

## The End of the Cold War – Activity 1

### Did Gorbachev and Reagan end the cold War?

#### Aims

- Understand the factors which led to the end of the Cold War
- Assess the relative importance of and relationship between these factors
- Explain the above factors in diagram form

#### Resources

[coldwarENDA1.lgfl.net](http://coldwarENDA1.lgfl.net) is your one-stop link to curriculum resources for this activity; you will find videos, photographs and links to the relevant main Cold War sections.

#### Introduction

When we look at events in history, especially major events, we can sometimes be fooled into thinking:

- The events were inevitable – they were always going to happen: This is not true. Events like the end of the Cold War could easily have worked out differently or not come about at all (there could have been a 'real' war). It required particular factors at particular times in particular places to develop in the way it did.
- The political leaders made it happen: This is usually only part of the story. Usually other factors play an important role as well. Luck is usually important, as are economic forces. And the people – they are often forgotten.

Now we are going to assess the end of the Cold War for ourselves.

## The End of the Cold War - Activity 1

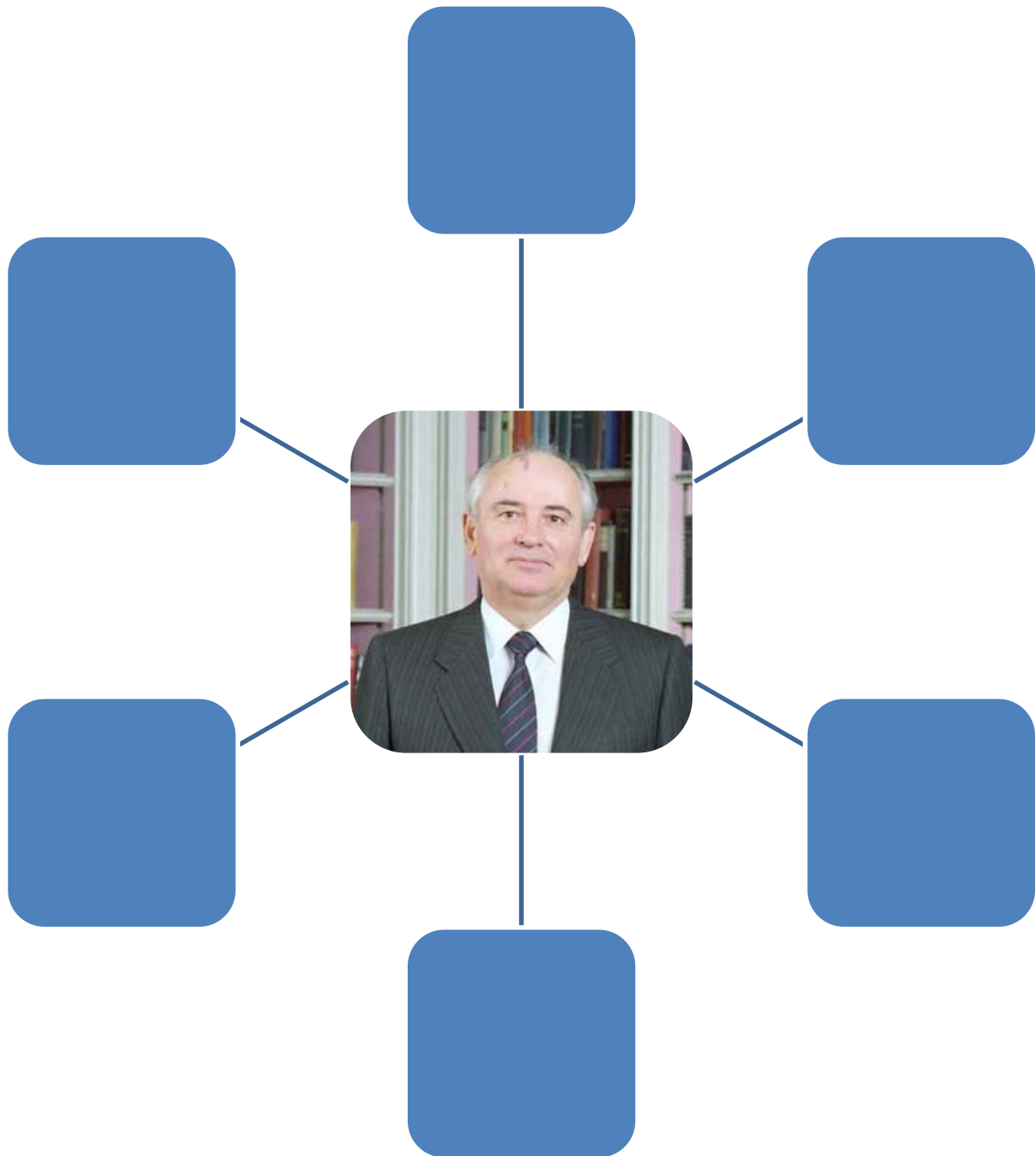
### Step 1 - Reagan and Gorbachev

What role did these two play in the end of the Cold War. Study the resources relating to them at [coldwarend.lgfl.net](http://coldwarend.lgfl.net) and [coldwarenda1.lgfl.net](http://coldwarenda1.lgfl.net) and make notes on what you discover.

You could use a traditional pen and paper or perhaps a spider diagram approach like this to record what you find out.



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### Step 2 – Other factors

What role did other forces play in the end of the cold War? Study the resources at [coldwarenda1.lgfl.net](http://coldwarenda1.lgfl.net) about the Berlin Wall and Brandenburg Gate, plus the texts at [coldwarend.lgfl.net](http://coldwarend.lgfl.net). As well as your notes on Gorbachev and Reagan, see if you can find examples of:

- People power – dissatisfaction with Soviet rule
- Nationalism – desire to break away from USSR
- Economic forces – cost of arms and other policies

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### Step 3 – Summing up

The end of the Cold War is a complex process. It is probably easier to write a large textbook on it rather than to do what you need to do now – sum it up in a single diagram!

Look back at your notes from Step 1 and Step 2. Your diagram will need to contain:

- The importance of key figures
- The impact of factors like people power, nationalism and economic forces
- Other aspects, e.g. longer-term factors or even religion.

You have to decide how you will explain the end of the Cold War and that will determine your choice of diagram. We suggest one of three types:

- A flow chart – good for showing the sequence of events
- A spider diagram – good for showing the range of factors and can be good for showing connections between factors
- A Venn diagram – good for showing how factors are linked to each other, especially if they are very closely linked.

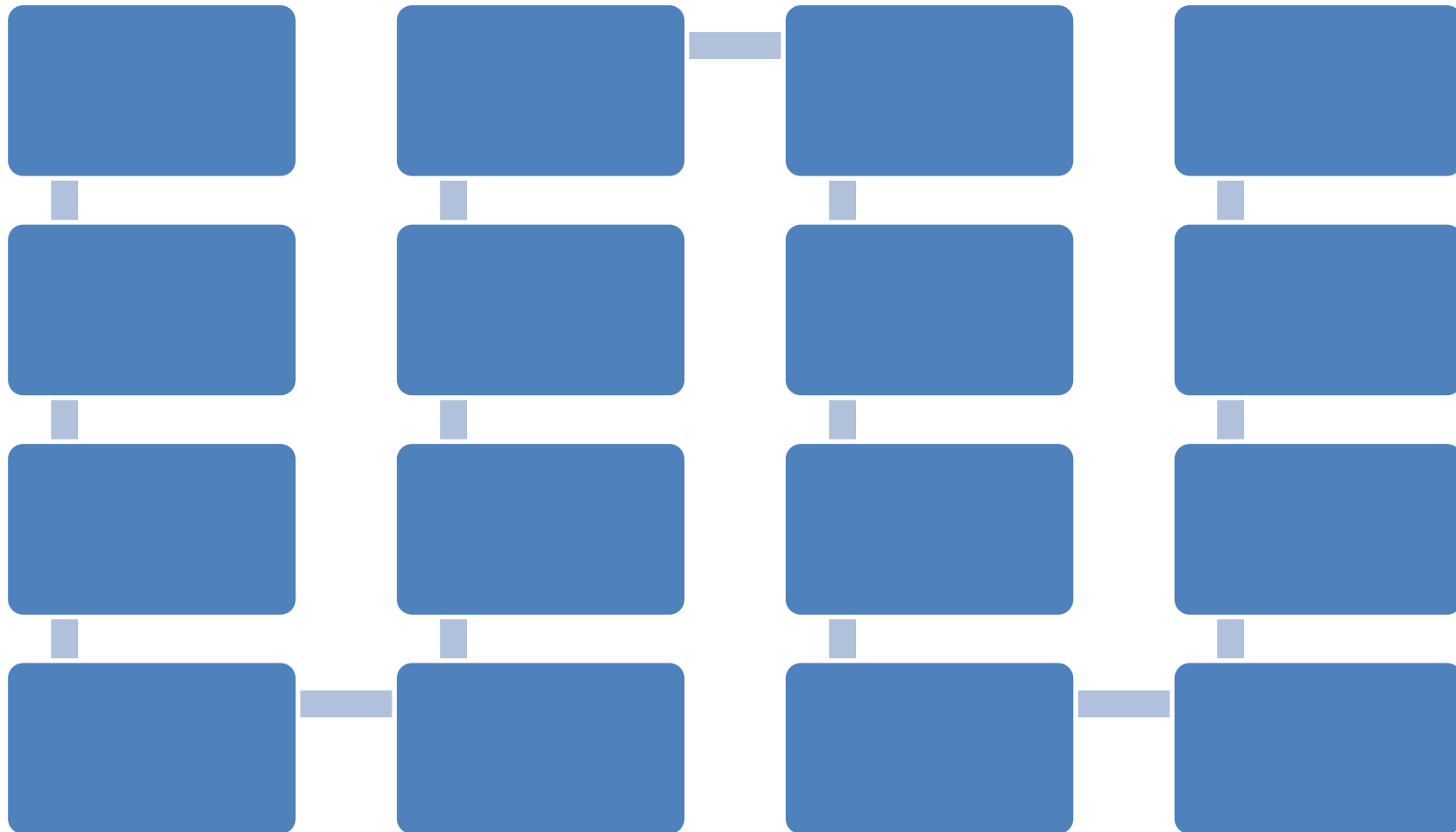
Your teacher may ask you to draw/design it yourself, or to use one of the template provided on the following pages:

## The End of the Cold War - Activity 1

Step 3 - Summing up

Name / class: \_\_\_\_\_

The End of the Cold War - my flow chart

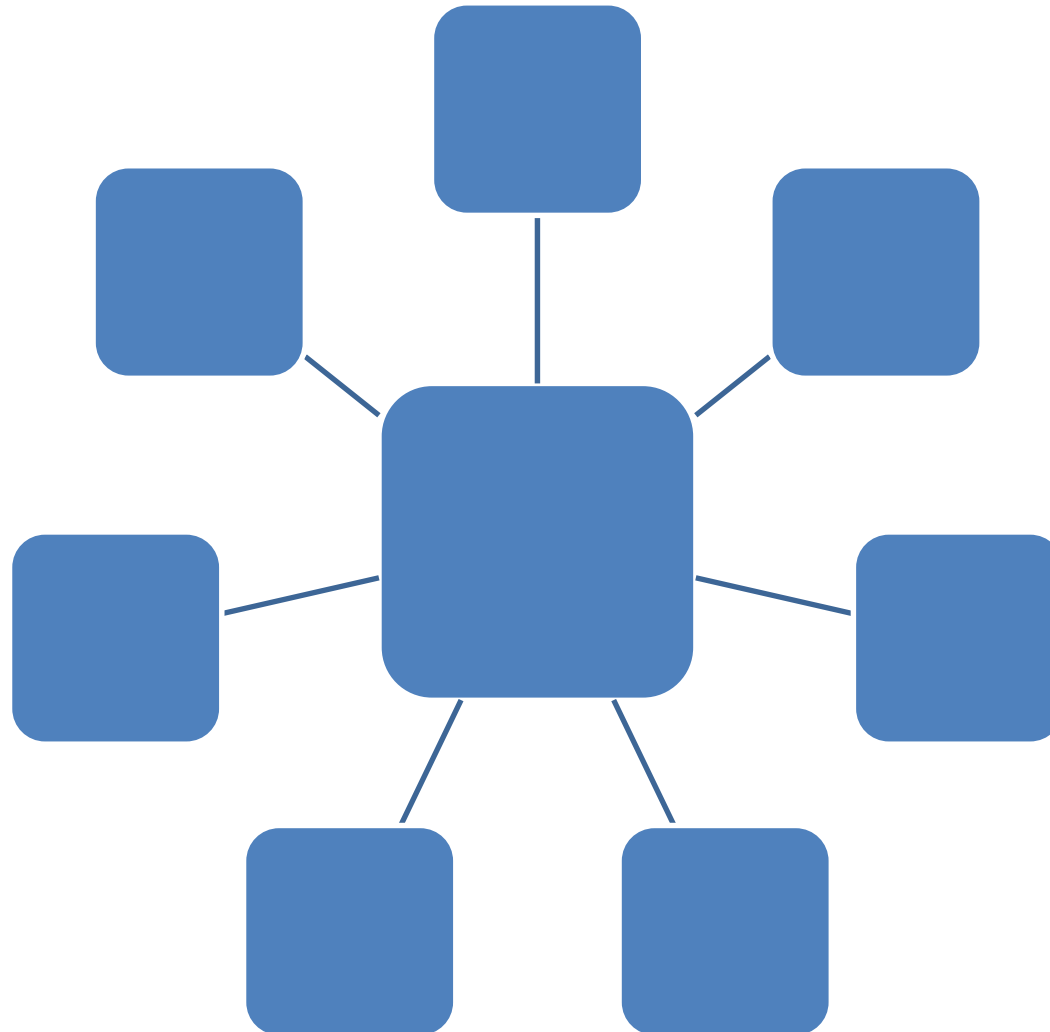


## The End of the Cold War - Activity 1

Step 3 - Summing up

Name / class: \_\_\_\_\_

The End of the Cold War - my spider diagram



## The End of the Cold War - Activity 1

Step 3 - Summing up

Name / class: \_\_\_\_\_

The End of the Cold War - my Venn diagram

