

# The Cold War

## *Part Three*



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

## Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

## Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





**Richard Nixon** entered the presidency with a clear idea of foreign policy goals. Nixon wanted his presidency to be defined by accomplishments in international affairs.

Nixon exercised very tight personal control over his foreign policy. He relied heavily on his National Security Advisor **Henry Kissinger**.



They practiced **realpolitik** – dealing with foreign policy in a practical manner rather than on the basis of ethics, morality or ideology.



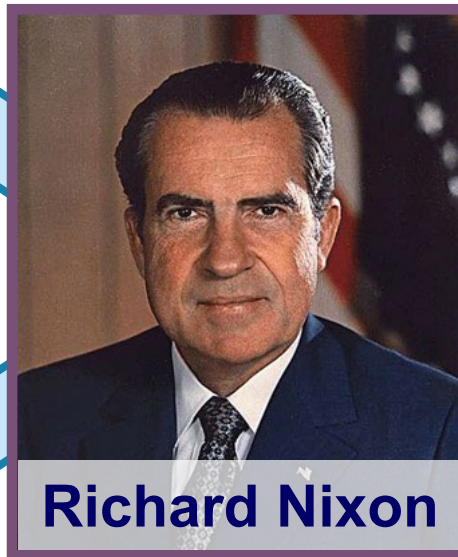
# Foreign policy goals



**Richard Nixon** became President in 1969 and immediately began the systematic withdrawal of American troops.

Believed that war was a right of presidential power

Thought military victory was impossible – wanted “peace with honor”



**Vietnamization**  
– gradual U.S. withdrawal and build-up of South Vietnamese troops

Expanded air operations to maintain stability

Should declaring war just be up to the President?



# Withdrawal from Vietnam



The Nixon administration continued to participate in the Paris talks but also initiated secret negotiations in 1969 between U.S. National Security Advisor **Henry Kissinger** and North Vietnamese diplomat **Le Duc Tho**.

Negotiations stalled as the North insisted that South Vietnam's President Thieu be removed from office.

In October 1972, Tho modified his position to allow Thieu to remain. An agreement was signed in January 1973. The **Paris Peace Accords** ended direct U.S. involvement in Vietnam.





As early as 1969, Nixon began sending private, subtle signals of **rapprochement** to the leadership of the **People's Republic of China (PRC)**. He wanted to reestablish relations because:

- he saw China as a huge potential market for U.S. goods
- hostility between China and the Soviet Union intensified in 1970 and he hoped to gain advantage by playing one against the other
- he wanted to put pressure on North Vietnam to end the war.







Rapprochement with China paved the way for improved relations with the Soviet Union and started a period of **détente** – the relaxing of tensions between the two superpowers.



The nuclear arms race was very expensive and both sides were keen to reduce it.

The Soviets feared a China-U.S. alliance, so after Nixon's visit to China he received an invitation from Soviet leader **Leonid Brezhnev** to visit Moscow, which he did in May 1972

Why else did both sides seek détente?



Nixon's visit to Moscow produced a number of agreements on trade, including an agreement to sell wheat to the Soviets. However, the most important agreements involved the **Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT)** and what came to be known as the **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks**, or **SALT I**.

SALT had resulted in the ABMT, which limited defense systems to combat nuclear missiles.



SALT continued throughout the 1970s, with Brezhnev visiting the U.S. and **Gerald Ford** visiting the Soviet Union.





**James “Jimmy” Carter** was elected president in 1976. He moved away from realpolitik and focused his foreign policy on promoting human rights. He criticized and refused to deal with countries that violated human rights.



“Our policy is based on a historical vision of America’s role. Our policy is rooted in our moral values, which never change. Our policy is designed to serve mankind.”

**What do you think of Carter’s change of foreign policy from Nixon’s?**





# Carter's foreign policy



Did U.S. politics move away from realpolitik?



Throughout the 1970s, détente increased between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Negotiations on a new treaty began in 1977 and in June 1979 Carter and Brezhnev signed **SALT II**. This banned new missile programs and reduced nuclear weapons in real terms.

Unfortunately, Congress never ratified SALT II, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 to fight an anticommunist uprising. This ended a decade of détente.





**Ronald Reagan** took office in 1981, after winning a landslide presidential election. He vowed to win the Cold War and adopted a strategy of **rollback** – forcing change within the policies and outlook of a foreign country.

“The Soviet Union is an Evil Empire, and Soviet communism is the focus of evil in the modern world.”

Reagan increased the **arms race** and created a renewed image of U.S. power on a global scale.



Why did the U.S. change to a new strategy?



# Reagan's foreign policy



# Why internal changes?

In 1985, **Mikhail Gorbachev** was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party. Gorbachev was forced to make changes because the Soviet Union was struggling. Their economy was failing due to the arms race pushed by Reagan.

Over 25% of the nation's **Gross National Product (GNP)** was devoted to the military.

Gorbachev realized that reforms were necessary to restructure economics and politics. While his policies were successful, they also had unintended consequences.



What does the cartoon suggest about the changes?



In a move towards détente, Reagan and Gorbachev then met four times from 1985 to 1988 to talk policy and reduce the arms race. Reagan also challenged Gorbachev to go further with his reforms.

“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace... come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”



**Why did Reagan change his attitude and policy towards the Soviet Union after 1985?**



Did these events signal the end of the Cold War?





# Fall of the Berlin Wall



The Berlin Wall, a symbol of Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe and the Cold War for almost 30 years, was torn down on November 9, 1989.

East Berliners were able to walk freely into West Berlin for the first time in decades and East Germany opened its borders to anyone.



The fall of the Berlin Wall paved the way for German reunification. In May 1990, East and West Germany were reunified for the first time since 1946. Helmut Kohl became the first Chancellor of the reunited Germany.





The Soviet Union was struggling to cope with the changes and individual republics began to declare independence.



In June 1991, **Boris Yeltsin** was elected President of Russia. He banned the Communist Party and undermined Gorbachev, limiting his power.

On December 21, 1991, under pressure from individual republics, especially Russia, Gorbachev was forced to resign. This dissolved the Soviet Union and ended the Cold War.

How do you think the end of the Cold War would affect the U.S.?



