

End of the Cold War – Part 1

Background



While we may disagree with Jerry Falk’s interpretation of the Vietnam War and his evaluation of American foreign policy in the Middle East, he is right about the end of the Cold War.

Important official documents have not yet been released, so historians are forced to make informed guesses.

One thing seems very clear . . . the Soviet Union could not compete against the strength of the American economy.

In my opinion, this fact could be the most important lesson of the Cold War!

Assignment

1) What problems face historians when studying the end of the Cold War?

2) What was détente?

3) Why did the Americans start to think twice about using their power in the international arena?

4) Which defeat in 1968 showed the Americans that the war in Vietnam was far from over?

5) Complete the following table on the accomplishments of détente.

	<i>Who?</i>	<i>What?</i>
<i>Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968)</i>		
<i>Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (1972 + 1979)</i>		SALT ONE: SALT TWO:
	Why didn't the Americans sign SALT Two?	
<i>The Helsinki Accords (August 1975)</i>		

6) What was Kissinger's view on détente?

7) In what way was détente a learning experience for the superpowers?

8) Define . . . Ostpolitik.

9) Identify two factors which led to an escalation in the arms race in the 1980s.

10) What became the key issues in this new phase of the arms race?

11) Who was "winning" in this regard?

12) What is a cruise missile?

13) In what way is it effective?

14) What are smart weapons?

15) Why are pilots no longer necessary?

16) What was the goal of the Strategic Defense Initiative?

17) Why did this defense plan worry the Soviets?

18) Why was this project nicknamed Star Wars?

19) Why did President Reagan become more open to negotiations with the Soviets?

21) Identify the agreement made at each of the meetings between Gorbachev and Reagan.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics / Outcome</i>
<i>Geneva</i>		
<i>Reykjavik, Iceland</i>		
<i>Washington</i>		
<i>Moscow</i>		
<i>New York</i>		

22) What change in attitude heralded the end of the Cold War?

23) How did Eastern Europe's escape from Soviet domination differ from what was expected?

24) What role did technology play in the liberation?

25) In what way was Mikhail Gorbachev the key figure in the collapse of the totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe?

26) Why were nationalist sentiments "strong" in Poland and Czechoslovakia?

27) Identify the similarities in the liberation movements mentioned in the chart you fill in on the next page.

28) Complete the following table outlining the events of the escape from Soviet domination in Poland, Germany, and Czechoslovakia.

	<i>Poland</i>	<i>East Germany</i>	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>
<i>Background</i>			
<i>Action Taken</i>			
<i>Outcome</i>			
<i>Significance</i>			

29) Create a Mind Map on the other important developments in Eastern Europe.

Eastern Europe