**Post-Cold War Foreign Policy**

* Early 1980s foreign policy was dominated by rivalry with Soviet Union
* Soviets were a factor in all foreign policy decisions

The Cold War Ends

* Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union
* Soviet economy nearly collapses as they try to keep up with US military spending
* *Glasnost:* Russian policy of openness
* *Perestroika:* restructuring of Soviet society
* Better relations with the US would allow funds to be used elsewhere and will reform the Soviet economy
* Gorbachev’s democratic ideas led to nationalism in non-Russian republics in the Soviet Union
* As a result 14 republics declared their independence
* Soviet Union dissolved after 74 years
* Boris Yeltsin and George Bush formally announced the ending of the Cold War in 1992
* Communist regimes fell in other E. European countries as well ex. Romania and Hungary
* E. Germany transitioned to a democracy and tore down the Berlin Wall

Communism in China

* Early 1980s Chinese gov’t loosened control on some businesses and pricing
* Chinese students began demanding more freedom
* Chinese students marched in *Tiananmen Square*
* Chinese officials ordered the military to come in and slaughter unarmed students
* Became a symbol of Communist tyranny

US Involvement in Nicaragua

* Between 1977 and 1979 Nicaragua was engulfed in a civil war
* *Sandinistas*: rebels who took over the gov’t in Nicaragua
* President Carter sent aid to support the regime
* In 1981 Reagan felt like that regime was too closely tied to the Soviets, so he cut aid
* US now supported a rebel group called the *Contras*
* CIA was also stationed in Nicaragua, without Congressional approval
* Congress passes the *Boland Amendment:* banning aid to the Contras for 2 years

Iran- Contra Scandal

* In 1983 an Iranian terrorist group took American hostages
* Reagan denounced Iran and urged allies to not sell Iran weapons for its war with Iraq
* In 1986 Reagan agreed to sell arms to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages
* Profits from arms sales went to the Contras
* Congress investigated, but Reagan was never indicted
* In 1992 President Bush pardoned several Reagan aides