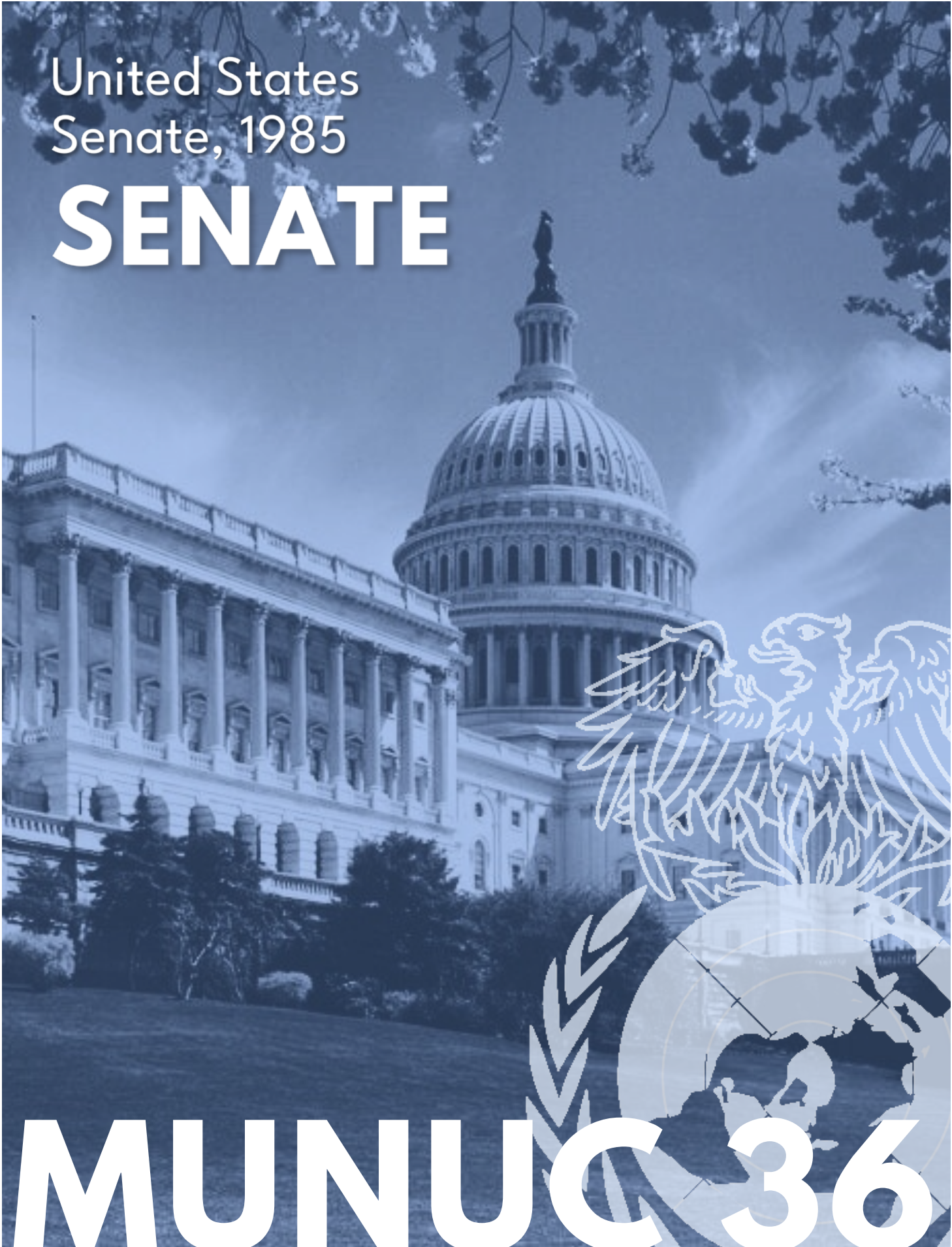


United States
Senate, 1985

SENATE



MUNUC 36

Model United Nations at the University of Chicago

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EST. 1989

MUNUC

CHAIR LETTER

Dear delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 36! I am Isaac Hirsch, and I will be serving as one of your co-chairs for the US Senate committee. I am excited to meet in person and hope that together we can make MUNUC 36 the most memorable MUNUC ever. This committee will challenge all of you to think outside of the box as you tackle big questions on an international scale, while also pushing you to engage with the history and politics of the world under the Reagan administration.

I would like to tell all of you about me: I am a fourth-year Physics and Molecular Engineering student at the university who is deeply passionate about futuristic technology. To name just a few experiences, I was an undergraduate researcher in a quantum computing lab, coded an AI that could play chess, and co-authored a paper with my co-chair on a futuristic particle collider. I'm also an avid reader and have read books on topics ranging from rocket propulsion to algorithms. Outside of my academic pursuits, I am a chess addict who has won multiple tournaments and a lover of Europa Universalis IV.

Throughout this committee, I hope that all of you will come together to tackle one of the two pressing issues we have laid out for you. Futuristic technology and international trade were two of the most pressing issues under Reagan. We plan to make sure that all of you have an exciting, fun, and transformative experience at MUNUC 36 and hope that you are all looking forward to the conference.

Sincerely,

Isaac Hirsch

EST. 1989
MUNUC

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 36 and Welcome to the US Senate Committee! I am incredibly excited to meet everyone in person and work together to make this an amazing committee and the greatest MUNUC yet. I am originally from Houston, but have moved all around the world, including Dubai, LA and Saint Louis! At UChicago, I am majoring in Physics and CS. In addition to MUNUC, I am part of some of the physics and space organizations at UChicago such as SEDS and Tech Team. In addition to MUN things, I am also part of a research group (with my co-chair Isaac of all people) in collaboration with CERN to study particle physics phenomena. I also love playing Zelda Tears of the Kingdom, watching succession, and building apps in my free time.

Throughout this committee, both my Co-Chair and I do hope that all of you will come together to come up with creative and amazing ideas to combat some of the challenges you will face in this committee. This includes both Futuristic technology and international trade that were two of the most pressing issues under the Reagan administration. We encourage you to come up with comprehensive and creative solutions that can not only fit the spending issue of the Reagan era, but can also make a difference for this committee. You and your other delegates can work to create what you can dream of to make a change.

I am incredibly excited to meet all of you and hear all of your solutions and ideas! These are topics that I am incredibly passionate about, so I cannot wait to see you all tackle them with your own perspectives and passions! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Best regards,

Noah Virani

noahvirani@uchicago.edu



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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The history of the Senate is inseparable from the history of the United States and to understand this history, we need to discuss not only the legislative branch of the United States as we know it today, but also the United States and its federal government created by the Articles of Confederation in 1781, the precursor to the Constitution.

Articles Of Confederation

This document was adopted by the Constitutional Congress in 1777 and was later ratified by the 13 states in 1781. Having just declared independence from Great Britain, most states were not keen on the concept of a large federal government that could maintain a similar level of control over these states as did the British Empire. This led to the structure of the federal government that was made up of only a single branch, a legislative branch. Each delegate in this Congress would represent a state, with each state only having one vote despite the differences in population.¹ This congress also lacked many of the powers we expect from a federal government, such as the power to tax, regulate commerce, or require states to provide troops or assist the

¹ “Articles of Confederation (1781) | Constitution Center.”
<https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/historic-document-library/detail/articles-of-confederation>.

federal government in any way.² The federal government lacked control over much of the domestic affairs as it relates to the states, but could establish currency and establish post offices and other infrastructure according to the text of the Articles. However, the efficacy of the federal government was significantly hampered by the controls written into the Articles. Furthermore, these controls could not be amended away—as it now could be in the Constitution—because unanimous approval from all states in the Union was required to make any change whatsoever

With such a handicapped federal government, especially during the beginning years of the United States as a nation, it can be clear why the Articles failed as an essential document to shape the American federal government.

The New Constitution

The writing of the Constitution, which would fix the government’s inability to control domestic and international commerce as well as increase the powers of the federal government, would start in 1787. The process of ratifying this document, however, would be far more difficult due to the challenges involved with convincing the states that a stronger federal government was in their best interest. This led to many debates often

² Ibid.

characterized as being between Federalists, those supporting the constitution, and Anti-Federalists, who did not.

This debate is immortalized in the Federalist Papers which were written anonymously by Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison.³ These papers can be read as the motivations and intentions of the framers of the Constitution. For example, one of the early papers, authored by John Jay, states that “nothing is more certain than the indispensable necessity of government, and it is equally undeniable, that whenever and however it is instituted, the people must cede to it some of their natural rights in order to vest it with requisite powers” meaning that to have a strong government to protect them, it is necessary for people to give up some of their natural rights.⁴ Note this idea comes from some of the earlier political theorists such as Locke and more contemporary thinkers such as Rousseau. However, to appease anti-federalists, the Constitution was later amended to include the Bill of Rights which protected people’s rights in a way that the federal government could not impede on them.⁵

The Legislative Branch

It is with this context that the Senate in its current form should be understood. The Congress serves as one of the three branches of government as outlined in the Constitution.⁶ The Congress serves as the legislative branch for the United States’ federal government, giving it the exclusive power to make laws at the federal level, apportion revenue and spending, and declare war, among other powers. These powers enhanced the Congress’s ability to lead the country.

The legislative branch is split into two branches of its own, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Senate is made up of 100 members with each state having 2 representatives each. Within the senate are 24 committees with 16 considered standing and 4 considered special or select committees. These committees are responsible for the legwork involved with gathering information on issues pertaining to the American people and considering or drafting legislation that will be discussed with all the members of the Senate.⁷

³ Drexler, “Federalist Papers.”

⁴ Ibid. (Federalist No. 2)

⁵ “The Day the Constitution Was Ratified | Constitution Center.”

⁶ “US Senate: Origins and Foundations.”

⁷ Ibid.

TOPIC A: FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTMENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

Statement Of The Problem

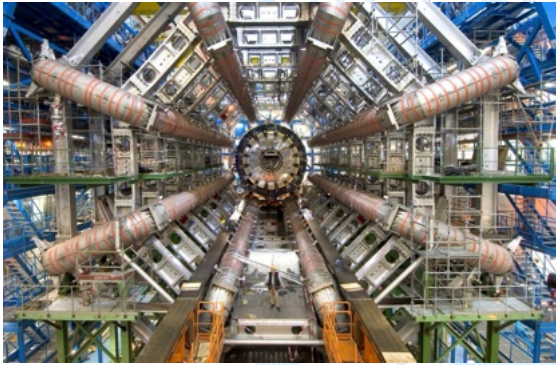


Figure 1. A particle collider⁸

During most of the 20th century, American foreign policy was dominated by the so-called “Cold War” between it and the Soviet Union. This conflict started after World War II, when the two former allies had disagreements about the fate of Eastern Europe who had just been liberated from Nazi control by the Soviet Union.⁹ While the US and Great Britain set up liberal democracies in the Western nations freed from Nazi occupation, the Soviets set up authoritarian governments all over Eastern Europe. The Soviets did this partially for ideological reasons and also partially to prevent Germany from invading the USSR again.

The US’s and Great Britain’s fear of permanent Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, as well as

⁸ CERN, *WikiCommons*.

⁹ “Cold War | Summary, Causes, History, Years, Timeline, & Facts | Britannica.”

the rise of Communist parties within their own countries led to the Marshall Plan, which solidified the US’s influence in Western Europe.¹⁰

The competition for military power was at the core of the early Cold War, with the US and Western Europe forming the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a defensive alliance against any possible invasion by the USSR. After the US developed and used the nuclear bomb on the Japanese Empire, nuclear weapons became an important part of military power, with the Soviets successfully testing their own nuclear warhead in 1949. The early years of the Cold War also included a few proxy wars between the US and the USSR such as the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, which almost sparked a nuclear war.

In American history, the Space Race and the Vietnam War are remembered as the Cold War’s most infamous conflicts between the two superpowers. The Space Race began when the Soviets launched Sputnik 1, the first man-made satellite into orbit around earth. This began a series of Soviets first in space, including the first human to orbit Earth, the first woman to orbit Earth, and the first space walk. However, in 1968 the US sent the first manned spacecraft around

¹⁰ “Marshall Plan | Summary & Significance | Britannica.”

the Moon and back to Earth, and in 1969 the US landed the first astronauts on the Moon, which was the last major accomplishment in the Space Race.¹¹ Finally in 1975, the first US-USSR space project named the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project was undertaken—this collaboration marked the end of the Space Race with the race being remembered as an American victory due to the Soviets failure to replicate the American’s moon landing.¹²

On the other hand, the Vietnam War has been remembered as the US’s worst defeat of the Cold War. The Vietnam War has its origins in the French colonization of Vietnam which was temporarily disrupted by Japan during WWII and lasted for nearly a century. In 1954, Vietnamese soldiers overran the French colonial government bringing about an end to colonial rule.¹³ The newly independent Vietnam was quickly divided in two by the Geneva Accords into the communist North Vietnam and the American-backed South Vietnam split at the 17th parallel.¹⁴ As the two Vietnams warred with one another, the US scaled up American intervention in the war until 1964 when the Gulf of Tonkin incident brought the US fully into the war. In 1973, representatives of the US, South Vietnam,

North Vietnam, and the South Vietnamese communist forces signed the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam in Paris. This agreement established a ceasefire and set the border at the 17th parallel. While this agreement ended direct military involvement from the US, the two sides continued to fight until the dry season in 1975 when South Vietnam unconditionally surrendered to North Vietnam.¹⁵ This war is considered to be one of the US’s greatest defeats and embarrassments on the international stage.

By the time Ronald Reagan became president in 1981, the rivalry between the US and the USSR had increasingly become a technological arms race both within and outside the military. The two superpowers had competed with one another in both a buildup of nuclear weapons and the space race, among other technological competitions.¹⁶ Historically, during his presidency, Reagan funded many high tech programs such as the Superconducting Super Collider, the Strategic Defense Initiative (also called Star Wars), and the International Space Station.^{17, 18} All of these programs were designed to force the Soviets to spend money they did not have trying to keep up with the US, which we believed would eventually

¹¹ “Timeline of the Space Race, 1957–69 | Britannica.”

¹² “Apollo-Soyuz Test Project Overview - NASA.”; “Who Has Walked on the Moon?”

¹³ “Vietnam War Timeline | Britannica.”

¹⁴ “Geneva Accords | History of Indochina & Impact on Vietnam War | Britannica.”

¹⁵ “Vietnam War Timeline | Britannica.”

¹⁶ “Timeline of the Space Race, 1957–69 | Britannica.”

¹⁷ “The Supercollider That Never Was - Scientific American.”

¹⁸ “History and Timeline of the ISS.”

bankrupt the Soviets and bring about an end to communism.¹⁹

However, in the years leading up to the Reagan administration, the two superpowers had seen a cooling of tensions in a period known as détente from 1967 to 1979. This includes the aforementioned collaborations in space, as well as the historic Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) treaties, and a multitude of nuclear non proliferation treaties. Furthermore, trade between the US and the USSR also increased during this period. However, with the 1979 USSR invasion of Afghanistan, hostilities between the two nations began to rise again and the SALT II talks stalled.^{20, 21}

In this committee, you will be asked to take an explicitly pro-western stance on the Cold War and to propose technological projects that will bring about the end of the Cold War. However, we will not ask you to follow Reagan's historical projects or even his strategy. Instead, while you can choose to pick up the banner of one of these historical projects, you will also be able to think up your own futuristic technology projects. We will expect explicit explanations of how these technologies will bring about the end to the Cold War, either by leading to a collapse of the USSR,

by bringing the US and the USSR together to end the hostilities, or something in between.

Your task is extremely important to your country and citizens are counting on your success. Since the beginning of the Cold War, hostilities between the two nations have almost led to nuclear war on multiple occasions and caused each side to stockpile enough nuclear bombs to end human civilization. American military intervention against communism caused the death of over 100,000 Americans and cost the US trillions of dollars.²² The Cold War has also been devastating internationally; untold wealth has been spent and millions have died in US-backed proxy wars against communism.²³ The world is watching.

History Of The Problem

The origins of the Cold War can be traced back to the alliance between the US and the USSR during World War II.²⁴ The US and the USSR had an uneasy relationship since the October Revolution that created Soviet Russia. The original dislike of the USSR was mainly due to the new communist government pulling the Russians out of WWI,

¹⁹ "Ronald Reagan and the End of the Cold War."

²⁰ "Detente | History & Facts | Britannica."

²¹ Ibid.

²² Harrison, "13. The Cold War: Costs and Results."

²³ "Manhattan Project: The Cold War, 1945-1990."

²⁴ "Cold War | Summary, Causes, History, Years, Timeline, & Facts | Britannica."

which greatly upset the Allies including the US.²⁵ The US also feared the Soviets' rhetoric on the World Revolution, which was a part of the official Soviet doctrine. The World Revolution was an ideal for the Soviets where the workers of the world would rise up to overthrow capitalism and create a stateless society. In order to further this ideal, the Soviets stoked and funded communist movements abroad, especially in industrialized countries, since they believed that the only way for Russia to catch up with the West technologically was through technological and cultural aid from industrialized countries.²⁶

Nevertheless, there was some cooperation between the US and the Soviets starting in 1920 when the US provided economic relief to the Soviets who were going through a famine in its western territories.²⁷ Trade between the US and the Soviets also started in the early 1920s when the *Products and Exchange Cooperation* and the *Arcos-America* corporations were given a dual-monopoly on US-USSR trade. While this trade originally comprised a variety of products, changes to the Soviet and American economies in the 1930s saw gold become the major export of the Soviets, while the US exported industrial

machinery.²⁸ However, this cooperation diminished under Joseph Stalin's leadership of the Soviets.²⁹

While the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression agreement between the USSR and Nazi Germany saw American opinions of the USSR steeply decline, the invasion of the USSR by Nazi Germany in 1941 brought the US and the USSR together against the Nazis.³⁰ While the US was officially still neutral in the war, the majority of the American public and the current president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, both heavily favored the allied side. They supported the Allies with the Lend-Lease Act and extended this program to the Soviets after they joined the war.³¹ In order to give the Lend-Lease Act a stable supply route into the USSR, the USSR and the British invaded and occupied Iran. However, the two superpowers allowed the Iranian government to continue operating under their supervision and signed a treaty that obligated them to pull out of Iran six months after the end of the war with Germany.³² Approximately seventy percent of aid that the US sent to the USSR during WWII was supplied through Iran.

²⁵ "The Soviet Union and the United States - Revelations from the Russian Archives | Exhibitions - Library of Congress."

²⁶ Shlapentokh, "The World Revolution as a Geopolitical Instrument of the Soviet Leadership."

²⁷ "The Soviet Union and the United States - Revelations from the Russian Archives | Exhibitions - Library of Congress."

²⁸ "American-Soviet Trade Relations on JSTOR."

²⁹ "The Soviet Union and the United States - Revelations from the Russian Archives | Exhibitions - Library of Congress."

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "United States - WWII, Allies, Axis | Britannica."

³² Hess, "The Iranian Crisis of 1945-46 and the Cold War."

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the US's strategic interests all across the Pacific with the most notable attack being against the American military base on Pearl Harbor, which saw a sizable portion of the US Navy disabled or destroyed.³³ Within the week, the US had declared war on Japan, as well as Japan's allies: Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. This officially brought the US into the Allies and gave them a seat at the table in deciding the terms of the peace, should the Allies win the war. Plans for a postwar world were made at a series of conferences attended by the leaders of the US, the USSR, and the UK.³⁴

As this series of conferences progressed, a clear schism began to form between the USSR on one side, and the US and the UK on the other side. Disagreements over how territories occupied during the war were to be governed was the largest point of contention.³⁵ The USSR, who had suffered immensely during the war and still believed in the ideal of the World Revolution, wanted to continue to occupy the territory it had gained control of and apply punitive measures to the Axis Powers. The USSR believed these policies were necessary to prevent another World War and the future deaths of Soviet soldiers and civilians.³⁶

³³ "World War II," Britannica.

³⁴ "Milestones: 1969–1976 - Office of the Historian."

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Shlapentokh, "The World Revolution as a Geopolitical Instrument of the Soviet Leadership."

On the other hand, the US and the UK were in agreement on their refusal to accept territorial changes in Europe.³⁷ They generally wanted to establish new governments based on liberal democracies and multi-party systems.³⁸ However, at the Yalta Conference between Stalin, FDR, and Churchill—recognizing the Soviet Union's strong position in Eastern Europe—FDR and Churchill agreed to territorial concessions to the Soviets in Eastern Europe and to punitive measures against the Axis Powers. As the war ended in Europe, the USSR set up one-party communist states in eastern Europe and the parts of Germany. While this spiked tensions between the USSR and the US, it did not mark the beginning of the Cold War.

While the exact origin of the Cold War is still hotly debated, one of the leading candidates is the Iranian crisis of 1946. The Iranian crisis was a diplomatic conflict between the USSR and the US over the aforementioned occupation of Iran and the agreement to pull out of Iran six months after the end of WWII. The Soviet Union had occupied the northern region of Iran and were less amenable to the Iranian government than the US or the UK. While the war with Nazi Germany was still on going, the Soviets blocked Iranian forces from entering into their occupied region

³⁷ "Milestones: 1969–1976 - Office of the Historian."

³⁸ Shlapentokh, "The World Revolution as a Geopolitical Instrument of the Soviet Leadership."

and had cut off communication with the central government. The Soviet Union was hiding that they had placed a group of communist Azerbaijani separatists in charge of their occupied territories. Despite the separatists lack of popular support being widely known, the Soviets supported their claims of independence.

Iran's central government sought help from the US, who lobbied the Soviet Union to uphold the treaty mandating their withdrawal from Iran after the defeat of Nazi Germany. But the Soviets refused to discuss the issue. After learning that the Soviets had propped up a separatist government in northern Iran, the US placed the issue on the agenda of the first ever United Nations Security Council meeting. While the USSR assured the US behind closed doors that it had been negotiating with Iran and promised to keep the US updated on the situation, the US refused to take the Iranian situation off the Security Council. After the Security Council adopted the Iran item in a 9-2 vote, the USSR representative boycotted the meeting, but the evidence presented by Iran during the meeting, along with help from American and British news companies brought international pressure on the USSR to pull out of Iran.³⁹

The Iranian situation was fundamentally about oil for the two superpowers and the matters of national security that a stable oil supply

represented. During WWII, the Baku oil fields located in a part of the Soviet Union just north of Iran represented 76% of the USSR's oil production in 1941 and its security was of extreme importance to the USSR.⁴⁰ The US similarly wanted to protect the large oil reserves that had recently been found in its ally Saudi Arabia whose exports were also crucial for the US's war effort. Additionally, both superpowers and the UK were all interested in future oil concessions in Iran. During the previous decades, the Iranian government had given large oil concessions to the US and the UK, but none to the USSR. This all led to the USSR's demands to Iran which originally called for oil concessions in the north of Iran and an indefinite Soviet occupation of the Azerbaijan separatist region.

After insurmountable public pressure, the USSR dropped its demands for occupation and agreed with Iran to withdraw its troops. The Soviets did gain oil concessions in the north of the country that would be controlled by a new company whose ownership would be split 50/50 between the USSR and Iran. However, importantly the oil concessions required ratification by the Iranian parliament after the next election and the withdrawal of Soviets troops was not conditioned on these oil concessions. With the US's guarantee of support Iran's new parliament rejected the oil concessions leaving the USSR internationally

³⁹ Hess, "The Iranian Crisis of 1945-46 and the Cold War."

⁴⁰ "History of Development of Oil Industry."

humiliated. The Iranian Crisis proved to the US the benefits of opposing the USSR's international influence.⁴¹

The other major contender for the start of the Cold War was the announcement of the Truman Doctrine to Congress, in which President Truman asked Congress to send aid to Greece and Turkey to oppose the communist revolutions happening in the two countries. While Stalin explicitly forbade Soviet aid to these countries, the Truman Doctrine remained a staple of American foreign policy throughout the Cold War.^{42, 43} The Truman Doctrine had a large range of motivations, but chief among them was public pressure from the American people. Americans viewed land concessions to the Soviet Union as a direct parallel to the appeasement of Hitler and believed it would threaten the peace American soldiers had just given their lives to forge. However, the Iranian crisis and its model of successful diplomatic opposition to Soviet influence was another strong factor that led to the doctrine.

Past Actions

Technological innovations played a large role in the rivalry between the US and the USSR during

⁴¹ Hess, "The Iranian Crisis of 1945-46 and the Cold War."

⁴² "Milestones: 1945-1952 - Office of the Historian."

⁴³ "Truman Doctrine (1947)."

the Soviet Union. During this period, both sides rapidly developed new technologies for military and civilian use. These advancements improved the day to day lives of people around the world, revolutionized our understanding of the universe, and gave humanity the power to destroy itself. Some of these advancements are historically characterized as technological arm races between the two superpowers such as the space race and their nuclear programs. Other technological advancements including research into DNA and particle physics served to boost their prestige on the world stage. However, all of these advancements represent a merger between technology and diplomacy that helped usher in an unprecedented age of prosperity.

Arguably the first instance of technological rivalry between the two superpowers was in the field of nuclear weapons and nuclear technologies. After the US dropped two nuclear bombs on Imperial Japan in 1945, the USSR directed all available resources into building one of their own. After only four years of the American monopoly on nuclear weapons, the USSR tested their first weapon in 1949. The US was disturbed by both the speed at which the USSR built their first nuclear bomb and the similarity it bore to the US second bomb dropped on Imperial Japan—both of these facts pointed to Soviet spies in the American nuclear program and furthered the US's distrust of the Soviets. In 1952 the US tested its first thermonuclear bomb, which uses nuclear

fusion to increase the power of the explosion by a hundred fold. The Soviets soon tested their own thermonuclear device three years later in 1955. During the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s, the two superpowers built up gigantic stockpiles of nuclear weapons with the US hitting a peak of 31,225 nuclear weapons in 1967 and the USSR hitting a peak of 40,159 nuclear weapons in 1986.^{44, 45, 46}

However, the number and size of nuclear weapons was only half of the nuclear arms race: how the nuclear weapons were delivered was at least as important. So called “nuclear weapon delivery mechanics” come in many forms such as bomber planes, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), and cruise missiles. The first category of delivery systems developed by both superpowers were gravity bombs that could be dropped above their targets. The two superpowers competed with one another in development of new and improved bombers that could carry heavier bombs, fly faster, fly at higher altitudes and have longer ranges. The US primarily relied on its B-29 heavy bomber for early nuclear capabilities as they had mass produced the plane during WWII.⁴⁷ The Soviets on the other hand, quickly developed and deployed bombers that were specially made for the nuclear age, such as the

⁴⁴ “Estimated Nuclear Warhead Stockpiles.”

⁴⁵ “The Arms Race (Cold War).”

⁴⁶ “Arms Race, Space Race” *Khan Academy*

⁴⁷ “B-29 | Definition & Facts | Britannica.”

Tu-95 Bear intercontinental bomber that had a range of 13,000 km and flew at 800 km/h with an altitude of 10,000 meters.⁴⁸ Lighter and more agile bombers were also developed such as the Soviets Tu-16 strategic bomber that was first flown in 1952; this plane was capable of flying at 1,050 km/h at an altitude of 6,000 meters. While gravity-based delivery systems continued to be at the core of both superpowers’ nuclear arsenals, they were soon joined by other systems.

The Cold War sparked new methods of delivering bombs to their targets such as the ICBM and the cruise missile. An ICBM is a multi-stage ballistic missile that is capable of reaching ranges of 5,000 km or more in just a few minutes. They were first tested by the Soviets in 1957, along with the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1.⁴⁹ However, the US quickly developed their own in the early 1960s called Titan 1.⁵⁰ ICBMs are seen as a large leap forward in the threat of nuclear war because they can strike targets thousands of kilometers away in a few minutes by traveling above the atmosphere. Cruise missiles were also developed that lacked the range of ICBMs, but were significantly harder to detect due to their slower speeds and low altitude trajectories.⁵¹ The idea of a nuclear triad

⁴⁸ “Tu-95 BEAR (TUPOLEV) - Russian and Soviet Nuclear Forces.”

⁴⁹ “The Arms Race (Cold War).”

⁵⁰ “Speed and the Cold War | National Air and Space Museum.”

⁵¹ “Cruise Missile | Definition, Speed, & Facts | Britannica.”

was implemented as a primary doctrine in the US's nuclear arsenal but the doctrine was also followed by the Soviets to a lesser extent. The nuclear triad is a system of nuclear-missile-armed submarines, strategic bombers, and land-based missile systems.⁵² The two superpowers dumped incomprehensible amounts of money and brain power into the development of all three delivery systems.

Despite the original build up of nuclear weapons, efforts soon turned towards bilateral agreements to reduce the threat of nuclear war. The first of these treaties was called the "Limited Test Ban Treaty" and was signed in 1963; the treaty banned above ground nuclear tests but both superpowers continued underground tests. The two countries continued to limit their nuclear arsenals with "The Non-Proliferation Treaty" and later the landmark "Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty" (SALT I). With these two treaties, the US and the USSR pledged eventual nuclear disarmament and limits to their nuclear weapon delivery systems. The SALT II treaty, which was signed in 1979 just before the beginning of this committee, was never put into law in the US due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Nevertheless, while the new atmosphere and nuclear treaties reduce the money spent on nuclear programs, the US's and the USSR's rivalry still burns strong. Now that nuclear programs are dying down, both

superpowers are looking for new ways to compete with each other on spending and research.

Possible Solutions

We hope that using technology to further American interests in the Cold War is a broad enough topic to give all of you an opportunity to let your unique ideas and perspectives shine through. While the past actions section of this background guide focused on the development of technology used for explicitly offensive purposes, we do not want to see any solutions that involve harming others or threatening to harm others. As I hope you have picked up, this is also historically accurate, as in the 60s and 70s, the two powers eased tensions with one another in what was known as détente.⁵³ One of the most important things to consider in choosing your technological plan is where it falls on the spectrum of possibility for the US-Soviet relationship, from reconciliation to defeat of the Soviets. Another piece of consideration is who your technology will benefit and how it will benefit them; we are looking for forward thinking and progress based solutions and discourage solutions that only exist to harm the Soviets.

⁵² "Launch on Warning (LOW) | Britannica."

⁵³ "Detente | History & Facts | Britannica."

The Superconducting Super Collider

One option available to you is to promote historical technological advancements including ones produced during the Reagan era such as the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC).⁵⁴ The SSC would have been the largest particle collider in the world and was designed to find the “God particle” which is more formally known as the Higgs Boson.⁵⁵ If built, the SSC’s discovery of the Higgs Boson would have skyrocketed American prestige on the world stage and would force the USSR to respond or else be viewed as falling behind in the Cold War. Any scientific response from the Soviets would inevitably cause them to spend more money that they did not have, bringing the USSR closer to financial ruin and collapse. The project would also benefit society on a global scale as the discovery would provide new insight into our place in the universe. American citizens would reap additional benefits in the form of new scientific funding being pumped into American higher education and the not-for-profit research system in America, as well as new jobs for the technicians, miners, engineers, and administrators needed to bring this project into fruition. Overall the SSC is a possible solution to the problem because it challenges the USSR to respond on the global stage which

⁵⁴Riordan, “A Bridge Too Far.”

⁵⁵ “Higgs Boson: The ‘god Particle’ Explained | Space.”

would bring the Soviet Union closer to collapse, furthers our understanding of the universe, and provides jobs to everyday citizens.

The Nuclear-Powered Cargo Ship

Another possible technological solution you could fund is a nuclear-powered cargo ship. This new powerful cargo ship could be used to quickly and cheaply export American goods around the world and foster strong economic ties with America’s international partners. Access to the new cheap American goods and the ability to sell to American markets could then be tied to American interests in the Cold War. Policies such as only allowing countries to access these ships if they cut off all trade ties with the Soviets could sway many key Soviet allies to switch over to the US and even cause member states of the Warsaw Pact to break away.⁵⁶ These ships would also bring a new age of economic prosperity to the United States as it would make American goods extremely competitive on the global market and therefore bring jobs and money into the US. As I hope you can see from this example, you can be creative with your solutions and while you may choose a historical technology, you may also choose to imagine new technologies.

⁵⁶“Warsaw Pact | Summary, History, Countries, Map, Significance, & Facts | Britannica.”

Yankee Doodle

A final example solution is to promote the creation of an American Tik-Tok style application and call it “Yankee Doodle.” Using this technology, Americans will be able to export their culture and lifestyle to Soviet states via highly-addictive short-form content. Since smartphones did not exist during this period, you could also fund the creation of a handheld device specifically designed for the creation and viewing of Yankee Doodles. The hope would be that by acting as an advanced version of the WWII-era leaflet strategy, this technology could be a tool of psychological warfare in the Cold War and by exposing the Soviet citizens to idealized slices of Western life, they would turn against their government and bring about an end to Soviet rule.⁵⁷ Aside from the Cold War goals of Yankee Doodle, it would also benefit America’s national interests by helping their image abroad and providing new easily accessible forms of entertainment globally. This should serve as an example of how technology can be used to oppose the Soviets on non-economic grounds.

Conclusion

We hope that these examples can give you a good idea of what types of solutions we might be looking for. However, we are also looking for

creativity and don’t want you to limit yourself to solutions that are similar to these. For instance, you may also choose to promote a collaborative solution that stops the Cold War by bringing an end to the hostilities between the US and the USSR. Nevertheless, these three examples should show how you may choose a solution that is either historical or made-up, as well as the multitude of paths your technologies can take to end the Cold War and how we expect your technologies to benefit either the American or global society in some way.

⁵⁷“Leaflet Propaganda · Decoding Political Propaganda · Nabb Research Center Online Exhibits.”

Bloc Positions

Senators From States With Nasa Centers

Senators from states with a NASA center will have an aligned interest to pursue a solution that involves significant funding to NASA. Specifically, this includes 16 senators from the states of Alabama, California, Florida, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia.⁵⁸ Senators from these states would prefer a solution that relies on NASA, because the presence of their centers in their home states means that they would likely benefit from an elevated proportion of jobs and prosperity. Additionally, the centers also demonstrate an interest in space within the states; therefore, the constituents of the senators from these states might favor advancements in space-science over other sciences even without factoring in economic benefits.

Senators From States With National Laboratories

Another ground of senators with a notable common interest are those who represent states with a National Laboratory. The list of states with National Laboratories are Iowa, Illinois, New York, California, Tennessee, Washington, New Jersey, California, and Virginia. The national laboratory system in the US was created

⁵⁸ “NASA FY 2021 Economic Impact Report State Fact Sheets - NASA.”

to “address large scale, complex research and development challenges with a multidisciplinary approach that places an emphasis on translating basic science to innovation.”⁵⁹ National laboratories are some of the largest employers in their respective states, but are very dependent on the US federal government for funding and projects.

Senators that represent states with national laboratories would benefit from solutions that require large amounts of funding towards research and development as opposed to manufacturing. These solutions would bring jobs and prosperity to these national laboratories and the states around them. Additionally, discoveries and innovations from national laboratories boost the prestige of the states they were discovered and created in.

Senators From States With Large Manufacturing Industries

Another issue senators must consider is the manufacturing requirements of the solution they promote. The ten states with the most manufacturing jobs are California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, and North Carolina.⁶⁰ While some of these states also have national

⁵⁹ “DOE National Laboratories | Department of Energy.”

⁶⁰ “Top 10 US States for Manufacturing - IndustrySelect®,” 1.

laboratories, all of them would benefit from solutions that put more emphasis on large scale projects where the science is pretty well understood and the production is the major hurdle.

Manufacturing, in particular, is an industry with lots of political capital because of the fact that it employed over 18 million Americans in 1980, a peak that it has declined from for 40 years in our timeline.⁶¹ Manufacturing jobs are both politically important and economically important for the senators who represent these states and they might strongly support solutions that rely heavily on manufacturing.

Senators On The Committee On Energy And Natural Resources

Another important bloc includes the senators who make up the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Senators at the time of the 97th Congress came from Idaho, Washington, Connecticut, Ohio, New Hampshire, Louisiana, New Mexico, Kentucky, Virginia, Hawaii, Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington.⁶² Members of this committee oversaw American nuclear power and research, as well as the matters relating to the US's energy needs. Members of this committee might have

joined the committee because they are interested or experienced in matters related to nuclear power. Members of this committee might prefer a solution that involves innovations in nuclear power such as fusion technologies or the aforementioned nuclear cargo ships. They might also support solutions that target America's energy needs.

⁶¹ Harris, "Forty Years of Falling Manufacturing Employment."

⁶² "#9 - Official Congressional Directory. 97th Congress 1947. - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library."

TOPIC B: TRADE POLICY AND PROTECTIONISM

Statement Of The Problem

During most of the late 20th century, American trade and other foreign policy regimes were focused on undermining the Soviets in the Cold War, stemming from political and economic tensions between the countries after World War II.⁶³

These economic differences arose from the differences in the two economic systems of both countries, with America focused on capitalism and the USSR focused on communism. The USSR's centrally planned economy meant the government controlled all means of production, prices, and resources, whereas the US allocated all of these tasks to individuals and companies. Additionally, both economies saw large economic booms after winning World War II as the USSR increased arms funding, and American civilians began to spend a lot more with a growing economy after the war.⁶⁴ These economic booms also led to multiple technical and military advancements in both countries as they became some of the most influential countries in the world. All of these differences in economic systems and politics all lead to a disagreement

about newly liberated Eastern European countries, and thus started the Cold War in earnest.⁶⁵



Figure 2. Guided missile destroyer Rastoropny (BRK-420), *Sovremenny* class, Russian Northern Fleet.⁶⁶

After this, the US and Great Britain harbored concerns about the Soviet Union's lasting control over Eastern Europe, alongside the rise of communist parties within their own borders. These factors prompted the implementation of the Marshall Plan, which solidified the US's influence in Western Europe. The early Cold War era centered around military power, leading to the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a defensive alliance between the US and Western European nations,

⁶³ *Foreign Policy: What Now?* [Ushistory.Org]. <https://www.ushistory.org/gov/11a.asp>. Accessed 7 Aug. 2023.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ "National Archives NextGen Catalog."

aimed at deterring potential Soviet invasions.⁶⁷ The significance of nuclear weapons grew after the US deployed them against the Japanese Empire; the Soviets subsequently achieved success in testing their own nuclear warhead in 1949. The early Cold War period also witnessed proxy conflicts, such as the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, which brought the world dangerously close to nuclear warfare.⁶⁸



Figure 3. President Clinton holding up a NAFTA t-shirt on the South Lawn.⁶⁹

By the time Ronald Reagan became president in 1981, the economic and political differences between the two countries had become apparent.

⁶⁷ NATO. "NATO Member Countries." NATO, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52044.htm. Accessed 8 Aug. 2023.

⁶⁸ Cold War | Summary, Causes, History, Years, Timeline, & Facts | Britannica. 9 Aug. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

⁶⁹ Kinney, Barbara. President William J. Clinton Participating in a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Products Event on the South Lawn. Accessed December 2023. <https://picryl.com/media/photograph-of-president-william-j-clinton-participating-in-a-north-american-a44281>.

These differences started a rivalry between the US and the USSR, which increasingly became a technological arms race both within and outside the military.⁷⁰ Additionally, as Reagan battled the tensions of the Cold War, he also sought to expand the trading done by the US.⁷¹ From his initial campaign in 1980, Reagan started the campaign for a trade organization between the North American countries (namely, the US, Canada, and Mexico). This campaign to create a trade organization seems to have strong support from many due to its potential to improve the American Economy and foreign trade.⁷²

These enemies included more countries than just the Soviet Union. The United States also faced tensions from other countries under the Soviet Union's influence. This included Eastern Bloc countries such as East Germany, Poland, Hungary, and others.⁷³ Additionally, the US now became in competition with Japan as they had an economic boom in the 1980s leading to rapid industrialization and export-led growth, which led to fears of American manufacturing decline

⁷⁰ Cold War | Summary, Causes, History, Years, Timeline, & Facts | Britannica. 9 Aug. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

⁷¹ "The Reagan Presidency." Ronald Reagan, <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/reagans/reagan-administration/reagan-presidency>. Accessed 10 Aug. 2023.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Cold War | Summary, Causes, History, Years, Timeline, & Facts | Britannica. 9 Aug. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

and job losses. West Germany also had a similar economic miracle-like boom, turning them into another economic challenger for the US.⁷⁴

In this committee, you will be asked to take an explicitly pro-Western stance on the Cold War and to propose technological projects that will bring about the end of the Cold War. However, we will not ask you to follow Reagan's historical projects or even his strategy. Instead, while you can choose to pick up the banner of one of these historical projects, you will also be able to think up your own futuristic technology projects. We will expect explicit explanations in your speeches of how these technologies will bring about the end to the Cold War, either by leading to a collapse of the USSR, by bringing the US and the USSR together to end the hostilities, or anywhere in between.

History Of The Problem

The attitudes and focuses of US trade and foreign policy in the Reagan era can be traced back to the early 20th century. Since the early 1900s, The United States recognized the importance of international trade and sought to establish a framework for regulating and promoting it. The first step in foreign trade began in 1914, the US under Woodrow Wilson's administration created

⁷⁴ "The Reagan Presidency." Ronald Reagan, <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/reagans/reagan-administration/reagan-presidency>. Accessed 10 Aug. 2023.

the United States Tariff Commission to generally oversee any trade policy and tariffs negotiations with foreign nations.



Figure 4. The World Bank Group.⁷⁵

In the aftermath of World War II, as countries sought to rebuild their economies, countries began to design a new international monetary system and create rules for economic trade. Leaders of various countries met in Brenton Woods, New Hampshire, to create the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to create better economic stability in the world using loans and currency exchanges between countries, to encourage international trade. The US played a leading role in shaping the international trade system. In 1947, the US was instrumental in the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a multilateral agreement aimed at reducing barriers to trade through lower tariffs and easier ability to transport exports from one country to another. The US was a key participant in the GATT

⁷⁵ Victorgrigas, *English*.

negotiations and was committed to promoting free trade and open markets.



Figure 5. President Reagan greeting the public⁷⁶

Over the years, the US Trade Organization underwent several changes. In 1975, President Ford signed the Trade Act, which established the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) and elevated the importance of trade policy within the government. However, it wasn't until the Reagan era that the US trade policy took a more aggressive stance. President Reagan believed in free trade and sought to open up foreign markets for American goods. His administration pursued a series of bilateral trade agreements and took a tougher stance on trade issues such as intellectual property rights and market access. These efforts laid the groundwork for the modern US trade policy and set the stage for future trade negotiations and organizations, such as the World

⁷⁶ Hathorn, Billy. Reagan photo at National Portrait Gallery IMG 4449. Wikimedia Commons, 29 July 2011.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Reagan_photo_at_National_Portrait_Gallery_IMG_4449.JPG.

Trade Organization (WTO), which was established in 1995.⁷⁷

Rise Of The Japanese Economy

During the Reagan eras, the Japanese economy experienced significant growth and emerged as a global economic powerhouse. This period, often referred to as the “Japanese economic miracle,” saw Japan become the second-largest economy in the world, challenging the dominance of the United States.^{78, 79} Japan's economic rise was due to a combination of different factors. Firstly, Japan achieved a substantial trade surplus by exporting a range of products, including automobiles, electronics, and machinery. Examples of these include: the growing popularity of the Nintendo and Sega consoles; car brands such as Toyota and Honda holding 33% of the American car market; and the large exportation of electronics by the Sony Corporation. At a peak in 1984, the Japanese

⁷⁷ WTO | GATT and the Goods Council - Gateway.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gatt_e/gatt_e.htm. Accessed 19 July 2023.

⁷⁸ Hills, J. (2019). An End to the 'Japanese Economic Miracle'. Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/081815/end-japanese-economic-miracle.asp>

⁷⁹ Smithsonian Institution. (n.d.). Japanese economic takeoff after 1945. Retrieved from <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/japanese-economic-takeoff-after-1945-119000751>

economy was producing 189 billion dollars worth of exports, an overall 14.9% of Japan's total GDP.⁸⁰



Figure 6. The Honda Accord, a Japanese-made car⁸¹

The country's strong manufacturing sector, characterized by efficiency and high-quality production, played a crucial role in its export success. With Japanese businesses moving away from the agricultural manufacturing sectors to more technology and information based industries.⁸²

Secondly, the Japanese government also used multiple governmental policies to support this newfound economic growth. The Japanese government worked to create more economic liberalization policies that lead to the development of the Japanese railways, leading to support for moving goods outside and throughout the country. Additionally, the

government in the 1980s had close ties with the United States, allowing for better trade between the two countries. The government also invested in research and development in the new technology sector which led to better goods and manufacturing.



Figure 7. Japanese General Government Building in Seoul, South Korea⁸³

During this era, Japan's economic success and its rising influence in global trade raised concerns among other nations, particularly the United States. The trade deficit between the two countries increased, leading to trade tensions and calls for protectionist measures. While the Japanese economy experienced impressive growth during the Reagan eras, it also faced challenges and underwent significant changes in subsequent decades. Factors such as the bursting of the Japanese asset price bubble in the early 1990s and demographic shifts posed challenges to sustained economic growth.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ "Japan Exports 1970-2023 | MacroTrends."

⁸¹ Danković, *English*.

⁸² Minami, R. (1994). *The Economic Miracle in Japan*. In *Development Economics: From Poverty to the Wealth of Nations* (pp. 217-246). Springer.

⁸³ "File:Japanese General Government Building 199 Cropped.Jpg - Wikimedia Commons."

⁸⁴ Minami 1994.

Past Actions

Prior to the Reagan era, trade foreign policy in the United States underwent quite a few different significant shifts and developments, reflecting the country's changing economic priorities and international relations.



*Figure 8. Franklin D. Roosevelt*⁸⁵

Firstly, one of the major trade foreign policy decisions was made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Roosevelt signed the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act into law.⁸⁶ This landmark legislation aimed to counteract the protectionist policies of the Great Depression era that had led to an economic downturn for the country. This act provided the president with the authority to negotiate trade agreements that could reduce any tariffs on a reciprocal basis with

⁸⁵ "SelectiveServiceActRoosevelt - Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Wikimedia Commons."

⁸⁶ *Milestones: 1921–1936 - Office of the Historian*.
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/export-import-bank>. Accessed 29 July 2023.

other countries. This act marked the beginning of modern US trade policy, shifting away from high tariffs and isolationism.⁸⁷

After World War II, the US began to play a large role in the reconstruction of Europe and Japan with initiatives like the Yalta Conference, which divided the land of Germany after their defeat.⁸⁸

Additionally, the US also established the Marshall Plan to revitalize the economy and infrastructure that had been lost or stalled in the war. Through this plan, the US strengthened alliances with European countries and encouraged open trade.⁸⁹

This momentum for reconstruction was compounded by the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, which established the International Monetary Fund and World Bank as systems to promote trade and financial stability internationally.⁹⁰ The IMF was charged with the maintenance of a system of fixed exchange rates centered on the US dollar and gold. The organization would also contribute to international monetary relations and expansion

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ *Yalta Conference | Summary, Dates, Consequences, & Facts | Britannica*. 22 Aug. 2023,
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Yalta-Conference>.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ "Bretton Woods Agreement and the Institutions It Created Explained."
Investopedia,
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brettonwoodsagreement.asp>. Accessed 27 July 2023.

of world trade by providing short-term financial assistance to countries with debt. Meanwhile, the World Bank was responsible for providing financial assistance for the reconstruction of war-ravaged nations and the economic development of less-developed countries.⁹¹

In 1947, the US decided to work to further reduce the barriers to international trade and commerce. The US helped establish the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, which aimed to promote trade liberalization and reduce barriers to international commerce. This system provided a rules based system for international trade, which included outlining principles for different fair and transparent trade practices, how to dispute resolution between countries, and safeguard practices against unfair trade practices.⁹² These laws led to tariff reductions and non-discrimination rules between participating countries. In turn, these tariff reductions lead to an additional economic growth that had already boomed from a post war economy in the US.⁹³

John F. Kennedy then worked to reduce tariffs even further. Firstly, Kennedy enacted the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. This law allowed the

president to negotiate tariff reductions up to 50%. This meant that the US could work to expand exports and trade internationally. Kennedy then began a round of GATT negotiations between 1964 and 1967 that resulted in even more tariff reductions (around 50%), particularly in industrial goods.⁹⁴ These actions ultimately helped lead to the creation of the World Trade Organization that would then replace the GATT in 1995, as member countries preferred the terms and reductions in tariffs that Kennedy had created.⁹⁵



Figure 9. Japanese Emperor Shōwa and Empress Kōjun with President Nixon in September 1971.⁹⁶

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² WTO | GATT and the Goods Council - Gateway. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gatt_e/gatt_e.htm. Accessed 19 July 2023.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ WTO | GATT Kennedy Round - Gateway. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min98_e/slide_e/slide009.htm. Accessed 19 July 2023.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ White House Office Photo. *Japanese Emperor Shōwa and Empress Kōjun Meet US President Nixon and Mrs. Nixon at Anchorage Airport on Their Way over to Europe on September 26, 1971. Although This Was an Unofficial Meeting, It Marked as the First Time Ever Face-to-Face Meeting of the Two Countries' Heads of State. The Emperor*

As the US faced economic challenges and turbulence in the early 1970s, President Richard Nixon decided to abandon the Bretton Woods system from 1944. This system had previously fixed the exchange rate of the US dollars to other international currencies.⁹⁷ This change would allow the US dollar to float freely against other countries, which meant that tariffs and exchange rates could now change based on the economy of the US. Nixon also initiated a working relationship with China when he visited Beijing in 1972, leading to an explosive boom of free trade between the two countries in both exports and imports for technology, manufacturing, and intellectual property.⁹⁸

These actions prior to the Reagan era reflect the United States' evolving trade foreign policy, from the protectionist policies of the early 20th century to a growing commitment to trade liberalization, international cooperation, and economic engagement with the global community. Each of these actions laid the foundation for the trade policies and diplomatic approaches that Reagan and subsequent administrations would build upon.

and the Empress Would Officially Visit the US in 1975 and Meet President and Mrs. Ford at the White House.

⁹⁷ *Milestones: 1969–1976 - Office of the Historian.* <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/nixon-shock>. Accessed 18 July 2023.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

Possible Solutions

Participating in a committee focused on trade and foreign policy during the Reagan era can be an incredibly engaging and educational experience. This era, characterized by President Ronald Reagan's conservative policies and Cold War dynamics, had significant implications for global trade and foreign relations. Below are some possible solutions to think about.

First and foremost, delegates have the opportunity to explore potential pathways related to trade agreements that encourage economic openness and reduced restrictions. During the Reagan era, the ideology of fostering free trade agreements and embracing economic liberalization assumed a major role in shaping foreign policy priorities.⁹⁹ Specifically, this period experienced a distinct shift towards a more market-driven economic strategy, which prompted a concerted emphasis on creating multiple different trade accords to create economic expansion and foster global collaboration. Among the big instances of this Reagan era, delegates can consider an agreement between the U.S. and Canada or a complete American Free trade agreement as models for potential resolutions.

⁹⁹ International Trade Administration. "North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)." 2023. Accessed December 2023. <https://www.trade.gov/north-american-free-trade-agreement-nafta>.

An agreement between the U.S. and Canada would provide a good step forward towards better and true economic integration. This agreement aimed to eliminate or reduce tariffs and trade barriers on a wide range of goods and services between the two countries.¹⁰⁰ This could have a variety of benefits, such as a massive increase in trade between the two countries as tariffs are reduced and economic growth that comes from this trade between these two countries. However, this trade agreement can also bring regulatory concerns with different standards and practices between the two countries as well as the standard domestic concerns of loss of jobs in each country as it may be easier to trade.

The other possible agreement would be an American Free Trade Agreement that would provide free trade between the U.S, Canada, and Mexico, and other Central American countries, thus creating a trade bloc within the Americas. The benefits of this agreement included market access which will facilitate even greater economies of scale and attract foreign investment.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Chatzky, Andrew, James McBride, and Mohammed Aly Sergie. "NAFTA and the USMCA: Weighing the Impact of North American Trade," Council on Foreign Relations, 1 July 2020. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/naftas-economic-impact>.

¹⁰¹ Encyclopaedia Britannica. "North American Free Trade Agreement: Renegotiation." Accessed December 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/event/North-American-Free-Trade-Agreement/Renegotiation>.

Additionally, this agreement also allowed for any foreign direct investment between the three countries by providing a more stable and predictable business environment. However, this agreement would create even more labor and regulatory concerns as the trade agreement includes yet another country to do business with.

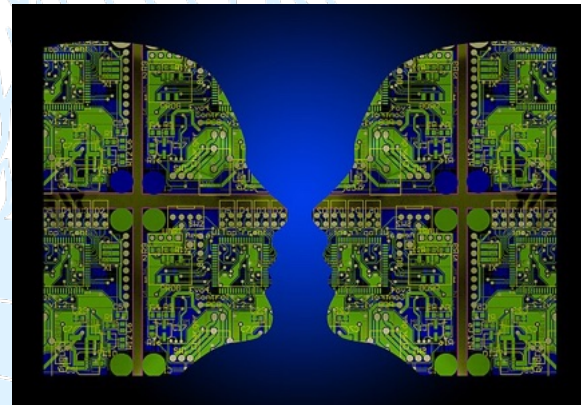


Figure 10.¹⁰²

Alternatively, another area focus considers the transfer of technology and exports of technology. The issue of technology transfer and exports could play an incredible role during the Reagan administration. This would require delegates to create a delicate balance between safeguarding national security and fostering economic growth through the exports and imports of technology between countries such as Japan. However, these technologies could also have drawbacks if they were to fall into the wrong hands or for the U.S. to lose investment in them.

¹⁰² Wikimedia Commons, "Science, Technology, and Engineering." 26 October 2014. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Science,_Technology_and_Engineering.jpg.

One of the ways to deal with this transfer of technology would be to use export controls. Export controls are an established mechanism in the U.S. government and regulatory agencies to regulate and restrict the transfer of technologies that could be harmful towards national security. Maintaining a technological edge over other countries is important, but this needs to be balanced with collaboration and defense of other nations.¹⁰³

Finally, another solution that one can use in combination with legislative solutions such as tariffs or export controls is cultural exchange or using soft power to influence foreign communication and relations.¹⁰⁴ It will be important to think about the export of America's culture and its interaction with other countries in a way that can benefit the United States, such as through beneficial trade and idea exchanges. As you, as delegates, look for possible solutions, be sure to remember to thoroughly think about the historical context of the Reagan era, both domestically and abroad. Each solution should

always be supported by well-reasoned resolutions and relevant historical examples.

Bloc Positions

This section of the background guide will describe the position that various countries are in as it relates to America's foreign trade policy. However, during committee, please do not feel pressured to create blocs or alliances based on these distinctions, they are simply for the purposes of organizing the next few pages. In fact, we encourage delegates to think about working with a variety of senators and interest groups in order to hear contrasting perspectives and create more diverse resolutions.

The Reagan Coalition Bloc

During the Reagan era, U.S. Senators who firmly supported President Ronald Reagan's economic and foreign policy agenda were commonly known as the Reagan Coalition Bloc. This coalition formed after Reagan was able to form a major political realignment due to Jimmy Carter's losses in most socioeconomic groups during the 1982 election.¹⁰⁵ These Senators were recognized for their dedication to conservative and Republican principles. The main characteristics of the Reagan Coalition Bloc during this era was marked by increased support for "Reaganomics,"

¹⁰³ Bown, Chad P. "The Return of Export Controls," *Foreign Affairs*, 24 January 2023. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/return-export-controls>.

¹⁰⁴ United States, Executive Office of the President [Ronald Reagan]. Executive Order 12451: Continuation of Export Control Regulations, 20 December 1983. National Archives. <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/executive-order-12451-continuation-export-control-regulations>.

¹⁰⁵ Reichley, A. James. "The Reagan Coalition." *The Brookings Review* 1, no. 2 (1982): 6–9. <https://doi.org/10.2307/20079772>.

a set of policies encompassing manufacturing-focused economics, tax reductions, and deregulation.¹⁰⁶ Their belief was that these measures could be the key to restart economic growth and kickstart job creation.

One of the largest aspects of their ideology was fiscal responsibility, with its members vigorously advocating for a curtailed government spending. This often translated into calls for reductions in social programs as a means to address budget deficits. Additionally, they also pioneered a strong national defense, which emphasized a modernization of the military and an augmented defense budget.

In the midst of the Cold War era, this group of Senators maintained a steadfast stance against communism, aligning closely with President Reagan's efforts to address and contain the expansion of communist influence. They championed this cause through a combination of military measures and diplomatic strategies.¹⁰⁷ Their strong support for businesses was evident in their belief that nurturing a thriving business environment was essential for stimulating

economic growth and job creation. This was a foundational component of their economic ideology.

Additionally, at the core of the Reagan Coalition Bloc's principles is a strong focus on curbing any government interference both in the economy and any personal lives of US citizens. Furthermore, they espoused conservative social principles, such as opposing abortion rights and staunchly supporting traditional family values.¹⁰⁸ They vocally advocated for tax reductions, particularly for high-income earners, contending that lower tax rates would encourage greater investment and stimulate economic growth.

The Liberal Democrats Bloc

During the Reagan era, another important group of U.S. Senators formed together as the Liberal Democrats Bloc. This bloc is generally described by their progressive and liberal ideologies. These senators frequently disagreed with the policy trajectory outlined by President Ronald Reagan.

The principal source of struggle for this bloc was in President Reagan's policy agenda, specifically his advocacy for extensive tax cuts that, in the Bloc's estimation, more often than not favored the rich. They thought that these tax reductions

¹⁰⁶ Recchiuti, John Louis. "Ronald Reagan: Election and domestic policies," Khan Academy. Accessed December 2023. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/modern-us/1980s-america/a/ronald-reagan-as-president-part-1-election-and-domestic-policies>.

¹⁰⁷ OpenStaxCollege. "The Reagan Revolution." 2014. Accessed December 2023. <https://pressbooks-dev.oer.hawaii.edu/ushistory/chapter/the-reagan-revolution/>.

¹⁰⁸ Williams, D.K. "Reagan's Religious Right: The Unlikely Alliance between Southern Evangelicals and a California Conservative," *Ronald Reagan and the 1980s*. Studies of the Americas, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230616196_9.

inadequately addressed the needs of the average American and accentuated income inequality.¹⁰⁹

Additionally, the Bloc raised substantial objections to many of the Reagan administration's de-regulatory initiatives. While President Reagan contended that these measures would stimulate economic growth, the Liberal Democrats Bloc still believed that this could have potential repercussions on labor protections and consumer safeguards.¹¹⁰

Central to the Bloc's platform was an important commitment to the establishment of a more equitable tax system. They proposed a tax regime that would redistribute wealth by imposing a heavier tax burden on higher-income individuals while alleviating the tax load on those with more modest incomes. This proposal sought to fight against income inequality and foster an equitable social structure.

In addition to their tax reform propositions, the Bloc also advocates for an expanded suite of social programs. They perceived these programs as vital to addressing pervasive social issues, including poverty and access to healthcare.¹¹¹ Although the

Liberal Democrats Bloc often found itself in the Senate minority during the Reagan era, its members wielded substantial influence in shaping national discourse surrounding economic and social policy. Over time, their ideas garnered increasing traction, contributing to the evolving landscape of American politics and policy formulation.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Apple Jr., R.W. "Donkey's Years; Is There Room at the Top for Democrats?" *New York Times*, 12 July 1992. <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/07/12/weekinreview/donkey-s-years-is-there-room-at-the-top-for-democrats.html>.

¹¹¹ AFL-CIO. "Legislative Scorecard." Accessed December 2023. <https://aflcio.org/scorecard>.



EST. 1989

MUNUC

CHARACTER ROSTER

- Alan Cranston (D-California)
- Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming)
- Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania)
- Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona)
- Bob Dole (R-Kansas)
- Chic Hecht (R-Nevada)
- Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut)
- Claiborne Pell (D-Rhode Island)
- Dale Bumpers (D-Arkansas)
- Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii)
- Daniel Moynihan (D-New York)
- David Boren (D-Oklahoma)
- David Pryor (D-Arkansas)
- Donald Riegle (D-Michigan)
- Edward M. Kennedy (D-Massachusetts)
- Ernest Hollings (D-South Carolina)
- Frank Lautenberg (D-New Jersey)
- Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska)
- Gary Hart (D-Colorado)
- George Mitchell (D-Maine)
- Howard Baker (R-Tennessee)
- Howell Heflin (D-Alabama)
- Jake Garn (R-Utah)
- Jeremiah Denton (R-Alabama)
- Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina)
- Joe Biden (D-Delaware)
- John Glenn (D-Ohio)
- John McCain (R-Arizona)
- John Warner (R-Virginia)
- Lawton Chiles (D-Florida)
- Lowell Weicker (R-Connecticut)
- Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon)
- Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kansas)
- Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)
- Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada)
- Paul Sarbanes (D-Maryland)
- Paula Hawkins (R-Florida)
- Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico)
- Pete Wilson (R-California)
- Phil Gramm (R-Texas)
- Richard Lugar (R-Indiana)
- Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia)
- Sam Nunn (D-Georgia)
- Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii)
- Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina)
- Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts)
- Ted Stevens (R-Alaska)
- William L. Armstrong (R-Colorado)
- William Proxmire (D-Wisconsin)
- William Roth (R-Delaware)

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