People’s Century: “People Power”

Directions: Answer the questions below while watching the documentary.

1. Describe the night of November 9th 1989 in Berlin, Germany? What was the major event taking place in this opening scene of the documentary?

2. What do you think were the purposes behind the exuberant parades put on by the Communist party?

3. What were techniques used by the Communist to assure younger children remained committed to the Communist regime?

4. What was life really like for people under the Communist regime?

5. What trickled into Eastern Europe via the black market that first began to influence Soviet youth?

6. What happened to Soviets that wished to challenge the current way of life?

7. How was Poland different from other areas of the Soviet Union? How did religion play a part in their unique transition away from Communism?

8. Who was Lech Walesa? What work avenue did he use to organize “Solidarity” against the Communist force in Poland?

9. After three short, and ineffective leadership ended in death who took over the Soviet Union in 1985?

10. How did the media change under the direction of glasnost?
11. What was the issue of “confusion” that faced the progressing people of East Berlin in October of 1989?

12. What ironic song do you hear in the documentary the Czech people use in their peace protest at the capitol in November 1989?

13. What made conditions in Romania different from the other countries of the Eastern European bloc concerning the fall of Communism?

14. Why was the city of Timisoara at the forefront of Romanian revolutionary ideas?

15. Most of the anti-communist activities were peaceful, what happened in Romania to break this tradition?

16. What ultimately brought down Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu?

17. Back in Moscow, what was happening with Gorbachev’s reforms? What happened to him personally?

18. Who was Boris Yeltsin? What was his role in challenging the organized coup?

19. How did the military act differently here in Moscow during the people’s rebellion than in other areas such as Romania?

20. What were the new concepts that the Russian people (as well as around the old Communist bloc) asked to put their future “faith” in?