
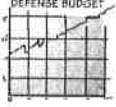









## U.S. Methods During the Cold War

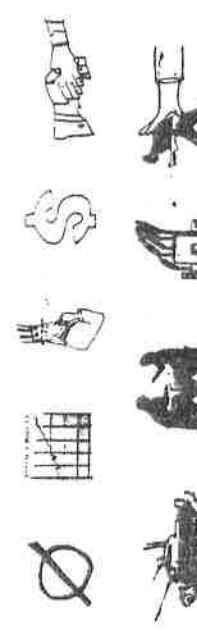
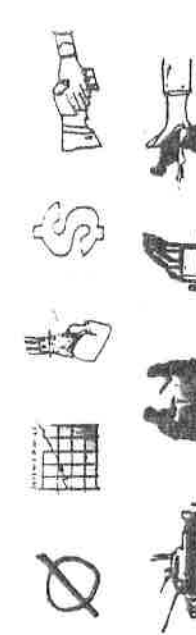
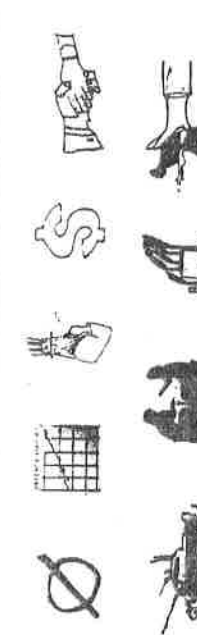
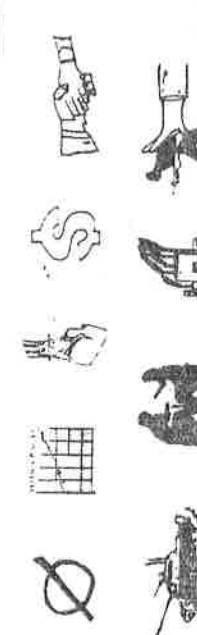
**Directions:** Below is a list of nine methods the United States used to prevent the spread of communism and to promote American-style democracy and capitalism during the Cold War. Carefully examine the symbol for and read the explanation of each method.

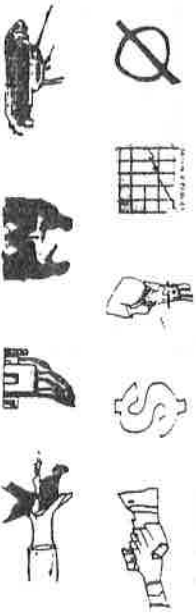
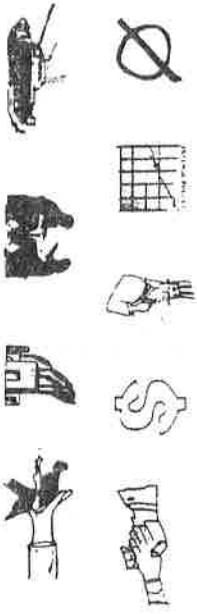
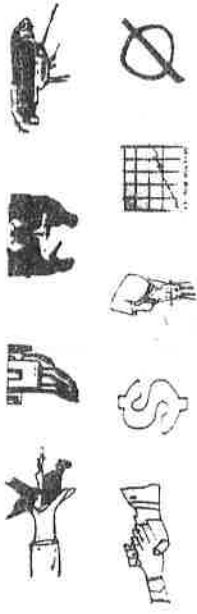
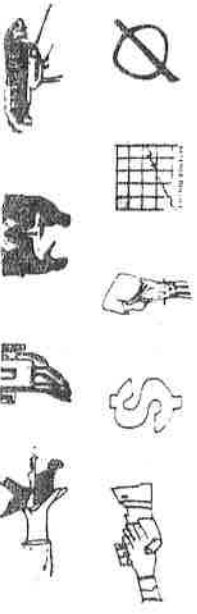
Symbol	Category	Cold War Method
	<b>Boycotts and Economic Sanctions</b>	Attempting to destabilize a communist country by limiting or withdrawing the exchange of goods, knowledge, technology, or cultural contact.
	<b>Building up Defenses</b>	Allocating a large percentage of the U.S. budget to the construction of nuclear arms and a powerful military to counter the Soviet defense buildup and discourage Soviet aggression.
	<b>Clandestine Operations</b>	Working in secret, often through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), to fix elections or conduct assassinations, coups, or smear campaigns to keep Communist leaders in a country from rising to power.
	<b>Economic Aid</b>	Providing a country with funds, expert advice, or humanitarian aid to promote its economic health and political stability and to foster positive feelings toward the United States.
	<b>Forging Alliances</b>	Creating a strong relationship in which the U.S. and another country pledge to support each other in efforts to prevent the spread of communism and promote the spread of democracy.
	<b>Military Aid</b>	Providing weapons and military advice to a country to help it defend itself against the threat of communism from either external influences or internal Communist revolutionaries.
	<b>Negotiations</b>	Talking with Soviet or Communist leaders to arrive at agreements that reduce the communist threat by lessening the Soviets' military threat or political influence.
	<b>Promoting U.S. Business Interests</b>	Maintaining stable, friendly relations with a country to promote the interests of American corporations doing business there.
	<b>Proxy Wars</b>	Avoiding direct conflict with the Soviet Union by providing military and economic aid to countries, or groups within countries, who were willing to fight against communism. In such cases, the United States and the Soviet Union provided military support to opposing groups in a warring nation so as to influence the outcome of the war without actually fighting against each other and bringing on nuclear war.



# Analyzing Late Cold War Events

**Directions:** For each Cold War event, carefully examine the image and read the information. Then, with your partner, create and record a newspaper headline summarizing the event. Finally, identify and circle the U.S. method or methods that you think are reflected in the event.

Event	Create a newspaper headline that summarizes the event.	Circle the symbols that match the U.S. methods reflected in the event.
		
		
		
		

Event	Create a newspaper headline that summarizes the event.	Circle the symbols that match the U.S. methods reflected in the event.
		
		
		
		

## Descriptions of Late Cold War Events

### Pinochet's Coup in Chile



In 1970 the people of Chile elected Salvador Allendé, a Socialist, to the office of president. Although Allende was elected by the Chilean people, U.S. president Richard Nixon believed that his election represented a communist threat because the Soviet Union supported the Chilean Socialist Party. Working through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger authorized a “destabilization” strategy. The CIA disrupted the Chilean economy, provided funds to newspapers critical of Allende, and encouraged Chilean military officers to organize a *coup*, a violent overthrow of the government. As the result of CIA efforts, Allende was assassinated in 1973 and replaced by a brutally repressive but pro-U.S. dictatorship under General Augusto Pinochet. The new regime jailed or killed thousands of Allende supporters. For the next 20 years, the United States provided varying levels of military and economic support to Pinochet’s government. Support for Pinochet ensured that American corporations continued to profit from trade with Chile.

---

### Nixon's Policy of Détente



During his presidency (1969–1974), U.S. president Richard Nixon and his secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, pursued a foreign policy designed to promote a global balance of power. Central to their strategy was a policy known as *détente*, the French word meaning “a relaxation of tensions.” *Détente* called for a peaceful, friendly coexistence with the Soviet Union and China. In the spirit of *détente*, Nixon ended three decades of Sino-American hostility by making a historic trip to Communist China in February 1972. During a friendly visit with China’s Communist Party leader, Mao Zedong, the two countries agreed that the Soviets should not be permitted to expand in Asia. As another part of the *détente* policy, the Nixon administration expanded trade relations with the Soviet Union. Nixon hoped that limited cooperation with the Soviets would help check Soviet expansion. In addition, to limit a Soviet arms buildup and the costly nuclear arms race, Nixon initiated the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) with the Soviets in May 1972. The talks resulted in a treaty that limited the development of systems designed to defend against a nuclear attack and placed a five-year freeze on the number of offensive missiles each side could maintain.

## Civil War in Angola



After Angola won its independence from Portugal in 1975, a civil war erupted between several groups vying for power. The Soviet Union provided military support to one group that wanted a communist government. The Soviets also supported thousands of Cuban troops, who assisted the Communists trying to take control. Meanwhile, working through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and without the knowledge of Congress, U.S. president Ford's administration continued Ford's predecessor's (Nixon's) policy of secretly providing aid to another group that opposed communism. The United States also provided support for South African troops who helped in the fight against communism. When Congress discovered these covert (secret) operations, it voted to deny all funding for the anticommunist forces in Angola. Many in Congress believed that diplomacy—negotiations between countries—should have been tried first in Angola and that the United States should not align itself with the white supremacist government of South Africa. Eventually, a Communist government seized power in Angola. Thereafter, the United States worked to improve its position in the rest of Africa by supplying arms and economic assistance to friendly states, and by distancing itself from the white minority governments in Rhodesia and South Africa.

## Carter's Human Rights Initiatives



During his presidency (1976–1981), U.S. president Jimmy Carter made respect for human rights the centerpiece of his foreign policy. Under Carter, the United States became much more outspoken in denouncing political repression, imprisonment without trial, torture, and official murder across the globe. In 1977 Carter cut off U.S. economic and military aid to the governments of Argentina and Brazil, countries friendly to the United States, to protest the violent repression of their own people. He also set up the Office of Human Rights within the State Department. While Carter wanted to continue Nixon's policy of *détente*—a relaxation of tensions with the Soviet Union—his sharp criticism of Soviet human rights violations angered the Soviets. In particular, Carter criticized the suppression of dissent in the Soviet Union—especially as it affected the right of Jewish citizens to leave the Soviet Union—and openly supported Soviet dissidents (citizens critical of governmental policies) such as Andrei Sakharov. While Carter's denunciation of human rights violations won him international praise, some critics faulted him for doing little to halt the spiraling arms race and for supporting repressive right-wing dictators, such as the Shah of Iran, who were friendly to American interests.

## The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan



In December 1979 the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to provide support to the weak Communist government then in control of the country. The United States viewed the Soviet invasion as a serious threat because the Soviets were now much closer to the oil resources and ports of the Middle East on which the United States relies. From 1980 to 1981 U.S. president Jimmy Carter pressured the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan by stopping the export of grain and high-technology equipment to the Soviet Union, arranging an international boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, suspending nuclear arms reductions talks, and pressing for a United Nations resolution condemning the invasion. However, his efforts met with little success. Under U.S. president Ronald Reagan during the 1980s, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) worked out secret deals with Egypt and Pakistan to provide arms to a group of anticommunist forces in Afghanistan called the Mujahdeen. The United States also encouraged arms shipments to these forces from China and Saudi Arabia. In 1988 after more than 1 million Afghans had lost their lives, the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan.

## Reagan's Defense Buildup



In the early 1980s, under U.S. president Ronald Reagan, American-Soviet relations became increasingly tense. Reagan declared that the Soviets were prepared to “commit any crime” to spread communism across the globe and asserted that they were the “focus of evil in the world.” Reagan believed that a massive U.S. military buildup would strengthen the U.S. position in a possible war with the Soviet Union and intimidate the Soviets into negotiating on terms favorable to Americans. Thus, he pushed Congress to approve an eight-year, 2.3-trillion-dollar defense budget. This budget funded plans for a new generation of long-range bombers called B1s, a much enlarged navy, the production of poison gas, larger special forces units, and a moveable and deceptive missile system called the MX. Reagan’s most ambitious and controversial plan was the 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), dubbed “Star Wars.” SDI was designed to be a satellite and laser shield set up in space to detect and intercept incoming missiles. Reagan claimed SDI would make nuclear war obsolete, but many scientists doubted its feasibility. In 1985 the Pentagon spent an average of 28 million dollars an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the defense buildup.

## Revolution in Nicaragua



In 1979 Communist revolutionaries called Sandinistas overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship led by Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. Somoza's family had ruled Nicaragua through military terror and corruption for more than 40 years. However, Somoza's government, though antidemocratic, had long provided a profitable setting for U.S.

businesses. To promote American interests, U.S. president Ronald Reagan attempted to overthrow the Soviet- and Cuban-backed Sandinista government by supporting the counterrevolutionaries, called Contras, in Nicaragua. During the 1980s, under Reagan's guidance, the United States supplied arms and training to the Contras, mined a Nicaraguan harbor, and cut off economic aid to the Nicaraguan government. Most of the U.S. actions were secretly carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from a base in Honduras, a country bordering Nicaragua. In 1984 a discovery that the CIA had provided an assassination manual to the Contras caused public outcry. Because many members of Congress were concerned about Reagan's policies and the methods used by the CIA and the Contras, Reagan often conducted his negotiations in secret. Illegally, and without consent from Congress, the Reagan administration secretly sold arms to Iran and diverted the profits to the Contras. In 1987 the Sandinistas agreed to free elections. Three years later, they were defeated in a presidential election by Violeta Chomorro, a former Sandinista leader who supported a more balanced economic plan than that of the Sandinistas.

---

## The Reykjavik Summit



At the start of his U.S. presidency in 1981, Ronald Reagan stridently denounced the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," and pushed for a massive arms buildup aimed at fighting the spread of communism and intimidating the Soviets militarily. Despite growing international concern over the nuclear arms race, Reagan gave arms control little priority and refused to meet with Soviet leaders throughout his first term in office. In March 1985, during Reagan's second term, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected leader of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev introduced reforms that promoted economic

restructuring and a more open society, signaling to the United States that Cold War differences might be lessening. As a result, tensions between the superpowers eased, and in 1985 Reagan and Gorbachev met in the first superpower summit meeting since 1979. They met again the following year in Reykjavik, Iceland. At the Reykjavik Summit, Gorbachev made a dramatic proposal to reduce the nuclear arsenals of both sides by 50 percent or more. Disagreement over the future of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative produced an abrupt halt in the summit talks. However, 14 months later, Reagan and Gorbachev agreed to a treaty eliminating U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles based in Europe. The INF Treaty, as it was called, was the most significant arms control accord since the start of the Cold War.