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**Command and Leadership Series**

**Mikhail Gorbachev**

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## **Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeevich (b.1931–)**

### **Introduction**

A graduate in law from Moscow State University, Mikhail Gorbachev joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1952. He held a number of positions under Yuri Andropov including being responsible for agriculture and foreign affairs. Elected General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev ushered in a series of reforms known as glasnost (openness), perestroika (restructuring) and uskorenie (acceleration) in order to transform the economic well being of the Soviet Union. His approach to leadership was in marked contrast to his predecessors, triggering calls for great political freedom in his own country.

He improved relations with US President Ronald Reagan, signing the Intermediate Nuclear Arms Limitation (INL) Treaty in 1987. His call for non-intervention in Eastern Europe led to the collapse of the Soviet empire as each Warsaw Pact nation tested his leniency. In foreign policy he made significant gains in reducing the level of nuclear arsenals, but eventually he could not keep pace with the social forces he unleashed and he was removed from office following a coup attempt in 1991 that ushered in the populist Boris Yeltsin.

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This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on Mikhail Gorbachev. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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### Websites

The official website of the Gorbachev Foundation

<http://www.gorby.ru/en/default.asp>

The Time 100 site for Mikhail Gorbachev with links to articles

<http://www.time.com/time/time100/leaders/profile/gorbachev.html>

### Any Queries

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