Worksheet 16.1
Life in the Soviet Empire: The Promise and the Reality

Watch these videos and then answer the questions below.

**Video 1** (Start at four minutes and 31 seconds in)

**Video 2** (watch entire video)

**Questions:**
What can you learn from these excerpts about the following in the Soviet Union and its satellite states?
- Economy
- Propaganda
- Influence of the West
- Censorship and control of the people
- Popular culture

Does this picture of the Soviet Union and the satellite states support Gaddis’s claim that the Soviet Empire was ‘a sand pile ready to slide’ by the 1980s?