

# The Cold War 1945-1990

## US vs. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

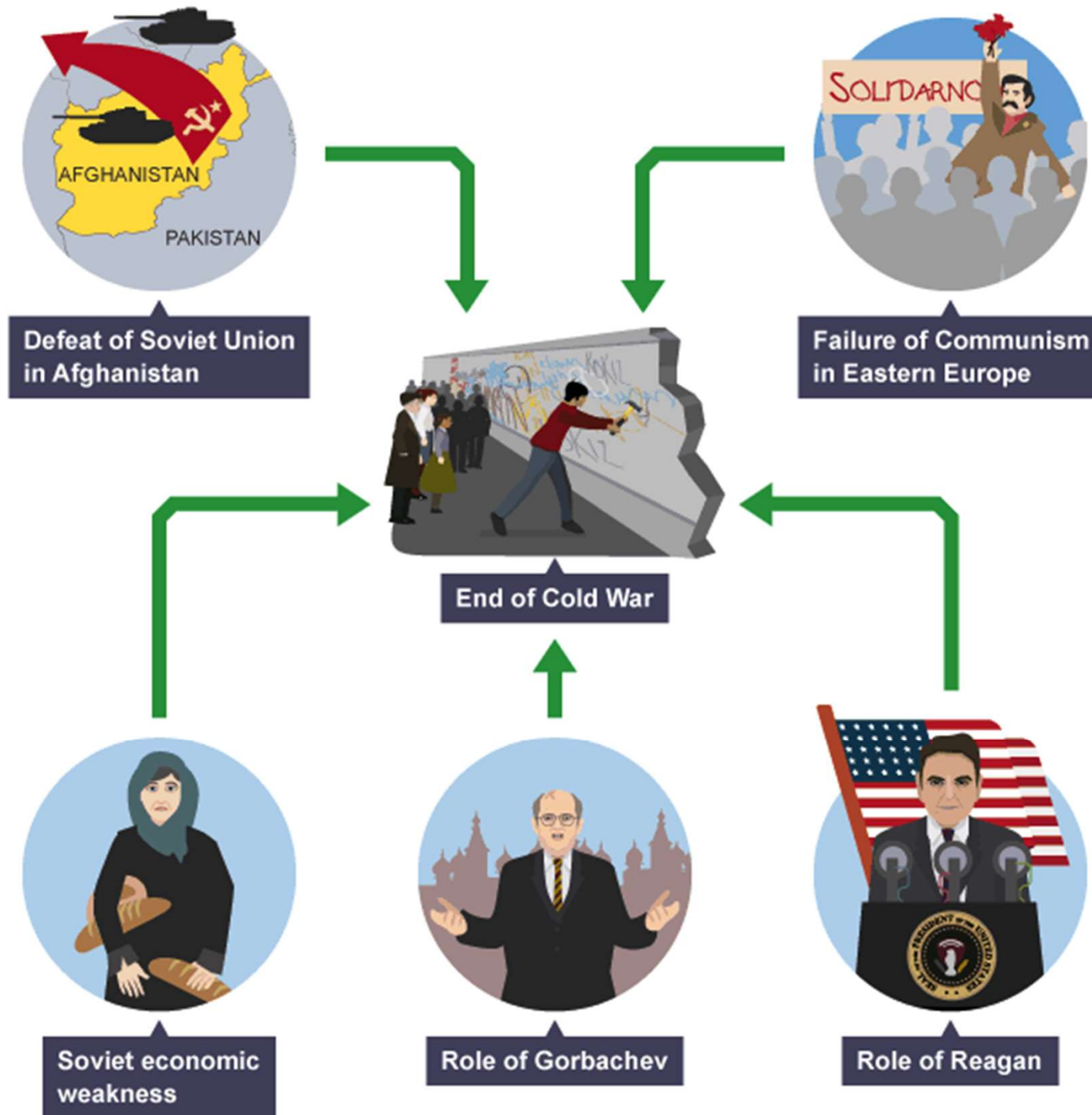
### Democracy vs. Communism

### Capitalism vs. Socialism

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# Key factors that brought an end to the Cold War



# The Defeat Of Soviet Union In Afghanistan, 1979 - 1989



*Movie poster for Charlie Wilson's War  
about US efforts to support the  
mujahideen*

Fear of US support for Amin's faction led the Soviet government under Leonid Brezhnev to order the invasion.

President Amin was killed during the KGB assault of the palace in Kabul, on 27 December.

Islamic groups opposed the Soviet occupation. They were nationalists and against communism's suppression of religion.

Islamic insurgent groups called the **Mujahideen**, were determined to fight against the Soviets. They were heavily armed as they were supplied by China and the USA and they received training from the CIA.

When Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985, he withdrew troops from Afghanistan, it became a source of embarrassment for the Soviet Union. Their army no longer seemed invincible to the rest of the world. The Soviets signed a peace treaty in 1988. They had withdrawn from the country by 1989.

# The Failure of Communism In Eastern Europe.



*Solidarity leader Lech Walesa*

Opposition to Soviet policies was growing in other associated states of Eastern Europe. The majority of people were against Soviet interference and the presence of the Red Army in the Eastern Bloc.

## Example, Poland

Widespread anger and unrest hit Poland in the early 1980s. There were protests over food shortages and the price of consumer products. A trade union called **Solidarity** was established.

### MICHAEL SIMMONS on the Solidarity leader's third time lucky **Walesa joins the Nobel band**

LECH Walesa formally joined the ranks of the great and the good, as well as the occasionally execrated, when he was announced in Oslo yesterday as the 1983 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Almost immediately, as it was expected they would, the Polish authorities in Warsaw denounced the award, as it has been denounced so often in the past, as "politically motivated." But Walesa's long-suffering wife, Danuta, said equally predictably from the family home in Gdańsk that the news made her "very, very happy."

Walesa himself, who has been off work at the Lenin shipyard for some weeks with stomach ulcers, was indulging the national pastime of mushroom-picking when the news came through. Though he was one of nearly 80 possibles for the award, the gesture can hardly have astonished him: it was the third year in succession that he had been in the running. In announcing the award yesterday morning, the Norwegian committee emphasised, as it has emphasised so frequently in the past, that "a campaign for human rights is a campaign for peace." This year it had taken into account Walesa's contribution—"made with considerable personal sacrifice"—to ensure the workers' right to establish their own organisations.

Then, in words that might have been calculated to raise the hackles of Jaruzelski loyalists everywhere, the citation went on: "Walesa has attempted to establish a dialogue between the organisation he represents—Solidarity—and the authorities. The Committee regards Walesa as an exponent of the active longing for peace and freedom which exists, in spite of unequal conditions, unconquered in all the peoples of the world."

It is highly unlikely, in other words, that any official representative from Poland, or any other like-minded fraternal country, will be present at the award-giving ceremony when it takes place



the Church, and even his chances of winning a Nobel prize. The conversation was peppered with obscenities and immediately rejected by Walesa as a forgery.

Twenty-four hours later, Walesa enjoyed a sweet victory at a local football match when thousands of spectators spotted him and spontaneously broke into chants of support for him and the trade union of which he remains the de facto leader.

The charges that Walesa has hundreds of thousands of

the award, Walesa must know that he will be joining a variegated, not to say questionable, company. Among those nominated for the Peace prize over the years, there have been several ill-assorted dissidents and misfits, as well as men and women who have met violent deaths or who, even after accepting the prize, have been discredited utterly in many parts of the wider world.

When the Israeli prime minister, Menachem Begin, won the prize jointly with President Sadat of Egypt, there was widespread consternation for the former and, a little later, an assassin's bullet for the latter.

When Dr Henry Kissinger won the award, it was not long before detractors were gunning for him as the one who had authorised the sackings of Cambodia.

Obviously, there have been nominees and winners who have been worthy of the spirit of the prize, but in recent times there have also

*Wins the Nobel Prize*



# Soviet Economic Weakness



## Continued nuclear proliferation Weakened Soviet economy

The Russian economy was struggling severely. They could not commit the expenditure necessary to maintain the arms race.

Living standards in the USSR were falling, while in the West they were rising rapidly. Consumer goods were of a much poorer standard as industrial production lagged behind the West.

Gorbachev wanted to modernise the USSR and improve relations with the USA. Realising the Soviets could no longer compete in the arms race if Russia was to be modernised, he looked for ways to end military competition and reduce tensions between the superpowers.

# The Role of Gorbachev



He introduced the policies of **glasnost** and **perestroika** in an attempt to improve relations with the West and the state of the Soviet economy.

**Glasnost** was an attempt to be more 'open' in dealing with the West. Gorbachev encouraged people to be more honest when talking about politics.

He supported greater freedom of speech and wanted communist politicians to take criticism on board, look to make changes and stamp out corruption.

**Perestroika** was an attempt to modernise and 'rebuild' the Soviet state.

Gorbachev realised military spending had to be reduced and this meant ending the arms race with the USA.

*Gorbachev named 'man of the decade'*

# The Role of Reagan



Ronald Reagan was elected US President in 1980, partly due to his criticism of the Soviet Union and his staunch anti-communist stance.

Reagan convinced Congress to increase military expenditure by 13 per cent in 1982. The Strategic Defense Initiative was considered during this period. There was great concern in the USSR that the Soviets would fall even further behind in the arms race.





# The Berlin Wall

- Riots and protests break out in East Germany.
- East Germans storm the wall. Confused and outnumbered, border guards do not fight back.
  - The wall is breached.
- Eventually East and West Germany are reunited in 1990.

