

The End of the Cold War

- After 40 years of conflict the Cold War came to an end.
- Communism had collapsed in the Soviet Union.
- **Détente** = relaxation of tension and describes American-Soviet relations from the late 1960s to 1979
- Accomplishments of **Détente**:
 - Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty – limit the spread of nuclear weapons.
 - 1968 – US, Great Britain, Soviet Union signed
 - 1975 – 93 other countries had signed, but significant number of countries had not signed (esp. France, China, others)
 - Strategic Arms Limitations Talks – Treaties to limit nuclear activity.
 - Soviets and Americans would limit the number of certain Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) under SALT 1 (1972).
 - SALT 2 – 1979 – Intended to accomplish nuclear parity (equality of amount/status) but...
 - ⇒ Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.
 - ⇒ US delayed giving approval to SALT 2
 - ⇒ Regan replaced Carter and said that the government would abide by the spirit of SALT 2, but actually ignored it.
 - ⇒ US stepped up arms race to levels not previously seen.
- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan:
 - 1979 – Détente came to an end
 - Soviet Union placed 350 missiles in Eastern Europe and invaded Afghanistan in September.

- Soviets installed a new dictator – Babrak Karmal as President of Afghanistan.
- The US boycotted the Moscow Olympics of 1980 as a result.
- The war escalated → 2000 tanks and squads of aircraft. But Afghan rebels still able to control the country.
- 1980 – 1988 = Vicious war.
- 1988 – Soviets withdraw, mostly because of the problems at home.
- Problems in the Soviet Union
 1. Economy in trouble
 2. Military spending too high
 3. Political corruption
 4. Lost faith in communism
 5. Nationalism – 50% of the population was not Russian → independence sought
- Mikhail Gorbachev – became leader in 1985. Wanted to reform communism (perestroika)
- Collapse. Communism was outlawed while Gorbachev was on vacation.
 - Yeltsin proved that he could lead well while Gorbachev was away.
- The End of the Soviet Union → Ukraine separated in 1991 → others followed after:
 - Poland
 - Hungary
 - East Germany
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Romania
 - Yugoslavia