

Knowledge Organiser: End of the Cold War 1979-1991

The Cold War crises of the 60s revealed just how tense relations became between the USA and the USSR. In the 70s, a policy of détente was being pursued. By the end of the decade however, relations had deteriorated again to the point where some described it as a 'Second Cold War'. By 1990 though, the Cold War was coming to an end.

Summarise your learning:

Topic 1: Détente
There was a general move to improve relations and relax tensions which became known as détente. This involved attempts of arms limitations, summit talks and personal visits between the superpowers. For example, the Helsinki Accords were a basket of agreements covering Europe's borders, international cooperation and human rights. At first, it seemed there was good reason for optimism but this was short-lived.

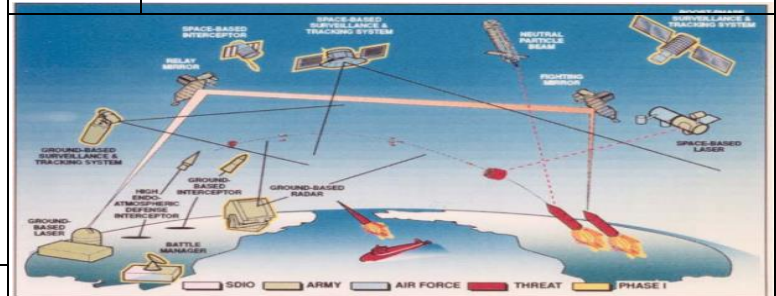
Topic 2: Afghanistan
Détente was overshadowed by the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. President Carter issued his doctrine which signalled a deterioration in relations. Then, President Reagan wanted to re-establish the USA as the leading superpower. One of his policies was his 'Evil Empire' speech in 1982, where he was accused of fanning the flames of war.

Topic 3: Gorbachev and eastern Europe
Gorbachev's 'new thinking' (glasnost and perestroika) had major effects on eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall set off a chain of events which brought about the collapse of Soviet control of eastern Europe. In the Soviet Union itself, Gorbachev's reforms encouraged criticism and eventually the downfall of Gorbachev himself. It also brought about the end of the USSR and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.



Chronology: What happened on these dates?	
1972	SALT I is signed.
1975	Helsinki Accords are signed.
1979	Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
1980	Carter Doctrine is announced.
1983	President Reagan announced Star Wars strategy (SDI).
1984	Due to poor relations following Afghanistan, and the US's boycott of the Moscow Olympics back in 1980, the Soviet Union boycotted the LA Olympics.
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall.
1991	Gorbachev is overthrown and the USSR collapsed.

Vocabulary: Define these keywords:	
Détente	A period of peace between two groups that had previously been at war or were hostile to each other.
Ratification	Formal approval by the US government to make the law an official policy.
Economic sanctions	Measures taken to damage a country's economy usually involving a trade ban.
Glasnost	Russian for 'transparency'. In the 1980s and 90s used to describe Gorbachev's new, more open attitudes to government and foreign relations.
Shah	The King or emperor of Iran.
Coup	A sudden seizure of power from the government.



NUTS
The idea that in a nuclear war, specific targets could be identified by limiting destruction. It led to the possibility of winning a nuclear war.

Carter Doctrine
US President Jimmy Carter's policy that the USA was prepared to use military force to protect its interests.

Richard Nixon	US President from 1969 to 1974.
Leonid Brezhnev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1964-1982.
Jimmy Carter	US president from 1977-1981.
Ronald Reagan	US President from 1981-1989.
Mikhail Gorbachev	Leader of the Soviet Union from 1985-1991.

Perestroika
Russian for 'reconstruction'. Used in the Gorbachev era to describe his programme for reorganising and restructuring the Soviet state.

Deployment
Distribution of military forces within an area.

