**Materials for the website Chapter 3**

**Practice Questions.  
Test your knowledge of key individuals, dates, institutions, and events related to the final years of the Soviet Union and the early Russian Federation.**

1. How did Mikhail Gorbachev rise to the position of General Secretary of the Communist Party?
2. What did the term *“socialist entrepreneurship”* refer to during perestroika?
3. Define *perestroika* and *glasnost*.
4. What was Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution, and why was it significant?
5. Why did Gorbachev attempt to reform the Communist Party, and how did he pursue these reforms?
6. What was meant by the “radical economic reform” introduced during perestroika?
7. What was the “new thinking” in Soviet foreign policy under Gorbachev?
8. Explain GRIT (Graduated and Reciprocated Initiatives in Tension-Reduction) as a foreign policy strategy.
9. When did the August 1991 coup occur, and what were the primary goals of its organizers?
10. Who emerged as the informal leader of the democratic opposition in Russia during the late 1980s and early 1990s?
11. What does the term *imperial overstretch* mean in the context of the Soviet Union?
12. What is the “triumphalist” interpretation of the end of the Cold War?
13. Describe the four phases of the political relationship between Yeltsin and Gorbachev.
14. “Perestroika was the practical outcome of an idealistic vision shared by a small group of Party officials.” Explain this statement.

**Check several reviews of literary works by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Vasily Aksyonov, Anatoly Rybakov—whose works were prohibited in the Soviet Union prior to glasnost. They were allowed for publication in Russia after 1986.**

**Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

<http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1970/solzhenitsyn-autobio.html>

<http://www.gradesaver.com/author/solzhenitsyn/>

**Vasily Aksyonov**

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/blogs/article/379377.html>

<http://www.librarything.com/author/aksyonovvassily>

**Anatoly Rybakov**

<https://nyti.ms/3hpsX47>

<http://www.librarything.com/author/rybakovanatoli>

**Recommended Videos:**

ABC News - Red Star Rising: The Dawn of the Gorbachev Era (54 min.)

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPqopWXcmNg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPqopWXcmNg)

Life in the Soviet Union (56 min)

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SU-3V8diEVk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SU-3V8diEVk)

**1985:** A fascinating discussion with Henry Kissinger, Denis Healey and a former Soviet diplomat about the new General Secretary of the USSR and what changes Gorbachev might bring to his country and to US-Soviet relations.

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NinMN6HO\_M**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NinMN6HO_M)

**A 1992 article explaining why perestroika failed Peter Boettke is a Professor of Economics and Philosophy at George Mason University:**

[**https://fee.org/articles/why-perestroika-failed/**](https://fee.org/articles/why-perestroika-failed/)

**Inside the collapsing Soviet Economy: A 1990 report**

[**https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1990/06/inside-the-collapsing-soviet-economy/303870/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjN\_E0qj46wIVjZ-zCh2sMwweEAMYASAAEgJmqPD\_BwE**](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1990/06/inside-the-collapsing-soviet-economy/303870/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjN_E0qj46wIVjZ-zCh2sMwweEAMYASAAEgJmqPD_BwE)

**The Collapse of the Soviet Union**

The documentary is using episodes filmed mainly at the Kremlin, Soviet Union's headquarters which enable to have a glance to world's most well-known political kitchen. Director TOOMAS LEPP, author and producer JUHAN AARE. Eesti Kultuurfilm 2006

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYD6ouVHXbo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYD6ouVHXbo)