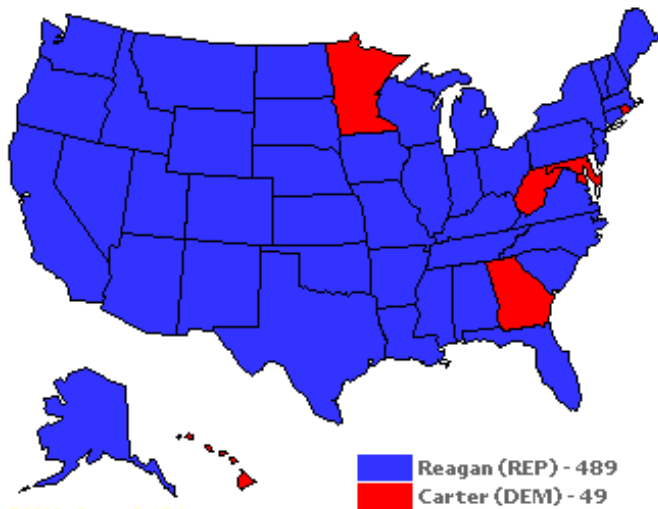




## Reagan and the 'Second Cold War'

## Impact of the Afghanistan invasion on USA – Soviet relations

- Détente was already close to breaking, but Afghanistan totally broke it
- Some have argued that US over-reacted on purpose as an excuse to get out of Détente
- In the 1980 US election, Republican candidate Ronald Reagan ridiculed Carter as weak and the time had come for the USA to reclaim its position on the world stage and stand up to communism.
- Reagan won a landslide victory



1980		
AL	KY	ND
AK	LA	OH
AZ	ME	OK
AR	MD	OR
CA	MA	PA
CO	MI	RI
CT	MN	SC
DE	MS	SD
DC	MO	TN
FL	MT	TX
GA	NE	UT
HI	NV	VT
ID	NH	VA
IL	NJ	WA
IN	NM	WV
IA	NY	WI
KS	NC	WY



- USA was now much more aggressively prepared to fight against the “evil” of communism and US – Soviet confrontation was now inevitable, again!



## Ronald Reagan & the 'Second Cold War'

The 'Second Cold War' had really started under Carter but was much more obvious under Reagan with his very aggressive policies.



In 1983, Reagan called Soviet Union an 'evil' empire and the USA were the forces of good



## Reagan's Policies

- 13% more was spend on the armed forces in 1982
- 8% more in 1983 and 1984
- Trident submarines and Stealth Bombers were developed



### Reagan Doctrine:

- USA would not only support anti-communist governments but also anti-communist groups who attempt to overthrow communist governments (eg El Salvador, Nicaragua, Caribbean islands)
- The USA would make this the first 'rollback' of communist influence since WW2



## Reagan's Policies

### SDI: Strategic Defence Initiative:

# STAR WARS™

- Reagan knew the Soviet economy was struggling so he increased spending and support for anti communists, the Soviets would have to find large amounts of money to counter which was impossible!

'Star Wars' would place a series of satellites in orbit. They would carry powerful lasers that could shoot down Soviet missiles and prevent them from harming USA.

This went against the terms of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Reagan presented to the world that this was a reality when in fact this system of defence was years from being ready, it has been said this was the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union!

**Soviets were shocked and upset, they had spent a lot of money catching up to USA, their weapons were now redundant and a new system was needed, but they had no money! They would need a 'new way of thinking'...**

Reagan's Speech <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hGLBA65tZg>



Imagine you are writing a biography of President Reagan.

Write the introduction page in the book summarising him and his policies, as well as the impact of them on the Cold War world.

### Source C

An extract from Ronald Reagan's autobiography, published in 1990.

During the late seventies, I felt our country had begun to abdicate\* its historical role as the spiritual leader of the Free World and its foremost defender of democracy... . Predictably, the Soviets had interpreted our hesitation as reluctance to act and had tried to exploit it in their agenda to achieve a communist-dominated world... . I deliberately set out to say some frank things about the Soviets to let them know there were some new fellows in Washington.

## Exam-style question, Section A

Explain the importance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. **8 marks**

### Exam tip

The question asks about importance and also gives you a context for that importance – relations between the USA and the Soviet Union. So you are not asked to say why the Soviet Union invaded or how difficult they found it to win. Explain how the invasion affected relations. Did it make them better or worse?

## Summary

- The Soviet Union was concerned about nationalism in Afghanistan.
- The USA saw Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as spreading communism.
- Relations between the USA and the Soviet Union deteriorated.
- Ronald Reagan was elected with a 'get tough on the communists' policy.
- A 'Second Cold War' began.

## Checkpoint

### Strengthen

- S1** Who were the mujahideen?
- S2** What was the Carter Doctrine?
- S3** Explain how 'SDI' was supposed to work.

### Challenge

- C1** Why might some people argue that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan served American purposes?
- C2** How did Reagan's attitude to the Soviet Union differ from that of his predecessors?
- C3** How important was 'SDI' in changing relations between the USA and the Soviet Union?

How confident do you feel about your answers to these questions? Form a small group and discuss any questions you are not sure about. Look for the answers in this section. Now rewrite your answers as a group.