

CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 10.9.7

The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Specific Objective: Analyze the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the weakness of the command economy, burdens of military commitments, and growing resistance to Soviet rule by dissidents in satellite states and non-Russian Soviet republics.

Read the graphic organizer to answer questions on the next page.

1960s and 1970s: Stagnation of Soviet Life		
Economic problems caused by total government control of the economy	Burdensome cost of arms race and control of communist states	Growing resistance in communist states to tight Soviet control
1980s: Loosening of Soviet Controls		
Policy of perestroika— economic restructuring that permitted more local input • local managers make more decisions • small businesses are permitted to open	Changes in foreign policy • efforts to limit arms race • gradual democratization of communist states	Policy of glasnost— openness of ideas • greater freedom of the press • release of political prisoners

1991: The Soviet Union Breaks into 11 Republics

PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the best answer.

- 1 By the 1970s, the Soviet Union had been significantly weakened by
 - A a centrally controlled economy.
 - **B** attacks from abroad.
 - C heavy investment in Eastern Europe.
 - **D** German reunification.
- 2 In the 1980s, Soviet authorities responded to growing resistance to their rule by
 - **A** focusing exclusively on economic development.
 - **B** asserting their military superiority.
 - C beginning a gradual process of democratization.
 - **D** jailing political dissidents.
- 3 Which event in the Soviet Union during the late 1980s is an example of *perestroika*?
 - **A** Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
 - **B** Local farmers were allowed to set their own prices.
 - C Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan.
 - **D** Churches were permitted to re-open.

- 4 Which event in the Soviet Union during the late 1980s is an example of glasnost?
 - **A** Small businesses were permitted to open.
 - **B** Gorbachev limited arms spending.
 - C The Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded.
 - **D** Previously banned books were published.
- 5 A main reason the Soviet Union decided in the 1980s to pursue arms control was that the arms race had
 - A caused fear among Soviet citizens.
 - **B** strained relations with Europe.
 - **C** burdened the Soviet economy.
 - **D** made the Soviet Union dependent on foreign materials.
- 6 The breakup of the Soviet Union, in 1991, can *best* be characterized as
 - **A** a relatively peaceful transition.
 - **B** a complete economic disaster.
 - **C** an example of international cooperation.
 - **D** an effort that lasted nearly a century.