

Key events in Europe's revolutions of 1989



1 Jun 4, Poland:
Solidarity – trade union movement fighting for political freedom during 1980s – wins first multi-party elections in Soviet bloc, heralding collapse of communism in Europe



2 Sep 10, Hungary:
Budapest permits thousands of East German "tourists" to cross border to West – first case of Warsaw Pact state failing to rein in each others' citizens



3 Nov 9: Germany:
Berlin Wall falls after unprecedented series of mass public rallies force East German authorities to allow citizens to cross border into West Germany



4 Nov 10 , Bulgaria:
Mass demonstrations on political reform force **Todor Zhivkov** – Soviet bloc's longest-serving leader – to resign, paving way for first free elections since 1946



5 Nov 24, Czechoslovakia:
Communist politburo toppled after week of mass protests known as **Velvet Revolution**, led by dissident playwright **Vaclav Havel**



6 Dec 25: Romania:
Hardline President **Nicolae Ceausescu** executed by firing squad after violence sweeps country in wake of brutal crackdown on protesters