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History – A1

# **Chapter 33, Questions 13, 14, 15, & 18**

1. One reason it was less successful was the Soviet Union’s agriculture was very unproductive. The Soviets often had to import grains to feed its population. The Soviet command economy also could not produce as fine luxuries as the Western capitalist economies. The production of goods was not determined by supply and demand, so many people never got supplies that were needed. Workers also did not have enough incentive to produce goods.
2. The Soviet Union dominated Eastern Europe by force. In 1955, the Warsaw Pact was established, to gain and keep control of Eastern European territory. The Soviet Union, like the US, sought allies with developing nations. They also offered military and economic aid to win allies.
3. One key problem was the unrest of territories in control of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union would often silence critics and rebellions with brute force. However, this method often fed the unrest. Another problem was the failing economy. The Soviet economy was often spiraling downward. This was due to low incentive in workers, and the heads of government were changing their policies too often, never leading to a stable economy. Other problems were high unemployment, inflation, and relatively no aid from the West.
4. The leader of the Soviet Union at the time of its collapse was Mikhail Gorbachev. Some of the policies he tried to institute were a free market, but retaining the essence of communism. He reduced the complexity of bureaucracy and factory managers were given responsibility for decisions. However, this backfired, more factories shut down and unemployment was even higher. Unrest was even higher. In 1991, the republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania gained independence. There was an attempted coup to overthrow Gorbachev that failed but weakened his rule more. As more republics gained independence, in 1991, Gorbachev resigned as president. This was the final blow, and the Soviet Union collapsed.