**The Collapse of the Soviet Union**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A. Reasons for the Collapse**

Throughout the Cold War, the Soviet Union continued to extend its power throughout Eastern Europe. Up until the 1980’s, the Soviet Union had absolute power over its own people, offering them little freedom. With the help of a new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and people who demanded change, the USSR began giving people more and more rights and freedoms. The Soviet Union entirely collapsed by the early 1990’s.

*In your groups, read each of the documents and fill in the chart.*

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| Document | Questions | Answer |
| 1 | *What were the problems facing the Soviet Union?*  *What was the INF? Why would this agreement help the Soviet economy?* |  |
| 2 | *Define Glasnost.*  *Define Perestroika.*  *Is perestroika closer to communism or capitalism? Explain.* | *Names of people involved*: |
| 3 | *What was the Solidarity movement?*  *After independence, what happened to many countries?*  *Why was an effect of the Hungarian Revolution?* | *Names of people involved*: |
| 4 | *Define Ostpolitik.*  *How did people feel after the fall of the Berlin Wall?* | *Names of people involved*: |
| 5 | *List the names of all the nations who became independent from the Soviet Union.* |  |

**B. Russia Today**

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| Election Year | President | Prime Minister |
| 2000 | Vladimir Putin | Dmitry Medvedev |
| 2008 | Dmitry Medvedev | Vladimir Putin |
| 2012 | Vladimir Putin | Dmitry Medvedev |
| 2018 | Vladimir Putin | Dmitry Medvedev |

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| Area | Information | *What is the relationship like between this area and Russia today?* |
| Eastern Europe | “Russia's central bank has issued a new coin featuring the Crimea to commemorate Crimea's ‘reunification with Russia,’ according to the bank. The peninsula of Crimea is southern Ukraine… Troops loyal to Russia took control of the region and the pro-Russian government has voted to join the Russian Federation”  - March 2019  “President Vladimir Putin has sent a letter to President Aleksandar Vucic stating ‘in Russia, relations of strategic partnership with Serbia are highly valued. We emphasize with pleasure that cooperation between our countries is developing dynamically in the most diverse areas. (Serbian President was a nationalist information minister under Milosevic.)”  - February 2019 |  |
| Middle East | “Russia has been providing funding and arms to Taliban groups. Russia has strongly denied the allegations…”  - November 2017  “Under the personal direction of Putin, Russia is [stepping into the vac­uum](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russia-seeks-to-fill-vacuum-in-the-middle-east/2013/09/30/7e7124cc-27c7-11e3-9372-92606241ae9c_story.html?utm_term=.235e68c4833c) left by the disengagement of the Obama administration and the unpredictability of the Trump one to challenge the United States’ dominant role in the region.  Russian oilmen, arms dealers and financiers have been fanning out across the region, striking billions of dollars’ worth of deals, reviving old relationships and forging new ones from Libya to the Persian Gulf.”  -December 2018 |  |
| United States | “U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller has yet to release his report about Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election… In one indictment, Mueller has accused Russia’s military intelligence agency GRU of hacking into the Democratic campaign and releasing the stolen emails through WikiLeaks. Another has charged employees of a Russian troll farm allegedly controlled by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman dubbed “Putin’s chef” for his ties to the Kremlin, with spreading disinformation on social media in a bid to bolster support for Trump and disparage his rival, Hillary Clinton.”  - March 2019 |  |

*Did the collapse of the Soviet Union have a positive or negative impact on the world??*