

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Who Won the Cold War? Part II](#)

Article Link: <https://www.aei.org/foreign-and-defense-policy/who-won-the-cold-war-part-ii/>

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Tweet: Nicholas Eberstadt @AEI notes that the age-adjusted mortality rates for Americans born in 1990, the year after the Berlin Wall fell, is now higher than for those born in 1960, and 4X higher than Italy and Spain.

Summary: Compare mortality in young adulthood for America's Class of 1990 with their counterparts from affluent Cold War allies. Since breakdown by sex does not add much information here, we display overall mortality rates at ages 20 through 31 for the US and select Western European allies in Figure 3. Death rates at age 20 were universally lower for the treaty allies than Americans in the Class of 1990—usually much lower. Further, mortality curves for these allies generally remained much “flatter” over the course of their 20s than for the US. Consequently, the divergence in mortality risks between the US and the allies tended to increase over young adulthood for the Class of 1990, even before COVID. By age 29—i.e., in 2019, before the pandemic—mortality rates for the Class of 1990 were almost twice as high in the US as in New Zealand; two and a half times higher than in France; three times higher than in Japan; four times higher than in Italy or Spain.

Related Articles: [Who Won the Cold War? Part I](#)

Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: Demographics, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Weekly, Workforce

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