

# Mikhail Gorbachev and the end of Soviet power

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## Mikhail Gorbachev's afterlife

They believed the pact would pave the way to the Soviet Union's breakup, and decided that it was time to act. But his reforms led to severe economic hardship at home.

## Mikhail Gorbachev

For now, they stick to the facts.

## BBC ON THIS DAY

And these days, too, the most common feeling towards Mr Gorbachev in Russia is not gratitude, but contempt.

## Mikhail S. Gorbachev

Many of the more conservative members of the Soviet Union really discouraged Gorbachev.

## Chernobyl and the fall of the Soviet Union: Gorbachev's glasnost allowed the nuclear catastrophe to undermine the USSR.

In 2009, Gorbachev joined his former adversary Lech Walesa and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in a public observance of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was a very poor village, the housing was very poor, and so were our clothes, and there was a great deal of work, and even more anxiety. A toxin imperceptible to the eye is as unavoidable as it is terrifying, yet Soviets were unable to rely upon their ostensibly dependable government to inform and protect them.

## Gorbachev, Yeltsin and the Demise of the USSR

On 23 February 1994 he declared for all GKChP members and their accomplices, along with the participants of the. His wife Raisa, the only wife of a Soviet leader to become a public figure in recent times, died of leukaemia in 1999.

## **Gorbachev and the Collapse of Communism**

For, paradoxically, it was Gorbachev—the product of an ostensibly moribund, so-called totalitarian regime—whose idealism and dynamism went farthest in demilitarizing the cold war, assuring its peaceful resolution and ushering in those very opportunities. I don't think it was terribly well-handled from the point of view of those organising the coup.

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