

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Fall of the Soviet Union Webquest and Video Analysis

Directions: Complete the following questions using resources from the links listed below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9HjvHZfCUI> (Crash Course Video)

[http://www.coldwar.org/articles/90s/fall\\_of\\_the\\_soviet\\_union.asp](http://www.coldwar.org/articles/90s/fall_of_the_soviet_union.asp) (Cold War Mueum)



To begin this assignment, start the Crash Course Video: [USA vs USSR Fight! The Cold War](#) at the 9:01 mark and then answer the following questions.

1. How did government policies prove bad for the economy of the Soviet Union?
2. Which individual is most responsible for the end of the Soviet Union and the Cold War?

3. What policies did Mikhail Gorbachev introduce, which eventually doomed the Soviet system?
4. What did these two policies change about the Soviet Union?
5. What did glasnost impact in the Soviet Union specifically?
6. What events signalled the end of communism in East Germany?
7. What other former Soviet satellite countries saw communism come to an end?

For the next section of this assignment, proceed to the Cold War Museum website listed on the front page, read the article, and answer the following questions.

8. When the Soviet Union disintegrated in December 1991, how many countries emerged from the former superpower?
9. Which nation had the Soviet Union inherited territory from when it was formed in 1917?

10. What political group formed the Soviet Union? What kind of government did they establish?

11. Why did the Soviet Union suffer eventual economic decline?

12. What was the economic and political situation in the Soviet Union in 1985 when Mikhail Gorbachev came to power?

13. What were the policies of perestroika and glasnost created to address specifically?

14. What did Gorbachev not plan on when he introduced perestroika and glasnost?

15. Why did the citizens of the Soviet Union use their newly declared freedom of expression to criticize Gorbachev and his government?

16. Which Soviet Republics began the call for independence?

17. Why was Gorbachev faced with a no-win scenario after republics began demanding independence?



The Soviet Union as it appeared in 1989- the individual republics of the Soviet Union have been included on this map.

18. What dispute erupted between the Armenian and Azerbaijan Republics?

19. How did Gorbachev respond to this conflict? What was the outcome of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

20. What other Soviet Republics began experiencing nationalist movements?

21. What last ditch effort was attempted to save the Soviet Union in August 1991?

22. How did the citizens of the Soviet Union respond to the coup?

23. Why did the coup eventually fail?

24. Following the demonstrations of the "August days," what was the only outcome the citizens of the Soviet Union would accept?

25. When did Gorbachev resign as the leader of the Soviet Union? What ceased to exist?

26. What replaced the Soviet Union?

27. How did the Commonwealth of Independent Republics function differently than the Soviet Union?



The successor states of the Soviet Union

28. What enormous task were the successor states of the Soviet Union faced with after the fall of the USSR?