

CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 10.9.5

# Resistance in Eastern Europe

**Specific Objective:** Describe the uprisings in Poland (1952), Hungary (1956), and Czechoslovakia (1968) and those countries' resurgence in the 1970s and 1980s as people in Soviet satellites sought freedom from Soviet control.

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

After World War II, the Soviet Union dominated most of Eastern Europe politically and economically. However, many nations resisted—and ultimately freed themselves from—communist control. Among the first were Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

#### **RESISTANCE TO COMMUNIST CONTROL**

HUNGARY 1956 An anti-communist revolt breaks out and Hungarian soldiers and civilians install a new government led by former communist leader Imre Nagy. Soviet troops crush the uprising and execute Nagy.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1968 Czech communist leader Alexander Dubček begins democratic reforms known as the Prague Spring. The Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia, repeals Dubček's reforms, and expels him from the party.

POLAND 1980 The Polish trade union Solidarity launches a strike at a shipyard in Gdansk that becomes world-famous, along with its leader, Lech Walesa. By the following year, Solidarity has nearly 10 million members. In 1981, the government bans the union and jails its leaders.



**SOVIET UNION 1985** Mikhail Gorbachev takes power amid economic troubles and announces the policies of **glasnost** (openness of information and ideas) and **perestroika** (economic restructuring).



### THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNIST RULE

**HUNGARY 1989** The communist party congress votes to dissolve itself and to pass legislation that will allow for free elections and a democratic political system.

czechoslovakia 1989 Peaceful student protests launch the Velvet Revolution, a mostly nonviolent transition from communist power, as the communist government resigns and is replaced by a non-communist government.

POLAND 1989 After years of Solidarity launching boycotts and strikes from underground, the government agrees to legalize the union and allow it to participate in elections; Poles vote the communists out of office in favor of Solidarity candidates.



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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 What was the outcome of the 1956 uprising in Hungary?
  - **A** The Soviet Union allowed limited democratic reforms.
  - **B** Soviet troops crushed the uprising and expelled its leader from the party.
  - C The Soviet Union allowed limited economic reforms.
  - **D** Soviet troops crushed the uprising and executed its leader.
- 2 Who led the months of democratic reform in 1968 that became known as the Prague Spring?
  - A Leonid Brezhnev
  - **B** Alexander Dubček
  - C Imre Nagy
  - D Lech Walesa
- 3 In what country was a successful anticommunist movement led by the trade union Solidarity?
  - A Czechoslovakia
  - **B** Hungary
  - C Poland
  - **D** Romania

- 4 The fall of the communist governments in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland occurred four years after the
  - A end of the Cold War.
  - **B** election of Mikhail Gorbachev.
  - C Velvet Revolution.
  - **D** Soviet Union began the process of destalinization.
- 5 In which nation did the communist party vote to dissolve itself?
  - A Czechoslovakia
  - **B** Hungary
  - C Poland
  - **D** Romania
- 6 How did the Velvet Revolution earn its name?
  - **A** It was peaceful.
  - B Its effects were superficial.
  - **C** It was led by the wealthy.
  - **D** It was conducted in secret.