Soviet invasion went beyond ‘Brezhnev Doctrine’ – indicated to Brzezinski that USSR was pursuing aggressive expansionist policy in oil-rich Middle East

**US response to invasion**
Carter demanded immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops – Carter looked weak when didn’t withdraw
Afghanistan should remain ‘nonaligned’ – not part of either sphere of influence
1980 – introduced grain embargo
Began secretly sending military supplies to Islamic Fundamentalists – wanted to make occupation as costly as possible/exploit the ever growing economic imbalance

**Significance of Afghanistan**
US public
- Convinced détente must end – evidence USSR wanted to expand influence, US had duty to stop this
US government
- Invasion gave upper hand to Brzezinski faction – wanted break with détente, stand up to USSR
US Congress
- Refused to approve SALT II Treaty – majority of Congress against détente
US President
- Carter responded by effectively abandoning détente
- Leaked Presidential directives – plans for winning/surviving nuclear war, signalled end of détente

**End of Détente – Thatcher and Reagan**
Thatcher elected in 1979, Reagan elected in 1980 – both represented new kind of conservatism
Determined to revitalise capitalism at home/stand up to communism abroad

**Encouraging free enterprise by ‘Rolling Back the State’**
Both believed government spending/high taxes dominated economies – damaging to private enterprise

**Defence spending**
Both leaders committed to expanding government defence spending – specifically new nuclear missiles
Problems for USSR – growing economic imbalance, USSR could not keep pace

**Standing up to the ‘Evil Empire’**
Both believed communism was morally evil – West’s moral duty to challenge it

**Why did détente ultimately fail?**
Suspensions of the US
- Concerning about Soviet ‘adventurism/expansionism in Third World
- Afghanistan invasion – final confirmation that drove wedge between US/USSR
Weak leadership
- Early success of détente marked by strong leadership (Nixon/Kissinger)
- Mid 1970s – Brezhnev’s health in decline, Ford and Carter were weak
- Late 1970s – neither superpower had leader capable of make tough decisions to sustain détente

**Human Rights**
- Basket 3 created major grievances – argued détente worthless as USSR ignored it

**Economic Realities**
- 1969 – détente had appealed to US/USSR due to struggling economies – less defence spending
- 1976 onwards – Western economies recovering, Soviet economy continued to decline
- US no longer needed economic benefits of détente – unsustainable without commitment from both

**Soviet Economic Decline**
- Inefficiencies of communist economic planning
- Mid 1970s – bad harvests/droughts/early frost – led to large imports

**‘The New Right’**
- Thatcher/Reagan – belief communism was morally evil, West’s moral duty to challenge it

**Invasion of Afghanistan**
- Spelled end of détente – different views on reason for invasion