large swathes of the Soviet Union and beyond were affected by nuclear fallout. In Reykjavik, Gorbachev proposed phasing out nuclear weapons if the Americans gave up their SDI program.

Outcome

Both leaders knew that the Americans could not agree to give up SDI. Once again, the meeting broke up with no formal agreement but an improvement in relations.

Summarise these first two summits of this new cooperation and their outcomes

Washington Summit December 1987



Gorbachev had now accepted that the Americans were not going to scrap SDI, and that his country's best interests lay in agreements on disarmament, reducing spending on weapons and better relations with the West.

Outcome

This was the first US–Soviet summit to lead to the signing of a formal treaty – the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty. The treaty said that both countries would abolish all land-based missiles with a range of 500–5,500 km.

Moscow Summit 1988



In this summit, some complex detail related to the INF treaty was resolved. Later in the year, Gorbachev travelled to the USA, where he made a speech at the United Nations announcing a reduction in Warsaw Pact troops and that Soviet forces would leave Afghanistan.

Summarise these next two summits of this new cooperation and their outcomes

Reagan and Gorbachev sign the INF Treaty in Washington, in December 1987.



Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty:

The significance of this cannot be underestimated,
All land-based missiles of 500-5,500km would be abolished!

Malta Summit 1989



At Malta, Gorbachev met with the new American president, George Bush.

Outcome

No new agreements were made, but both the USA and the Soviet Union saw this meeting as marking the end of the Cold War.

Gorbachev said, 'I assure the President of the United States that I will never start a hot war against the USA. We are at the beginning of a long road to a lasting, peaceful era. The threat of force, mistrust, psychological and ideological struggle should all be things of the past.' Bush said, 'We can realise a lasting peace and transform the East-West relationship to one of enduring co-operation.'

Summarise the final summit of this new cooperation and its outcomes



The end of the Satellite States

Once Gorbachev announced the end of the Brezhnev Doctrine, all Satellite States were free to choose their own governments, they would no longer have to fear Soviet intervention like Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia 1968. All Satellite states were encouraged in this period of Glasnost to introduce changes that would improve their standard of living and freedoms. A key event was Hungary's decision to open its border with Austria, creating a hole in the buffer zone, Gorbachev removed troops from Hungary and didn't interfere.

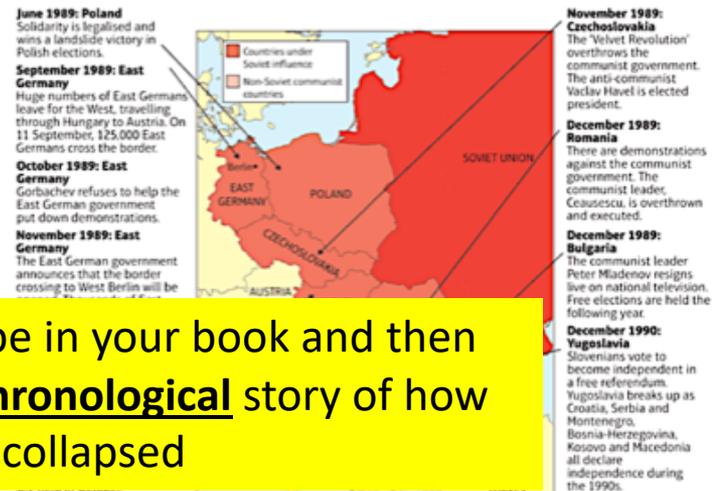
Gorbachev hadn't intended to end communism, but introduce reforms that would strengthen the communist governments within the Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union.

However...

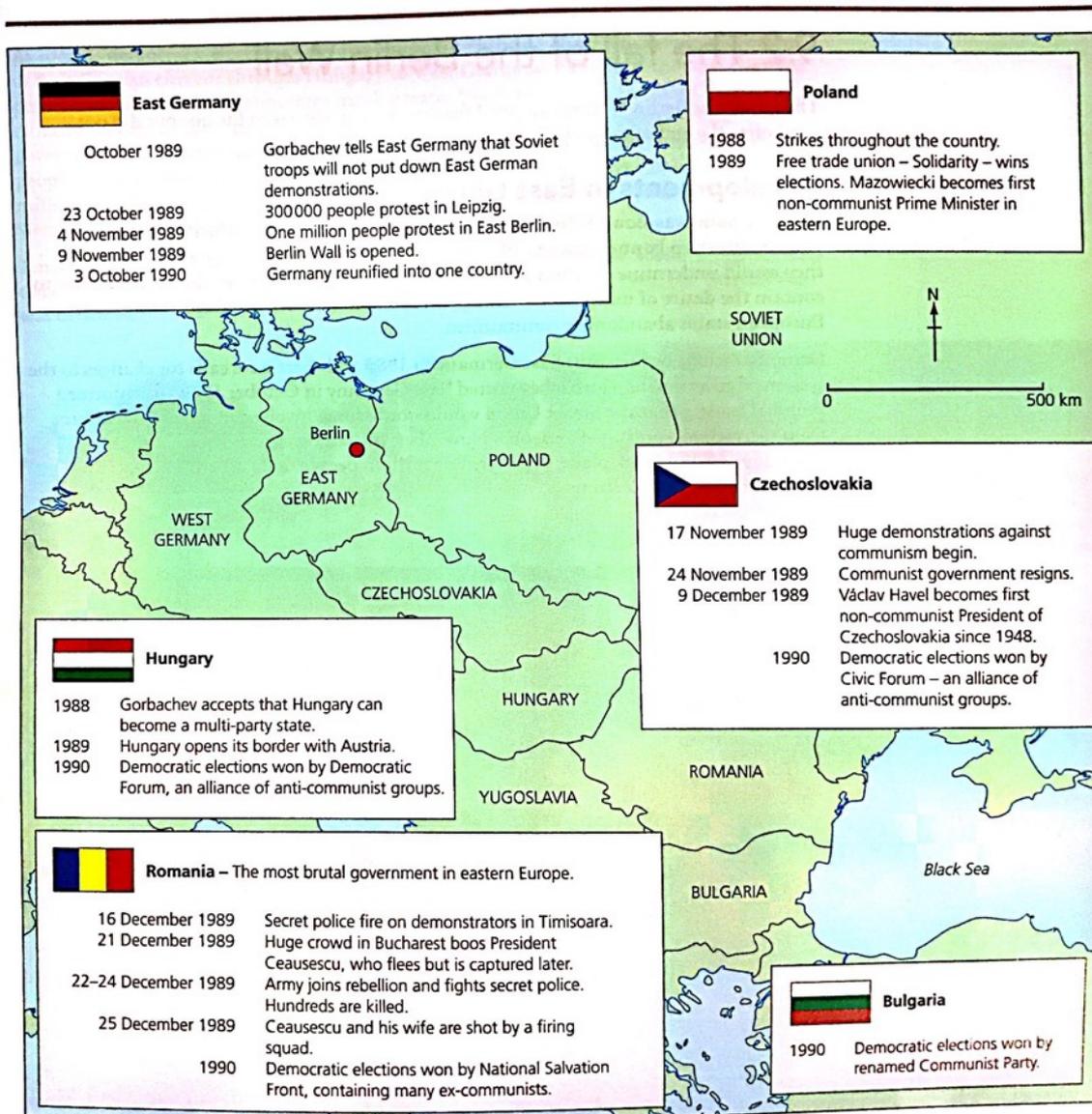
Within 12 months of his speech, the communist system would be dismantled throughout Eastern Europe

1 year after that

The Soviet Union itself was disbanded



Stick your map of Eastern Europe in your book and then using the information, write a **chronological** story of how the Eastern Bloc collapsed



Stick this into your book and make a **CHRONOLOGICAL** list of all events in the break up of the Soviet Union

▲ Figure 9.1 Map showing the break-up of the Soviet Empire in the years 1988–91



Was all of this really happening?

Was Gorbachev serious?



Reagan's speech in Berlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei1HnWwzmNk> Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCO9BYCGNeY> Part 2



What is going on here?



News coverage of the evening <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK1MwhEDjHg>

The significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall – 11th November 1989



The significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall – 11th November 1989



The significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall – 11th November 1989



The iconic photograph of Gorbachev and the East German leader Erich Honecker

The wall falling represented the symbol of the Cold War and Soviet control ending!

The end of the Warsaw Pact

- The Warsaw Pact had been set up in response to NATO, formally dividing Europe in two
- Throughout the Cold War, the Warsaw Pact had been seen as a potential threat
- It was a means also a means for the Soviet Union to coordinate forces to defend communism from the West
- It also allowed the Soviet Union to dominate Eastern Europe politically and militarily, most famously Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968
- Military cooperation between the Pact states ended in early 1990
- Warsaw Pact formally dissolved in July 1991
- Many satellite states became truly independent, governing themselves and their own economies
- Every single member abandoned communism
- The end of the Warsaw Pact was of course a highly significant moment in the Cold War

Europe was reunited, 'iron curtain' was gone, no longer two armed camps...

Cold War is OVER



So what about Gorbachev?...

Was he weak?

Was he brilliant?

Was Reagan just too strong?



Gorbachev faced a coup from hard-line communists where he narrowly remained in power.

However, further weaknesses were exploited by Soviet Republics and he stepped down as leader of the Soviet Union on Christmas Day 1991.

His resignation was immediately followed by the break up of the Soviet Union.



Exam-style question, Section A

Explain **two** consequences of Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to abandon the Brezhnev Doctrine. **8 marks**

Exam tip

This question asks about 'consequences' so we don't need a lot of information on **how** or **why** the Doctrine was abandoned. Instead concentrate your efforts on what **difference** abandoning it made. How did this change things?

Summary

- The weakness of the Soviet economy led to a rethink of the country's role in international politics.
- Gorbachev's 'new thinking' encouraged a positive response from the USA.
- The Soviet Union abandoned the Brezhnev Doctrine.
- Nationalist uprisings resulted in the break-up of the Warsaw Pact.
- The Soviet Union was dissolved.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** When did Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Geneva?
- S2** What was Gorbachev's 'new thinking'?
- S3** What were *perestroika* and *glasnost*?

Challenge

- C1** What part did the Chernobyl disaster play in international relations in the 1980s?
- C2** Why was the fall of the Berlin Wall so important?
- C3** How significant was the end of the Warsaw Pact?

How confident do you feel about your answers to these questions? Re-read the chapter, making notes as you go. Now try answering the questions again.

Exam-style question, Section A

Explain **two** of the following:

- the importance of the nuclear arms race for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union
- the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union
- the importance of Ronald Reagan for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. **16 marks**

Exam tip

Remember that this question is not asking for a description of an event or policy. It is asking about **why** that event or policy was important. What **difference** did it make? Remember to pay attention to the context. All these developments are about relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.

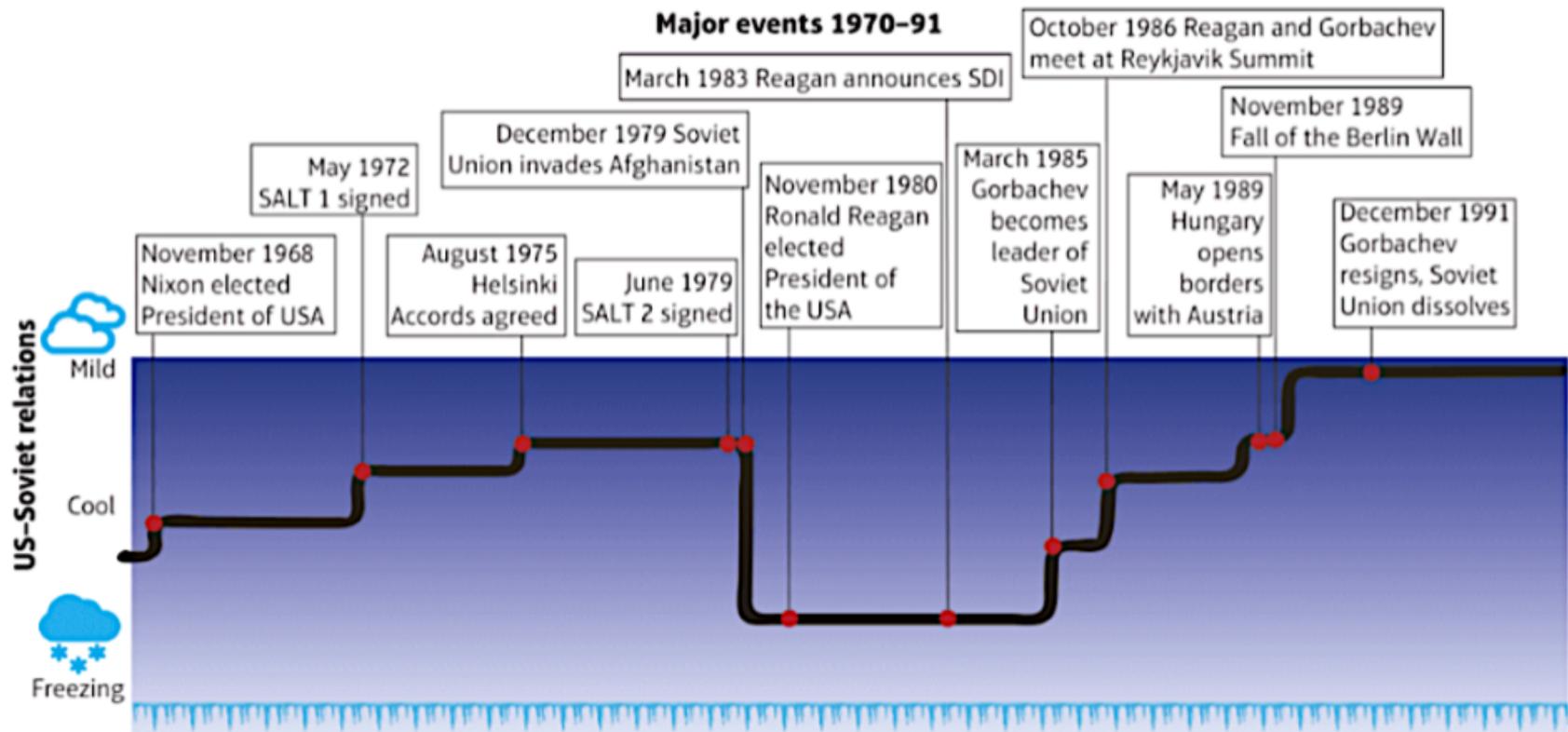


Figure 3.6 Relations between the USA and Soviet Union, 1968-91.