

Worksheet: The Collapse of Communism

Consolidation and analysis

In a single year — 1989 — communism collapsed across Eastern Europe. The decisive change came from within: a Soviet leader who chose not to send the tanks. This content underpins Task 7.

Q1. Define glasnost and perestroika.

Q2. Complete the table sorting the causes of the collapse.

Internal pressures	External / individual factors

Q3. Explain why Gorbachev's abandonment of the Brezhnev Doctrine was so significant for Eastern Europe.

Q4. "Communism in Eastern Europe collapsed from within rather than because of Gorbachev." To what extent do you agree? Support your answer with evidence. (Task 7 practice.)