

The image features a central silhouette of the Statue of Liberty, holding a torch aloft. The statue is set against a vibrant background of radiating lines in shades of red and orange, creating a sunburst effect. The entire scene is framed by a dark red border decorated with numerous yellow, four-pointed stars. At the bottom, the title 'Understanding the News' is written in a large, bold, white font with a black outline. Below it, the subtitle 'America's Role in the 21st Century World' is written in a smaller, grey font.

Understanding the News

America's Role in the 21st
Century World

Where'd we Leave Off??

- **Civil Rights Movement**
- **The Space Race**
- **The Cuban Missile Crisis**
- **The War in Vietnam**
- **JFK Assassination**
- **Nixon and the Watergate Scandal**
- **The Cold War is still going on...**

Essential Question:

- How did the Cold War finally start to “thaw” during the 1980s?



Nixon Visits China and the USSR

(p.440)

- Before Nixon resigned from office, he did accomplish some tasks that were very helpful to America during the Cold War.
- In 1972, Nixon visited China—a communist nation that had not been open to the U.S. since 1949—to discuss allowing trade again.
- Three months later, he visited Moscow (U.S.S.R.'s capital) to meet with Leonid Brezhnev about easing tensions between the countries.
- He and Brezhnev signed an Arms Control agreement that limited the number of nuclear weapons allowed on each side.
- These two meetings was the start of eased tensions between America and other communist nations.
- Nixon believed that even though our country did not agree with communism, we should still be open to working together with each other.

Increased Tensions... Again.

(p. 441)

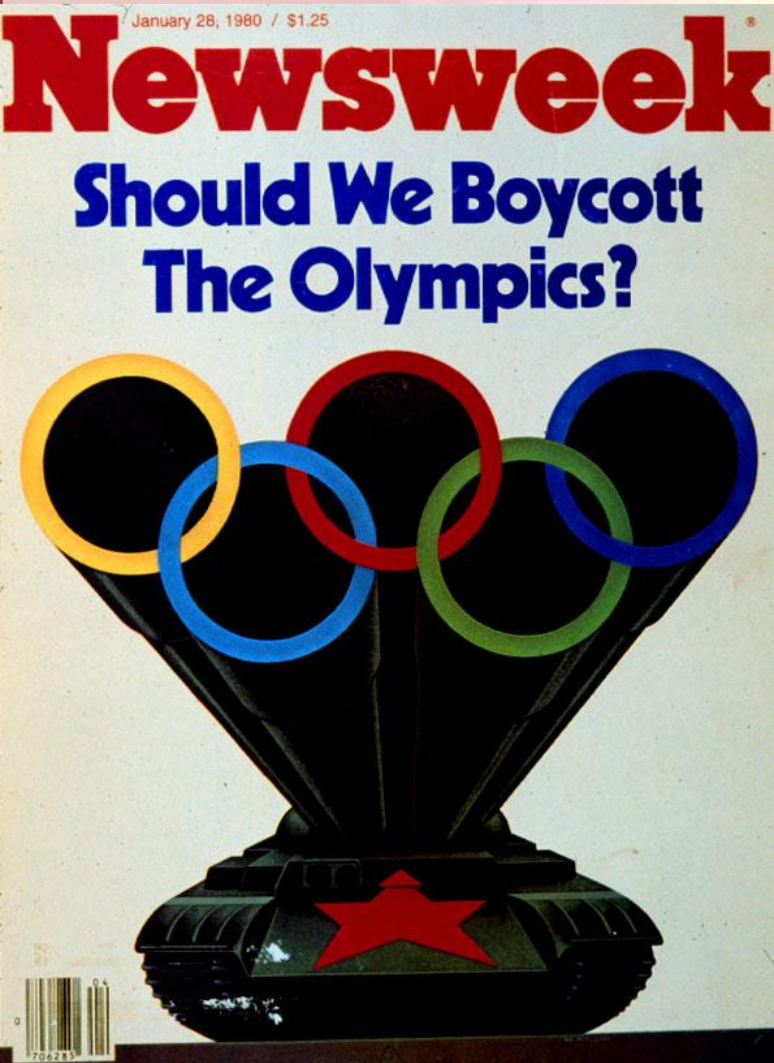
- Then, in 1973, the Soviet Union and the USA were on opposing sides again when war broke out in the Middle East.
- The USA supported Israel.
- The USSR supported Egypt and Syria.



More Fighting in the Middle East...

- In 1979, Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan and moved closer to its rich oil fields.
- Jimmy Carter, who was President at that time, called this a “threat to world peace,” and insisted that the Soviets leave Afghanistan.
- When the Soviets refused, the USA cut back its trade with the USSR and refused to more arms control.
- President Carter was so serious about the Soviets leaving Afghanistan, that he even had the USA boycott the 1980 Olympic Games because they were being held in Moscow.

President Jimmy Carter



Even more fighting in the Middle East

- Another country that caused conflict in the Middle East during 1979 was Iran.
- A revolution took place in the country that overthrew Iran's *shah* (Iran's leader).
- The people leading the revolution did not like the USA because America supported the shah.
- To show their anger at the USA, the revolutionaries attacked the U.S. *embassy* (a building containing the offices of an *ambassador* and staff) in Iran's capital city of Tehran.
- *Ambassador*. an official messenger or representative

New President—Ronald Reagan

- The people leading the attack against the embassy captured 53 Americans and made them *hostages* (prisoners who are held until the captors' demands are met).
- President Carter tried but could not get the revolutionaries to release the hostages, so Americans did not re-elect him in 1980.
- In 1980, they elected Ronald Reagan as President; and on the day that Reagan took the office, Iran released the hostages.



Essential Question:

- How did the Cold War finally start to “thaw” during the 1980s?



Ronald Reagan

- Reagan was a much-loved President.
- Before Reagan was President, he was a famous actor for movies!
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm_4qkmfGy8&feature=related alternate--
(http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Sm_4qkmfGy8&vq=medium)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5D6RnMbfHI&feature=related> alternate--
(http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=p5D6RnMbfHI&vq=small)

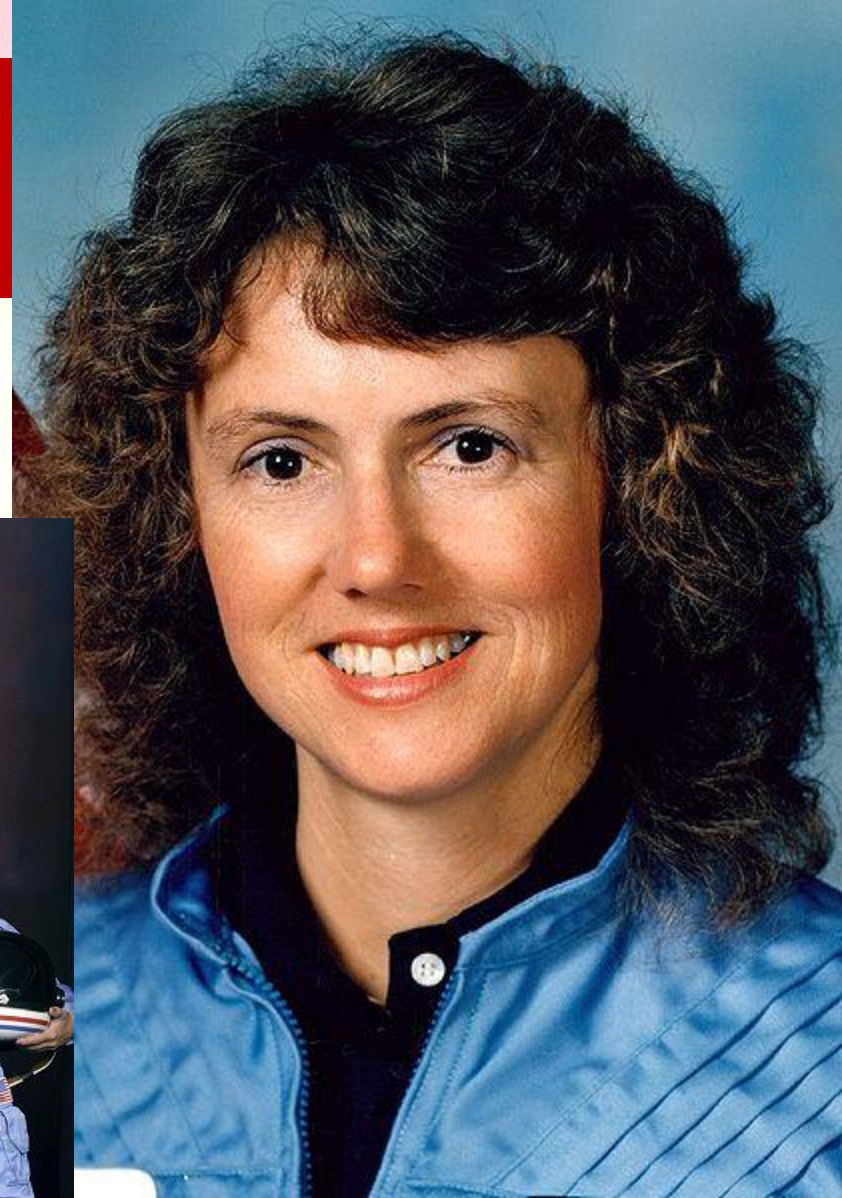
The Zero Factor

- The “Zero Factor”—Ever since 1840, every American President that was elected during a year ending in zero had died while serving in office.
- Everyone was afraid that Reagan would not make it through his Presidency alive, and an assassination on his life was even attempted.
- However, even though Reagan was shot in the chest, he made a full recovery and even was able to serve a second term.

A Sad Day...

- Space exploration continued in the 1980s, but on January 28, 1986, something happened that threatened the end of the space program.
- The space shuttle *Challenger* with seven astronauts aboard was to go to space with Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first ever teacher in space.
- However, there was something wrong with the shuttle, and 73 seconds after the launch, the ship exploded killing all 7 astronauts. (Much of America was watching it on TV when it happened.)
- Many believed that this tragedy would be the end of the space program for the USA, but a year and a half later, another shuttle, *Discovery*, carried a successful mission.

Christa McAuliffe



The Crew

“The Evil Empire” (p.450)

- **During the early 1980s, nuclear weapons were still being built on both sides, and the Cold War continued.**
- **President Reagan verbalized his dislike for the Soviet Union’s communist government by calling it “the evil empire.”**
- **Why? The Soviet Union would spend its money on building up its military power and overlook the needs of its people.**
- **The people were suffering. They had shortages of food, fuel, and other goods.**

FREEDOM??? (p.450)

- In 1985, a new leader named Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the USSR.
- Gorbachev's goal was to reform the country and care for its people.
- He started reconstructing the economy and allowing the people the freedom to start their own businesses, vote, speak freely, and worship as they chose.

Reduced Tensions (p.450)

- Gorbachev also reduced the tensions that existed between the Soviet Union and other countries (including the USA).
- President Reagan and Gorbachev met for the first time in November 1985, and three years later Gorbachev agreed to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the USSR—the USA agreed to do the same.

Time for a New President... (p.450)

- At the end of Reagan's second term, his Vice President, George H. W. Bush was elected President in 1988.
- In 1989, America's new President, George H. W. Bush, met Gorbachev, and they discussed the changes taking place in the Soviet Union.
- They were in **agreement** about the need for a reconstructed economy, and for the first time in almost 35 years, the Cold War was starting to thaw.



George H. W. Bush—
President 1989-1993

George H. W. Bush

Ronald Reagan

Mikhail Gorbachev



Other Countries that Rebelled

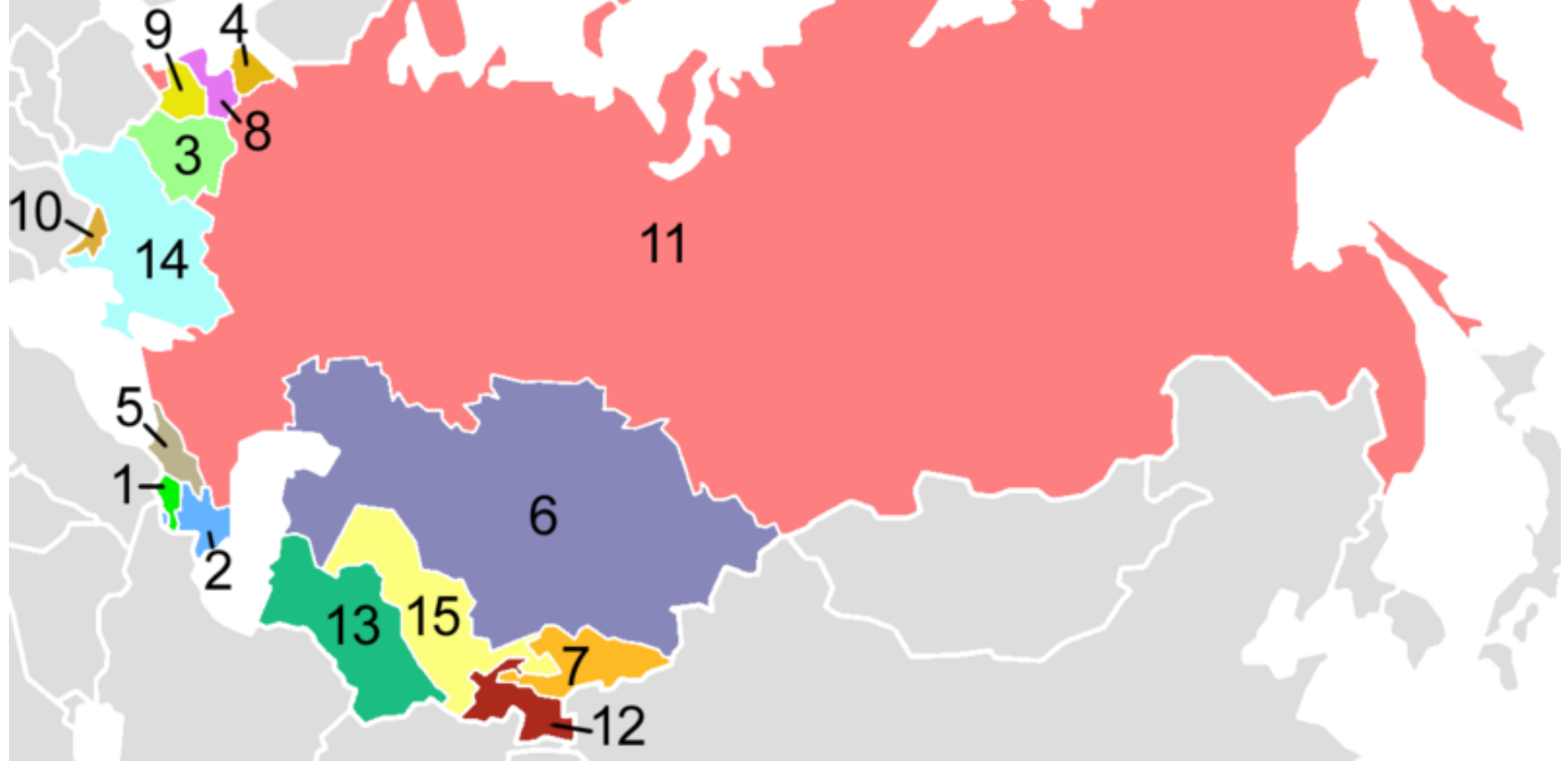
- In 1989, other countries rebelled against communism as well:
 - Poland
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Hungary
 - Romania
 - Bulgaria
 - East Germany—this is when the Berlin Wall was torn down 😊 (picture on p.450)



Communism... Gone... USSR... Gone. (p. 452-453)

- Then, in 1991, Gorbachev took the next step to ensure freedom in his nation—he outlawed communism.
- Once communism fell, there was not much authority left to keep the 15 different nations that had become a part of the USSR from leaving.
- So, they all declared their independence and broke away from the Soviet Union.

The Collapse of the USSR



1. [Armenia](#)
2. [Azerbaijan](#)
3. [Belarus](#)
4. [Estonia](#)
5. [Georgia](#)
6. [Kazakhstan](#)
7. [Kyrgyzstan](#)
8. [Latvia](#)
9. [Lithuania](#)
10. [Moldova](#)
11. [Russia](#)
12. [Tajikistan](#)
13. [Turkmenistan](#)
14. [Ukraine](#)
15. [Uzbekistan](#)

Essential Questions:

- “How did the Cold War start to ‘thaw’ in the 1980s?”
- “How did the Persian Gulf War affect America?”



Other Countries Break away from Communism

- In a country in Europe called Yugoslavia where communism also fell, six states declared their independence, but at a high cost.
- Because there was no longer one, unifying government forcing the nations to get along, civil wars broke out between some of the nations.
- Bosnia-Herzegovina was one with large casualties.
- 200,000 were killed, and 3 million were left homeless.

Before



After



The Fall of Communism

- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7972232.stm>



The National Debt (p.449)

- Under Ronald Reagan, the US military had been built up immensely, but at a high price.
- When Bush became President, he inherited more than a 3 trillion dollar debt!

Persian Gulf War (p.451)

- In the Middle East, there was still a lot of conflict going on in the early 1990s.
- The country of Iraq decided it wanted the rich oil fields in Kuwait in 1990.
- Iraq led by its leader, Saddam Hussein, invaded and claimed Kuwait, and this upset many countries that relied on Kuwait's oil exports (including the USA).
- In 1991, the USA and other angry countries attacked Iraq to force them out of Kuwait. This was the start of the Persian Gulf War.



Turkey

Cyprus

Lebanon

Israel

Syria

Iraq

Iran

Jordan

Kuwait

Egypt

Bahrain

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Oman

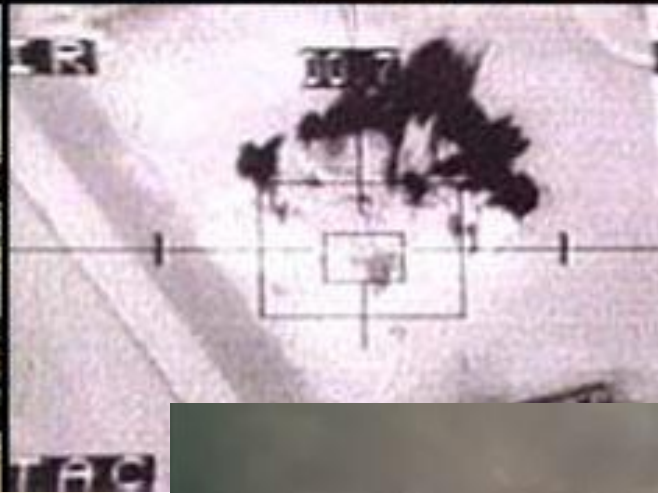
Yemen

The Coalition

- The Iraqi soldiers then gathered on the border of Saudi Arabia, and many feared Iraq would soon attack them next.
- The United States, Saudi Arabia, and many other countries part of the United Nations banded together and formed a *coalition* (a group of nations that ally together to achieve a goal) against Iraq.
- They had planes bomb Iraq, and soldiers enter Kuwait to drive Saddam's forces out.

Operation Desert Storm

- This attack was known as Operation Desert Storm, and it drove Saddam Hussein and the Iraqis out of Kuwait.
- They won the Persian Gulf War in about 2 months by using new technology to accurately guide missiles from ships in the Persian Gulf.
- Saddam Hussein left Kuwait, but remained the dictator of Iraq.



Persian Gulf War

SUM IT UP MOVIE!!! 😊

- <http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=3bc73b9c-00c7-4e30-9859-42fe699895f4&productcode=US&CFID=879731&CFTOKEN=58281868>