## Fall of the USSR and End of Cold War Political Cartoon/Newspaper Article Assignment

There were many causes of the end of the Cold War and the decline and collapse of the USSR. Today you will create either a newspaper headline and article or a political cartoon about one of the causes of this historical development. Here are a few to choose from:

- Mikhail Gorbachev's Policies
- Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- The Arms Race between US and USSR
- Unrest in Soviet Satellite Nations
  - Poland (Solidarity)
  - Hungary
  - o Fall of the Berlin Wall
  - East Germany (German Reunification)
  - Czechoslovakia (Velvet Revolution)
  - o Bulgaria
  - o Romania
  - Yugoslavia

Remember that political cartoons carry a message, try to persuade, or show something in a comedic light. They often exaggerate the features of politicians as well. For example, in this Ed Valtman cartoon from 1991, the Communist leaders are up in "Communist Paradise" - note that you can clearly tell it's Lenin, Stalin, and Marx, with Gorbachev leading the processional. The coffin is labeled "Communism," and the caption reads "I Can't Believe My Eyes!" Referring to the idea that the communist founders would be horrified to see communism fall in Russia.

If you choose to do a newspaper article, make sure it has a catchy headline. This example is from the Berlin Blockade, showing the headline. The newspaper article doesn't' have to be long, but it needs to be informative on the event that you chose. :) What would people need to know in a nutshell about the events that led to the fall of the USSR?

Enjoy creating your art or journalistic piece!



