The 1980s

The personal computer, and the fall of the Wall.

Computers came home, the Space Shuttle flew, and in 1989 Eastern Europe threw off communist rule.

What rose

1981. The Space Shuttle flies for the first time. The IBM PC is released. Source: STS-1

1983. The internet switches to TCP/IP. Source: History of the Internet

1984. The Macintosh brings the graphical interface to the public. Source: Macintosh 128K

1985. PCR, the method that makes modern genetics possible, is published. Source: Polymerase chain reaction

1989. The Berlin Wall falls. Source: Fall of the Berlin Wall

What fell or stalled

The Challenger disaster (1986) killed seven astronauts. Source: Space Shuttle Challenger disaster

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