

Chapter 35  
The End of the Cold War and the Shape of a New  
Era: World History 1990-2006



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## The End of the Cold War

- ◆ From 1985 onward, the Soviet Union entered a period of intensive reform.
- ◆ Industrial production began to stagnate and drop in the 1980's.
- ◆ Mikhail Gorbachev came into power in 1985 and brought a new Western style to the USSR.
- ◆ He negotiated an agreement with the USA in 1987 to limit medium range missiles.

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## The End of the Cold War

- ◆ Gorbachev proclaimed a policy of openness and pressed for a reduction in bureaucratic inefficiency.
- ◆ He reduced Soviet isolation and criticized aspects of Western political and social structure.
- ◆ He sought to open the USSR into fuller participation in the world economy.

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## The End of the Cold War

- ◆ Gorbachev wanted to restructure the economy by allowing more private ownership and decentralization of control of industry and agriculture.
- ◆ He encouraged a new constitution in 1988.
- ◆ He abolished the Communist monopoly on elections and was elected president in 1990.

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## The End of the Cold War

- ◆ East Germany displaced its communist government in 1989 and dismantled the Berlin Wall.
- ◆ Eastern Europe also pushed for greater independence from the USSR.
- ◆ Few new governments fully defined their constitutional structure.
- ◆ Gorbachev declared "any nation has the right to decide its fate by itself."

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## The End of the Cold War

- ◆ An attempted coup in 1991 threatened the presidency and democratic decentralization.
- ◆ Boris Yeltsen proclaimed the end of the Soviet Union, as he became the President of Russia.
- ◆ The fall of the USSR gave way to new independent states in eastern Europe.
- ◆ Yeltsen was replaced by Vladimir Putin after economic problems in Russia.

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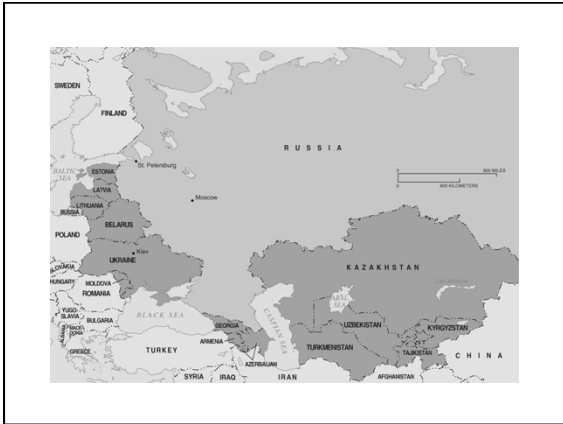
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### The Spread of Democracy

- ◆ The end of the Cold War showed a larger trend in the world: the spread of multiparty democracies with free elections.
- ◆ The democratic wave hit Spain, Portugal and Greece in the 1970's, then Latin America, then Asia, then Africa.
- ◆ Only China, North Korea, and parts of the Middle East withstood democratic governments.

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### The Spread of Democracy

- ◆ International agencies, human rights groups and the United States encouraged democratic reforms.
- ◆ The USA voiced support for democracy but supported authoritarian regimes in Egypt, Pakistan, Uzbekistan.
- ◆ Questions have arisen on what the definition of democracy is.

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### The Great Powers and New Disputes

- ◆ When the Soviet Union collapsed, several ethnic and religious clashes occurred.
- ◆ Yugoslavia erupted in chaos under long-standing tensions among divided Slavic groups.
- ◆ Violence in Kosovo ended when NATO intervened.

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### The Great Powers and New Disputes

- ◆ Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, invaded Kuwait in 1990 and the Persian Gulf War ensued.
- ◆ Israeli-Palestinian conflict persisted.
- ◆ Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated in Kashmir.

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### The Great Powers and New Disputes

- ◆ Central African conflicts were mainly ethnic conflicts.
  - ◆ Rwanda- Hutus and Tutsis
  - ◆ Congo
  - ◆ Sudan
  - ◆ Uganda

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### The United States as Sole Superpower

- ◆ US military commitments remained high after the Cold War.
- ◆ Many other countries increased their military arsenal in response.
- ◆ The growth and success of the European Union is a potential counterweight to the USA.

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### The United States as Sole Superpower

- ◆ American interests have been targets of terrorist attacks since the 1990's.
- ◆ US policy diverted to the "war on terrorism."
- ◆ US attentions turned to Iraq and Afghanistan following the September 11th attacks.

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