Mikhail Gorbachev was born on March 2, 1931, in the village of Privolnoye in the Stavropol Territory of the Soviet Union. He grew up in a peasant family and experienced the hardships of life in a rural area, which would later influence his political beliefs and policies. Gorbachev joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1952 and quickly rose through the ranks. He became the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, at the age of 54, making him the youngest leader of the Soviet Union in decades. One of Gorbachev's most significant contributions to the world was his policy of 'glasnost,' which means 'openness' in Russian. This policy aimed to increase transparency in the government and media, allowing for more freedom of speech and expression. Another key policy of Gorbachev's was 'perestroika,' which means 'restructuring' in Russian. This policy focused on reforming the Soviet economy and political system, introducing elements of capitalism and democracy. Gorbachev's efforts to reform the Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War and the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. His willingness to engage in diplomacy with the West, particularly with US President Ronald Reagan, helped ease tensions between the two superpowers. Despite his efforts to modernize the Soviet Union, Gorbachev faced opposition from hardline communists who were resistant to change. This opposition ultimately led to a failed coup attempt in 1991, which accelerated the collapse of the Soviet Union. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev continued to be active in politics and international relations. He founded the Gorbachev Foundation in 1992, which focuses on promoting democracy and human rights around the world. Gorbachev has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to global peace and diplomacy. In 1990, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War and promoting international cooperation. In addition to his political achievements, Gorbachev is also known for his advocacy on environmental issues. He has been a vocal supporter of climate action and has called for global cooperation to address the threat of climate change. Despite his controversial legacy in Russia, Gorbachev remains a respected figure in the international community. His impact on world history and politics is undeniable, and his efforts to promote peace and democracy continue to inspire new generations of leaders.