

USA: the story so far, Part 5: Foreign policy of US Presidents

<p>Prior to WWII, the US had a foreign policy of 'isolationism' meaning they did not get involved in the issues of other countries. Roosevelt believed that the best way to defeat the Nazis in WWII was the out-produce them. This led to a great increase in US industry, which in turn solved the remaining problems of the Great Depression. Foreign policy after WWII was motivated by the aim to contain communism = Cold War – see story so far part 4</p>	<p>Détente means a reduction / thawing of t_____. This describes the events following the Cuban Missile Crisis. Reasons for détente include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to reduce spending on military / defence • • • 	<p>The first SALT agreement was signed in 19__ by B_____ and N_____. This was significant because it was the first agreement to...</p> <p>The Helsinki Agreements in 19__ made declarations around 3 areas: s_____, h_____ r_____, and c_____.</p> <p>SALT II built on SALT I, but wasn't ratified by the US because....</p>	<p>Relations improved with China because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's relationship with the U_____ declined. This gave the US an opportunity to exploit this split between the 2 communist powers. • <p>P_____ - p_____ diplomacy started over the World Table Tennis Championships. This led to a t_____ e_____ being lifted and meetings between Nixon and Chinese leaders. This meant that relations with China were better than they'd been for decades.</p>
<p>The USSR were worried about the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in Afghanistan as they thought it was a challenge to communism. In Dec 19__ 50,000 Soviet troops invaded A_____. This meant that the US refused to ratify the S_____ II agreement and changed the course of the Cold War.</p> <p>President C_____ responded with the C_____ D_____ which took a firm approach towards the USSR. It stated the US would use m_____ force to defend its interests in the Middle East, and provided military aid to countries that bordered A_____.</p>	<p>President R_____ initially took an even harder line against the USSR. He called then 'an e_____ e_____'. He proposed an initiative that should force the USSR to disarm – the S_____ D_____ I_____. This was given the nickname of 'S_____ W_____'. The plan was to have satellites that would provide a 'nuclear umbrella' which would use lasers to intercept Soviet missiles. This was a turning point in the arms race as it was clear the USSR could not compete with these plans.</p>	<p>Gorbachev was responsible for changes in the USSR that helped improve the relationship with the US. His reforms included: P_____ (restructuring) and g_____ (openness).</p> <p>These changes meant that arms limitation talks could start again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty: • Moscow Summit: 	<p>Positive talks continued when B_____ became president. Along with Gorbachev, he announced that the Cold War was over at a summit in M_____ in 19__.</p> <p>Washington Summit, 19__:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • START = <p>They signed the treaty with pens made from...</p>

<p>Communist control of Eastern Europe finally broke down in 19___. In the late 1980s / early 1990s a number of countries declared independence from the USSR.</p> <p>In 1989 the B_____ W_____ is pulled down and Germany is r_____ in 1991. Germany joined NATO and in 1991 the W_____ P_____ was dissolved.</p> <p>Gorbachev resigned in 19___ and the USSR split into several independent states. The fall of the USSR ended the rivalry between c_____ in the east and c_____ in the west. USA was the only remaining super-power.</p>	<p>Iran had been the US's closest ally in the Middle East. This changed when the leader of Iran (the Shah) was forced to abdicate. Iran came under the control of A_____ R_____ K_____ who denounced the USA as the 'G_____ S_____'. In November 19___ 66 Americans were taken h_____ at the US Embassy in Tehran (Iran). Iran wanted the Shah (former leader of Iran) to be sent back to face trial. The US refused and the crisis continued for over a year. A rescue mission..... Carter's reputation.... The Shah died in July 19___ and negotiations for the release of the hostages then continued. They were released in J_____ 19___, having spent _____ days in custody.</p>	<p>Saddam Hussein (leader of I_____) ordered the invasion of Kuwait in 19___. President B____ Snr led the push for action against Iraq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Desert Shield: • Operation Desert Storm: • Operation Desert Saber: <p>Outcome of the war: Saddam allowed to retreat with much of his army intact. Bush called a ceasefire because he was worried about a lack of support and it was expected that Saddam would be overthrown. President Bush's reputation was h_____, but he was later criticised because...</p>	<p>Key dates / terms</p> <p>1971 1972 1975 1979 1979 1980 1985 1988 1989 1989 1990 1991 1991 1991</p> <p>SALT I SALT II Helsinki Agreements Carter Doctrine Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) Perestroika Glasnost Moscow Summit START Washington Summit</p>
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American foreign policy had undergone significant changes from WWII onwards, especially in the last 20 years of the 20th century.

WWII = from isolationism to the policy of containment and the Cold war.

Détente under President Carter changed to the 'Second Cold War' under Reagan.

Gorbachev's reforms brought an end to the Cold War with President Bush.

The US became increasingly involved in the Middle East with the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism in Iran and the ambitions of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.