**Iran**

Jan 1979 forced to abdicate, Iran under fundamentalist religious leader who hated USA. Nov 1979 US embassy hostages, botched rescue by Carter.

**The Gulf War (1990-91)**

Aug 1990 troops from Iraq invade Kuwait. Saddam Hussein, Iraqi leader, captured Kuwait, wanted resources and coastal link. USA wanted to protect their interests.

UN imposed sanctions on Iraq, USA, Britain and other nations sent forces to protect Saudi Arabia and oil (Operation Desert Shield). Jan 1991 Allies launch Operation Desert Storm, by Feb they liberate Kuwait (Operation Desert Sabre).

Saddam allowed to withdraw, Bush and USA look strong and had restored oil interested in Middle East.

**END OF THE COLD WAR**

**Regan and the Second Cold War**

Jan 1981 Reagan replaces Carter as President, followed aggressive anti-Soviet policy. Increased defence budget, SDI ‘Star Wars’ programme a turning point in Cold War. USSR can’t keep up with US spending.

**Regan and Gorbachev – a return to Détente**

1985 Gorbachev new leader of USSR, more reforms and better relations with USA. Met, Geneva Accord, agree to reduce arms. Met in Reykjavik, 1986, but talks slow. Met in Washington, 1987, signed Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) to destroy some weapons. Bush and Gorbachev met in Malta, 1989, and declared an end to the Cold War. In Washington, 1990, Bush and Gorbachev discussed Strategic Arms Limitation (START) and sighed Treaty for the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Arms (START II) in July 1991

**The ending of the Cold War.**

Reform of USSR loosened grip on Eastern Europe. 1989 modifications to Warsaw Pact, states reform. Regime change sparked by fall of Berlin Wall in Nov 1989, by end of 1990 East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria go from Communism to Democracy. Events weakened USSR further and Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania declared independence in 1990. Gorbachev resigned in 1991, USSR split up.

*Europe no longer divided between communism and capitalism – the Cold War ended.*

**USA’s changing relations with China and the USSR**

Relations improved because:

* Nixon exploited deteriorating relations between China and USSR to improve things with China and try to end the war in Vietnam.
* Ping-Pong diplomacy – the table tennis game in 1971. The USA lifted its 21 year trade embargo with China.
* Nixon visited China in 1972 – the first president to do so.
* China allowed into the United Nations in October 1971.

**Ending of détente – the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 1979**

1979 SALT II about to be signed further liming number of weapons held. Soviets invade Afghanistan at Xmas so USA refuse to sign. Diplomatic links cut, USA would defend Persian Gulf with military means if needed. US team & 61 other nations boycott 1981 Olympics in Moscow.

**Helsinki Agreements, 1975**

33 nations made declarations about international issues

Security – USA recognised frontiers of Eastern Europe, USSA recognised West Germany.

Human rights – respect human rights, freedom of thoughts, speech, religion & unlawful arrest.

Co-operation – agreements to work towards closer economic, scientific and cultural links.

*This new friendship between USA and the USSR was demonstrated in 1975 with American Apollo Spaceship docking with Soviet Soyuz in space.*

**Détente with USSR – SALT 1**

* 1972 Nixon visited Moscow.
* Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) started in 1969, signed agreement in 1972.
* Treaty to limit intercontinental missiles (ICBMs) & anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs).
* SALT 1 was 1st agreement to limit number of nuclear weapons.

**Détente and attempts to limit arms**

Between 1971 and 1979 there were periods of thaw in cold war relations, also after Gorbachev became leader in 1985 détente (thawing) also occurred.

*Reasons for détente:*

* USA wanted to end involvement in Vietnam (costly in money and lives).
* USA wanted to improve relations with China and the USSR.
* To reduce the risk of nuclear war.
* Reduce cost of the arms race.
* The Brezhnev Doctrine (USSR taking action to stop countries leaving The Warsaw Pact) alarmed the USA.

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