



German  
Reunification and  
the End of the  
Cold War

## STANDARDS:

**SS6H3 Explain conflict and change in Europe.**

**c. Explain how German reunification collapse of the Soviet Union and led to the Cold War.**

# East Berlin

- Berliners hated living under communism.
- Luckily, West Berlin and freedom were just across the street.
- About 3 million people fled to West Berlin looking for political freedom and better lives.
- The East German government wanted it to stop.

# Berlin Wall

- In August 1961, East Germany built a 103 mile wall between East and West Berlin.
- Guarded by Soviet troops, it became a powerful symbol of the separation between western and eastern Europe.







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ВЫ ВЕЗЖАЕТЕ В АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ СЕКТОР  
НОСИТЬ ОРУЖИЕ ЗАПРЕШЕНО В НЕСЛУЖЕБНОЕ ВРЕМЯ  
ПОВИНУЙТЕСЬ ДОРОЖНЫМ ПРАВИЛАМ

VOUS ENTREZ DANS LE SECTEUR AMÉRICAIN  
DEFENSE DE PORTER DES ARMES EN DEHORS DU SERVICE  
OBÉISSEZ AUX REGLES DE CIRCULATION

SIE BETRETEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR

US

ARMY



**Paris, 1961**



**Khrushchev & JFK meet to discuss Berlin and nuclear weapons. Khrushchev thinks that JFK is young, inexperienced, and can be pushed over.**



# Losing Control

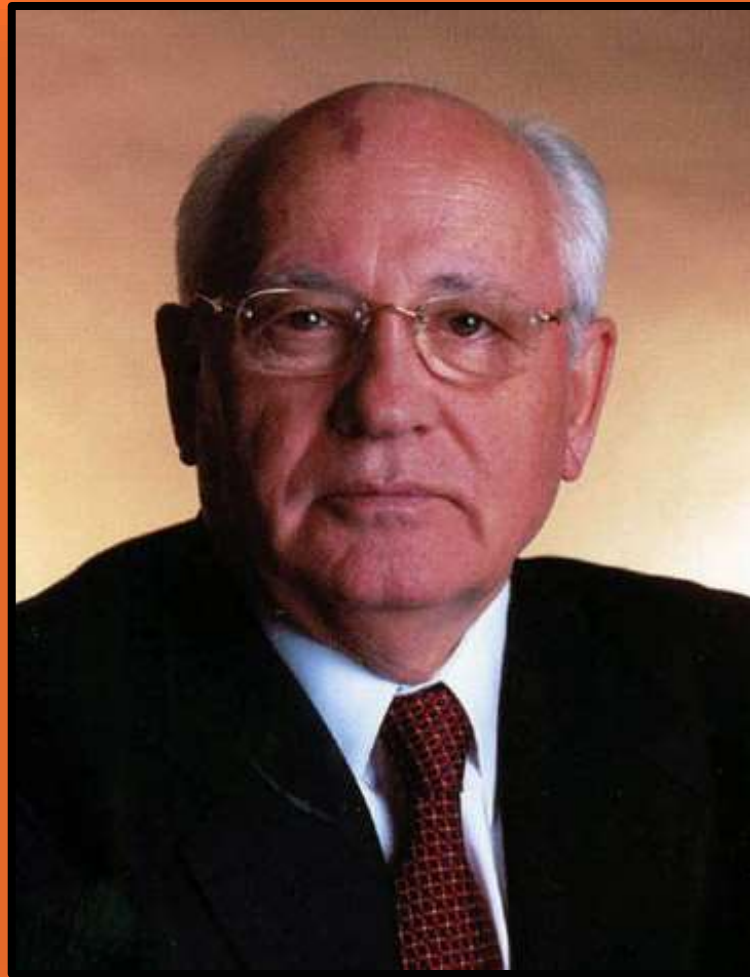
- Unfortunately for the Soviet regime, the economy did not grow.
- The weapons stockpiling, space race, and defense of Communist countries cost the Soviet Union a lot of money.
- The government planning caused food shortages and there weren't enough goods to meet citizens' needs.

# Protests

- By the 1980s, most Soviet people had lost faith in the communist system and protests broke out across Soviet-controlled nations.
- The people demanded freedom from Communist rule.

# Change

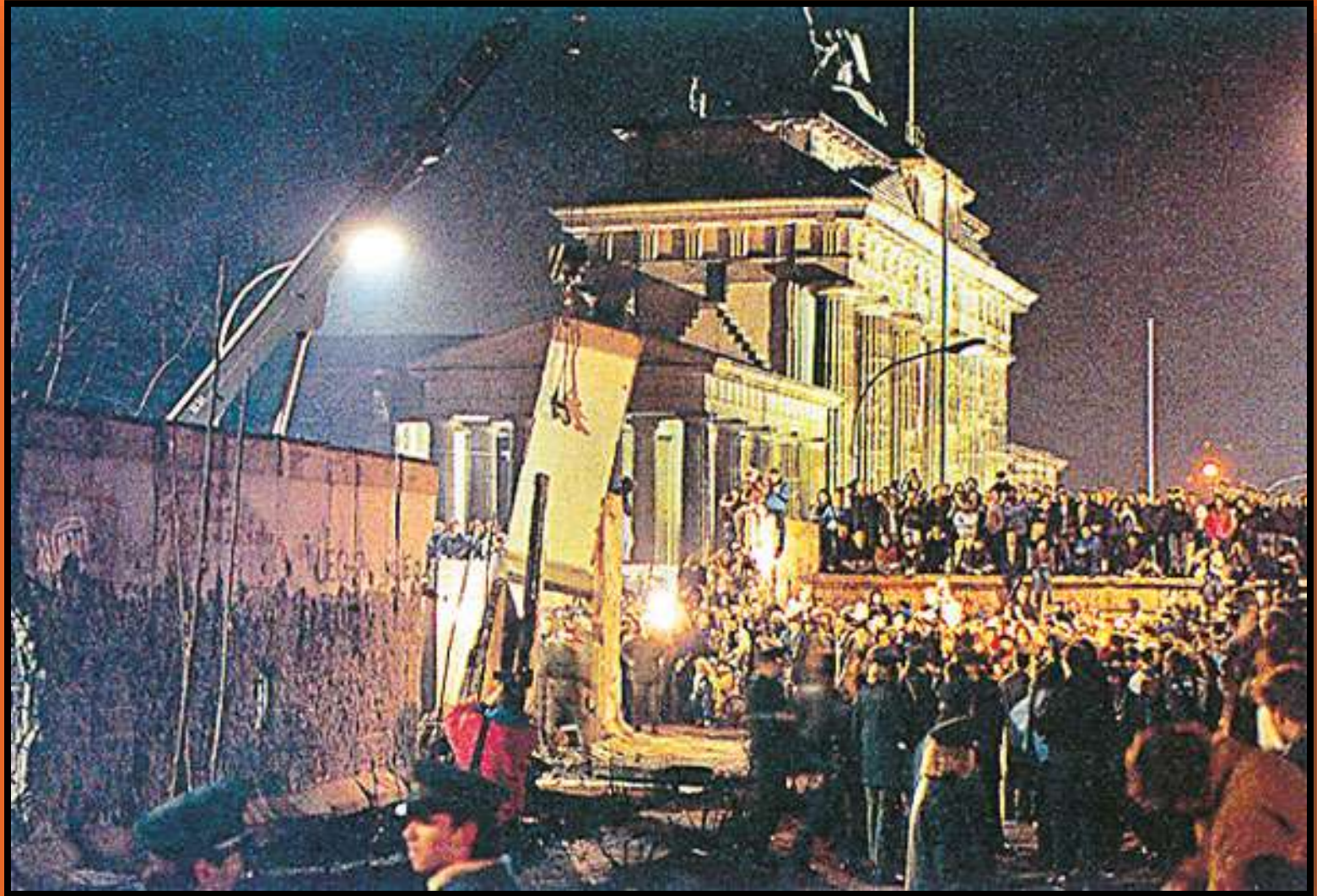
- The Soviet Union was spending tons of money putting down revolts, protecting its borders, and keeping up with the US in the arms race.
- In 1985, the economy was so unstable that Mikhail Gorbachev, head of USSR, reduced government control of business and increased the freedoms for all citizens.



**Mikhail Gorbachev**

# Wall Falls

- Demonstrations in East Berlin forced Germany's Communist government to give up its power.
- When the announcement was made, East and West Berliners climbed the Berlin Wall and celebrated.
- Citizens immediately began tearing down the wall.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1989: the Berlin Wall, a symbol of communism, was destroyed.







AP

# Reunification

- After nearly 30 years, Germany was reunited.
- In 1990, Germans voted to make the countries of East Germany and West Germany reunited as one country.
- Today, Germany is a free democracy with a mixed-market economy.

# War Ends

- After Germany was reunified, the Soviet republics that had once been separate countries began seeking their independence also.
- Between 1989 and 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War finally ends.
- 15 independent countries were created; Russia was the largest.