

CHAPTER 25 Section 4 (pages 836–841)

Changes in America’s Foreign Policy

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about some of the social problems Americans faced in the 1980s.

In this section, you will see how American foreign policy changed after the Cold War.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes about U.S. foreign policy in different regions of the world.

TERMS AND NAMES

Mikhail Gorbachev Last leader of the Soviet Union

INF Treaty Treaty to reduce nuclear weapons

glasnost Gorbachev’s policy of openness in discussing problems in the Soviet Union

perestroika Gorbachev’s policy of reforming the economy in the Soviet Union

Commonwealth of Independent States Federation of new nations that formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union

Tiananmen Square Place in Beijing where Chinese protesters demonstrated against the Communist government

Sandinista Communist rebel group that took power in Nicaragua

Contras Rebel forces supported by Ronald Reagan to overthrow the Sandinistas

Operation Desert Storm The 1991 U.S. attack on Iraq to force the Iraqis out of Kuwait

MIDDLE EAST	LATIN AMERICA	EUROPE
<i>Refuse to sell arms to Iran</i>		

The Cold War Ends (pages 836–838)

What ended the Cold War?

In March 1985, **Mikhail Gorbachev** became the leader of the Soviet Union. He started talks with the United States to lessen Cold War tensions. Gorbachev thought this would allow the Soviets to cut their military spending. It would also let them reform their economy.

Talks led to the **INF Treaty** (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty). Reagan and Gorbachev signed the treaty in December 1987. The Senate ratified it in May 1988.

Gorbachev supported **glasnost** (openness in discussing social problems) and **perestroika** (economic restructuring) in the Soviet Union. He let private citizens own land. He also allowed more free speech and held free elections.

The weakness of the economy and Gorbachev's reforms led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. All the republics that were in the Soviet Union became independent nations. Then they formed a loose confederation called the **Commonwealth of Independent States**.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ended the Cold War. In January 1993, Russia and the United States signed the START II treaty. This treaty cut both nations' nuclear weapons by 75 percent.

Communists were knocked from power throughout Eastern Europe. Germany reunited. Other Eastern European nations enacted democratic reforms.

Students in China demanded freedom of speech. In April 1989, protesters held marches to voice their demands. The marches grew into large demonstrations in Beijing's **Tiananmen Square**. The Chinese military crushed the protesters. Soldiers killed hundreds of them and arrested others. People all over the world watched these actions. They were upset by what they saw.

1. What events in the Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War?

Central American and Caribbean Policy (pages 838–839)

How did the United States act toward its neighbors?

In 1979, **Sandinista** rebels overthrew the Nicaraguan government. President Carter sent aid. So did the Soviet Union and Cuba. In 1981, President Reagan charged that the Sandinista government was Communist. He supported the **Contras**, a group trying to defeat the Sandinistas. After years of conflict, a peace agreement was signed and free elections were held in 1990.

Reagan sent U.S. troops to Grenada in 1983. He feared its government had ties with Cuba. The U.S. troops overthrew the pro-Cuban government. They set up a pro-American government in its place.

In 1989, President Bush sent more than 20,000 U.S. troops to Panama. He wanted to overthrow Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega. He also

wanted to arrest him for *drug trafficking*. Noriega was taken by the American military. They took him to Miami. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

2. How did the United States influence affairs in Grenada?

Middle East Trouble Spots

(pages 839–841)

How did the United States act toward the Middle East?

In 1983, terrorists linked to Iran took some Americans hostage in Lebanon. Reagan condemned Iran. He called on U.S. allies not to sell Iran weapons for its war against Iraq.

Three years later, the American people found out that Reagan was breaking his own policy. Some of his staff had sold missiles to Iran. They were trying to free the hostages in Lebanon. Also, some of the profits from the sale were sent to the Contras in Nicaragua. These illegal activities were called the Iran-Contra affair.

In the summer of 1987, Congress investigated Iran-Contra. Some of Reagan's staff were convicted of crimes in the scandal. In 1992, President Bush pardoned some of these people.

In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. On January 16, 1991, with the support of Congress and the United Nations, President Bush launched **Operation Desert Storm** to fight Iraq and to free Kuwait.

The United States and its allies staged air strikes against Iraq. On February 23, they also launched a ground attack. On February 28, President Bush announced a cease-fire. The Persian Gulf War was over. Kuwait was freed.

3. What was the purpose of Operation Desert Storm?

Answer Key

Chapter 25: The Conservative Tide (pages 816–843)

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