

Ronald Reagan's Foreign Policy: Second Term Winding Down of Cold War



Reagan's 2nd Term: Setting Stage for End of Cold War

- Deteriorating Soviet Economy Before 1980
 - 25% of Soviet GDP to Military in 1970s
 - Declining Life Expectancy
 - Overreliance on Oil Exports
- Mikhail Gorbachev's Rise to Power (1985)
- New Directions in Soviet Policy: Perestroika & Glasnost

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- Initial Disputes over SDI & Pershing II Missiles
- Failure of Reykjavik Summit (1986)
 - Last-Minute Scheduling
 - Gorbachev's Surprising Offer:
0-0 Option on INF; 50% cut
in Ballistic Missiles
 - Near Agreement to Eliminate
All Nuclear Weapons
 - SDI as Stumbling Block



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- Breakthroughs in Superpower Relations
 - INF Treaty (1987): Soviet Concessions over SDI & On-Site Verification
 - Winding Down of Regional Conflicts
 - Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan (1988)
 - Gorbachev's Unilateral Cut in Conventional Forces
 - Gorbachev's New Polish Policy (1988)

Signing of INF Treaty



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- Assessing Credit for Ending of Cold War
 - Reagan's Commitment to Eliminating Nuclear Weapons
 - Gorbachev's Realization of Need for Change in Foreign Policy to Support Change at Home