

## ***The End of the Cold War***

- I. A Country without a Purpose?
- II. The Soviet Collapse → end of cold war
  - 1) The stage is set...
    - a) Authoritarianism
      - 1. Dictatorships don't last
    - b) a weak economy
      - 1. repression and corruption breed anger
      - 2. inefficient economy to support troops in the cold war
    - c) a bloated military
    - d) war in Afghanistan
    - e) rampant corruption
  - 2) Attempts at Reform by Gorbachev, late 1980s
    - a) *Perestroika* – economic reform
    - b) *Glasnost* – free speech, democratization
  - 3) Too Little, Too Late
    - a) collapse of the Berlin Wall, 1989
    - b) East Germany dissolves, 1989
    - c) Civil war in Romania, 1989
      - 1. Anticommunist rebellion
      - 2. Romanian leader assassinated by anticommunists
    - d) The Big One – Soviet Union dissolves, 1991
      - 1. Rebellions get so bad that Gorbachev resigns and the Russian Republic was born
    - e) Exceptions: China, Cuba, a few others still communist
- III. America and the Soviet Collapse
  - 1) Reactions
    - a) Relief – no longer scared of Soviet nuclear attacks

- b) "We did it!" - An unwarranted ego trip?
  - c) Reagan's role - only one of several factors
    - 1. Claimed his arms buildup was the reason the Soviet Union collapsed
  - d) Some people claimed that the Soviets would have fallen sooner if the US hadn't put up such a tough front
  - e) HOWEVER the Soviets fell because of their people and the protests
- 2) Now What? Foreign Policy after the Soviets, and increasing US influence abroad
- a) Stop aiding Afghanistan, El Salvador, and white supremacist gov't in South Africa
  - b) invasion of Panama, 1989; to oust the dictator (Noriega) who was helping ship cocaine into the US
  - c) the First Gulf War, 1991; invasion of Iraq to stop Saddam Hussein from invading Kuwait
  - d) Bosnia, mid-1990s
  - e) Iraq - 2003-????

#### IV. Clinton and Conservatism/Centrism in the 1990s

- 1) George H. W. Bush - Reagan lite
- 2) William J. Clinton and Centrism
  - a) Clinton's liberalism: Family and Medical Leave Act, AmeriCorps, Earned Income Tax Credit, raising minimum wage, attempts at universal health care, etc.
  - b) Clinton's conservatism: middle class v. poor, less support for unions, little support for social liberalism (gay rights, feminism, etc), and "welfare reform" such as the end of AFDC.