

# Ronald Reagan's Foreign Policy: Focus on First Term Intensification of Cold War



# Aftermath of US Interventions in Nicaragua & El Salvador

- Elections in Nicaragua
  - 1984 Victory for Sandinistas
  - 1990 Victory for Opposition
  - 2006 Sandinista Return to Power  
[Daniel Ortega]
- Evolution of Uneasy Peace in El Salvador
  - Contadora Peace Process (1987)  
[Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Columbia]
  - UN Peace Accords (1992)
  - FMLN Election Victory in 2009

# Reagan's First Term: Intensification of Cold War

- Worsening Relations with Soviets
  - Reagan's Longstanding Critique of Détente:
    - Opposition to SALT I & II
  - Hardliner Faction: Casey, Weinberger, Haig
  - Support for Immediate Arms Build Up: Near Doubling of Budget



"IF WE KEEP ON WITH THE ARMS RACE, AFTER A WHILE THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY WILL COLLAPSE"

December 8, 1982

# Reagan's First Term: Intensification of Cold War

- Worsening Relations with Soviets
  - 1983 "Evil Empire" Speech
  - Strategic Defense Initiative: Reagan Rationale v. Soviet Perception
- US Involvement in Afghanistan
  - Carter's OK of Aid to Mujahadeen  
(Prior to Soviet Invasion)
  - Reagan's Expansion of Aid
- Difficulties in Dealing with Soviet Leaders  
[Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko]

# Reagan's Response to Iran-Iraq War: Providing Aid to Saddam Hussein

- Iraq's Attack on Iran (Sept. 1980): Carter's Neutral Position
- Reagan's Approval of Aid to Saddam (1982)
  - Response to Iranian Gains in War
  - Sharing Intelligence & Providing Agricultural Credits
  - Complicity in Saddam's Chemical Warfare



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