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Job: first

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Overall Score

14/20 (14 / 20)

Summary

The essay demonstrates a clear structure and solid use of historical evidence to support its argument about Gorbachev's role in the fall of the Berlin Wall, showing good understanding of the topic. Strengths include logical progression of ideas and relevant citations, but improvements are needed in deepening critical insights and polishing language to eliminate errors and improve flow. With revisions focusing on originality and mechanics, the essay could achieve higher sophistication.

Criteria

thesis_argument — Thesis and Argument (Score: 3)

Assigned Level: Thesis is clear and focused, with a solid argument that adequately addresses the prompt. (3)

Description: Evaluates the clarity, insight, and guidance provided by the thesis in addressing the prompt.

Example 1 excerpt: Ultimately, as time went on, the Soviet leader allowed the Berlin wall to come down because he had a broader vision for the Soviet Union and its role in the world. The main reasons for this are that he wanted a more dynamic socialist system, there was a need for internal economic recovery, and he desired to reposition the soviet union as a cooperative global power.

Example 1 comment: This thesis clearly outlines the main reasons for Gorbachev's decision, providing a focused structure that guides the essay and adequately addresses why the wall fell, demonstrating a solid argument without

Example 2 excerpt: In conclusion, the Soviet leader allowed the Berlin wall to come down because he had a broader vision for the Soviet Union and its role in the world. The main reasons for this are that he wanted a more dynamic socialist system, there was a need for internal economic recovery, and he desired to reposition the soviet union as a cooperative global power.

Example 2 comment: The restatement in the conclusion reinforces the thesis effectively, maintaining relevance to the prompt and tying the argument together, though it repeats phrasing without adding new insight.

Improvement Suggestion: To reach the top level of a clear, insightful thesis that effectively guides the essay with a strong, original argument, refine your thesis to include a unique perspective, such as emphasizing Gorbachev's reforms as a deliberate pivot from ideological rigidity to pragmatic global integration. For example, revise to: 'Gorbachev's allowance of the Berlin Wall's fall in 1989 stemmed from his visionary reforms—Perestroika, Glasnost, and the Sinatra Doctrine—which not only revitalized the Soviet economy and society but also redefined its global stance from confrontation to cooperation, ultimately catalyzing the end of the Cold War divide.' This change earns the top level by introducing originality and insight, showing deeper engagement with historical implications while precisely directing the essay's focus.

organization_coherence — Organization and Coherence (Score: 3)

Assigned Level: Clear structure with effective transitions; ideas flow logically overall. (3)

Description: Assesses the structure, transitions, and logical flow of ideas throughout the essay.

Example 1 excerpt: Gorbachev allowed for the Berlin wall to be taken down because he sought a greater purpose for the Soviet Union made possible by a socialist system with a more innovative approach. Perestroika was Gorbachev's policy introduced in 1985 to reform the Soviet Union's stagnant economy and political system.

Example 1 comment: This transition from the thesis to the first body paragraph uses a clear topic sentence that links back to the broader vision, ensuring logical progression and effective flow between ideas.

Example 2 excerpt: However, these reforms placed other considerations on the economy for Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet leader's recognition of the Union's dire need for internal economic recovery shifted concern away from the Berlin Wall.

Example 2 comment: The use of 'However' signals a shift to the next reason, maintaining coherence by connecting economic reforms to the overall argument, though the progression could feel more seamless with varied

Improvement Suggestion: Aim for the highest level by creating an exceptionally well-organized essay with seamless transitions and a coherent progression of ideas, ensuring each paragraph builds cumulatively on the last without repetition. For instance, instead of restating the thesis in the conclusion, bridge the final body paragraph to it with: 'Building on these economic and diplomatic shifts, Gorbachev's non-intervention ultimately transformed Eastern Europe.' This revision achieves top-level organization by weaving ideas fluidly, enhancing the essay's unity and demonstrating masterful control over structure for a more engaging read.

development_support — Development and Support (Score: 3)

Assigned Level: Adequate evidence and examples that effectively support main points. (3)

Description: Examines the use of evidence and examples to support the main points.

Example 1 excerpt: Perestroika was Gorbachev's policy introduced in 1985 to reform the Soviet Union's stagnant economy and political system. Gorbachev's perestroika program loosened centralized control of many businesses, allowing some farmers and manufacturers to decide for themselves which products to make, how many to produce, and what to charge for them. This went against the strict price controls that were typical for Soviet economic policies ("Perestroika").

Example 1 comment: This section provides adequate historical details and a citation to explain Perestroika, effectively supporting the claim about a dynamic socialist system with relevant examples of economic loosening.

Example 2 excerpt: The country's gross national product dropped from 5.8% in 1940 to 2.6% in 1970 ("Consequences of"). The region's large energy and raw material base had prompted the Soviet economy to rely little on foreign trade throughout history. It was recorded in 1985 that exports and imports accounted for just 4 percent of the Soviet gross national product ("Consequences of").

Example 2 comment: Specific statistics and citations here adequately bolster the argument for economic recovery needs, showing effective use of evidence to illustrate stagnation without overwhelming depth.

Improvement Suggestion: To attain the top level with rich, relevant evidence from credible sources integrated smoothly to strongly support the argument, incorporate more diverse sources and analyze their interconnections explicitly. For example, expand a supporting detail by adding: 'As evidenced by declassified Soviet archives and economic analyses from historians like Archie Brown, Perestroika's decentralization not only spurred private enterprise but directly weakened East Germany's control mechanisms, paving the way for the Wall's demolition.' This earns the highest score by seamlessly blending multiple credible evidences with smooth integration, strengthening the argument's persuasiveness and demonstrating comprehensive support.

critical_analysis — Critical Analysis and Understanding (Score: 3)

Assigned Level: Solid analysis with clear interpretation and appropriate engagement with the topic. (3)

Description: Evaluates the depth of analysis, insights, and engagement with the topic.

Example 1 excerpt: These policies show that Gorbachev was striving for a more dynamic socialist system because the policies he installed paved the way for East Germans to demand reforms and protest to have the Berlin Wall removed.

Example 1 comment: This interprets how Glasnost and Perestroika enabled protests, providing solid analysis that connects reforms to the Wall's fall with appropriate engagement, though it remains somewhat straightforward.

Example 2 excerpt: Gorbachev's non-intervention, rooted in the Sinatra Doctrine, allowed East German protests to escalate. The Wall fell on November 9, 1989, after a bureaucratic error by a German Democratic Republic official, with Gorbachev refusing to deploy Soviet

troops (“Sinatra Doctrine”).

Example 2 comment: The analysis here clearly links the Sinatra Doctrine to non-intervention and the Wall's fall, showing appropriate understanding and interpretation of Gorbachev's global repositioning.

Improvement Suggestion: Strive for the pinnacle of sophisticated analysis with original insights and deep engagement by exploring counterfactuals or broader implications. Revise a key analysis to: 'Gorbachev's Sinatra Doctrine, unlike the Brezhnev Doctrine's iron-fisted control, represented a radical philosophical shift toward sovereignty, as seen in Poland's Solidarity success; this not only emboldened East German demonstrators but arguably accelerated the Soviet Union's own dissolution, revealing the interconnected fragility of the Eastern Bloc.' This achieves the top level through original insight into long-term consequences, fostering deep engagement that elevates the essay beyond description to thoughtful critique.

language_style_mechanics — Language, Style, and Mechanics (Score: 2)

Assigned Level: Readable but with noticeable errors in grammar, style, or mechanics that affect clarity. (2)

Description: Reviews the clarity, precision, and error-free quality of the writing.

Example 1 excerpt: The Wall was originally built in 1961 under Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, however when Mikhail Gorbachev was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, the whole perspective of the Wall changed.

Example 1 comment: This sentence is readable but contains a spelling error ('Khrushchev' should be 'Khrushchev') and a run-on structure without proper punctuation, slightly affecting clarity and professionalism.

Example 2 excerpt: Such aspects of free-market capitalism had not been seen in the Soviet Union since the brief New Economic Policy of Vladimir Lenin, instituted in 1922 after the Russian civil war (“Glasnost”).

Example 2 comment: The phrasing is mostly clear, but inconsistent citation placement and minor stylistic awkwardness (e.g., abrupt historical jump) make it noticeable, impacting the overall polish without fully hindering comprehension.

Improvement Suggestion: Target the top level of polished, engaging prose with precise language, varied sentences, and no errors by proofreading thoroughly and varying sentence structure for rhythm. For example, revise the misspelled sentence to: 'Erected in 1961 under Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, the Berlin Wall symbolized division; yet, with Mikhail Gorbachev's ascension to General Secretary in 1985, its ideological foundations began to crumble amid his reformist agenda.' This secures the highest level by eliminating errors, employing precise vocabulary like 'ascension' and 'crumble' for engagement, and using varied syntax to enhance readability and stylistic flair.