

## How USA became the superpower of the world after the Cold War?

### DOCUMENT 3

#### ■ The "Soviet cauldron" as seen by the CIA

"– Economic crisis, independence aspirations, and anti-Communist forces are breaking down the Soviet empire and system of governance.

– Boris Yeltsin has become the arch-foe of the old order and has a good prospect of becoming the first popularly elected leader of Russia in history, acquiring the legitimacy that comes with such mandate.

– In the Ukraine, the Union's second largest republic with 50 million inhabitants, the drive for sovereignty is picking up speed.

– Georgia has declared its independence, and all the other republics are insisting on much greater local power.

– The striking miners are persisting in their demand not just for economic benefits, but for structural economic and political change as well. Their call is now resonating in other industrial sectors.

– The centrally-planned economy has broken down irretrievably and is being replaced by a mixture of republic and local barter arrangements, some of whose aspects resemble a market, but which do not constitute a coherent system."

CIA, Office of Soviet Analysis, Memorandum, April 25th, 1991.

#### Questions:

1. According to the CIA what political and economic factors contributed to the break-up of the Soviet Union?