

End of the Cold War

The late Cold War is characterized by a thaw in relations between the US and Soviet Union in the late 1980s, and mostly associated with the figure of Mikhail Gorbachev and his perestroika reforms in the Soviet Union. In the 1980's, Gorbachev and Reagan conducted a number of summits that led to the reduction of the two superpowers' nuclear arsenals. In 1989, Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan, and the revolutionary wave in East Europe replaced communist-backed governments and Soviet allies. At the Malta summit in December 1989, Gorbachev and US President George H.W. Bush declared the end of the Cold War. The next year, the Soviet Union consented to the reunification of Germany. In 1991, the Soviet Union broke up into 15 independent states.



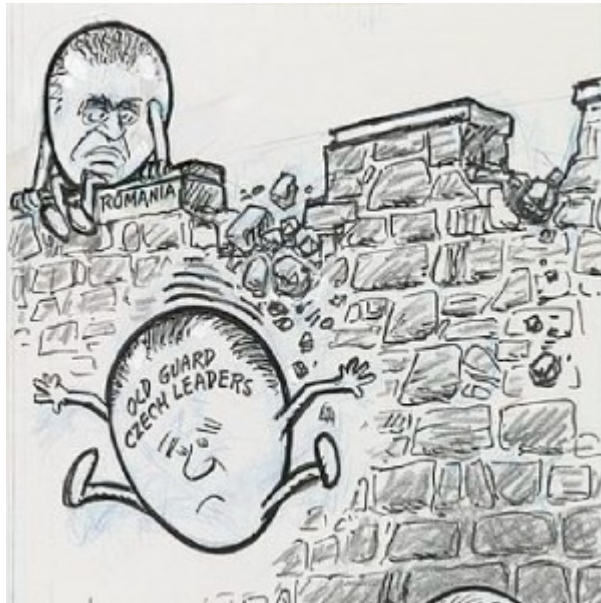
DOMINO EFFECT

This website uses cookies and similar technologies to understand visitor experiences. By using this website, you consent to UNC-Chapel Hill's cookie usage in accordance with their [Privacy Notice](#).

I Accept



MEETING IN MALTA



HUMPTY DUMPTY



REDUCED THE NUCLEAR THREAT



REPLACING USSR



UPHEAVAL





EUROPEAN WALLS



FALL OF COMMUNISM



POST-COLD WAR ERA





COMMUNIST PARADISE

IN HOT WATER

AFTER THE COLD WAR

COLD PART IS OVER

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

This website was produced by the [Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This project is sponsored in part by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region Program, coordinated by Waynesburg University.



[View this page](#) if you have issues navigating the site.