

Foreign Policy Crossroads

Trace how Cold War choices shaped later United States actions.

8.7c "Following the end of the Cold War, the United States sought to define a new role in global affairs, but the legacies of Cold War actions continue to affect United States foreign policy today."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes in U.S. foreign policy after the Cold War. Circle the inherited Cold War problem that led to cooperation with Russia.

After the Cold War

- ① When the Cold War ended in 1991, the United States no longer faced the Soviet Union as its main rival. American leaders had to decide when to use military power, when to work with allies, and how to respond to regional conflicts. Relations with China showed this change. The United States and China had opposed each other during the Korean War, but later expanded trade. After the Cold War, economic ties grew even while disagreements over security and human rights continued.
- ② U.S. goals in Afghanistan changed over time. During the 1980s, the United States gave aid to Afghan fighters resisting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Soviet Union withdrew in 1989, but Afghanistan suffered civil war and the Taliban later gained control of much of the country. After al-Qaeda used Afghanistan as a base for the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States led an invasion to remove the Taliban from power. The goal shifted from opposing Soviet expansion to fighting al-Qaeda and the Taliban government that sheltered it.
- ③ Russia became the main successor to the Soviet Union's nuclear forces after the Soviet breakup. The huge Cold War arsenals remained a danger, so the United States and Russia cooperated on agreements to reduce nuclear weapons, even as distrust persisted. In the Middle East, the United States also faced instability that was not simply a Cold War issue. It built a coalition after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and later dealt with wars, terrorism, and disputes involving Iran, Israel, and Palestinians. These choices show a new global role shaped partly by older rivalries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why did United States leaders need to make new decisions about the country's role after 1991?

2 How did the relationship between the United States and China show both change and continuing disagreement after the Cold War?

3 How did U.S. goals in Afghanistan differ between the 1980s and 2001?

4 What did the United States do with Russia after the Soviet breakup, and what problem remained?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In three sentences, explain how Cold War nuclear arsenals created a problem after 1991, how the United States and Russia responded, and what this shows about Cold War legacies.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two changes in U.S. foreign policy after the Cold War. Circle the inherited Cold War problem that led to cooperation with Russia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did United States leaders need to make new decisions about the country's role after 1991?	The Soviet Union was no longer the United States' main rival, so leaders had to decide how to use power, work with allies, and respond to regional conflicts.
2	How did the relationship between the United States and China show both change and continuing disagreement after the Cold War?	The two countries had opposed each other during the Korean War but later expanded trade. Economic ties grew after the Cold War, while disagreements over security and human rights continued.
3	How did U.S. goals in Afghanistan differ between the 1980s and 2001?	In the 1980s, the United States aided fighters resisting Soviet expansion. In 2001, it invaded to fight al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban government that sheltered it.
4	What did the United States do with Russia after the Soviet breakup, and what problem remained?	The United States worked with Russia through agreements to reduce nuclear weapons, but distrust remained.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Cold War left huge nuclear arsenals that remained dangerous after the Soviet breakup. The United States and Russia cooperated on agreements to reduce nuclear weapons despite continuing distrust. This shows that ending a rivalry does not immediately remove its weapons or security problems.

Accept equivalent explanations supported by the passage. The open response should connect inherited arsenals to later arms reduction and explain the continuing legacy; it need not claim that earlier U.S. aid caused the 2001 invasion.