

# Mikhail Gorbachev on the dangerous disorder of the world

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**Mikhail Gorbachev** was born in 1931. As the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1985–1991) and with his policy of transparency (*glasnost*) and reformation (*perestroika*), he had a pivotal role in German unity and the end of the Cold War. During his time as the president of the USSR (March 1990 to December 1991) he led the reforms that culminated in the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Both in his homeland and particularly outside Russia Gorbachev's achievements are still highly valued. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990.



Michail Gorbatschow  
**What Is at Stake Now**

[Was jetzt auf dem Spiel steht]  
My appeal for peace and freedom

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Thirty years after the end of the conflict between East and West, world peace is again at risk. The President of the United States has withdrawn from the disarmament treaty with Russia, Europe is disintegrating, China is surging forward, and a wave of nationalism and ideologies is endangering the freedom and self-determination of the peoples of the world.

In view of the dangerous situation throughout the world, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last great statesman of the 1989 revolution, warns of a war of all against all. He describes the inability of today's political leaders and their unwillingness to work at international solutions. He focusses on the big challenges of our time, such as the crisis in democracy and the rise of populists and ideologists and pins his hopes on dialog and rapprochement.