Cold War Relations Under Reagan

The Global South- crucial aspect of US driving force in relation to US foreign policy.

Reagan speech in 1983 at an Evangelical conference:

- Christianity at the core but mainly a political message that détente in 1970s was a mistake and the Cold War needs to be ramped up because otherwise the US is at risk from the USSR who were thought to be militarily ahead.
- Very extreme view in the stories- rather daughter’s died than live in a godless totalitarian state.
- Can’t be above the Cold War, you have to take a stand because otherwise the USSR would take power.
- Evil empire= USSR.
- USA is the antithesis of the USSR.
- Ramping up the rhetoric of the Cold War. Reversing the détente of the 1970s.
- Increase defence spending

What happens to Cold War later in the 1980s?

- 1985 Gorbachev. 80-85 period of geriatric leaders in USSR. Gorbachev is younger and changes the dynamics of US- Soviet relations. Immediately reforms foreign and domestic policy.
- How much should we place the US as responsible for the end of the Cold War? Roots in number of factors only one of which involves the USA. What is the impact in Reagan’s foreign policy on actual people around the world? All about the relationship between ideology and foreign policy. Two different questions with different analysis.
- How is the idea implemented? Nicaragua- revolution in Nicaragua which is anti-American. Latin America- period is a hotbed of political experimentation at both leftist and rightist end. US trained contra rebels and funded them through the CIA. Congress denied funding so the way in which it is funded is by selling arms to Iran- who is an enemy and uses the funds to train the contras. Causes a massive executive scandal as it was an exploitation of the power. Very real direct impact on populations elsewhere in the world. 1983 the US invades Grenada- direct invasion which is unusual as usually done covertly. Real consequences of the Reagan Doctrine. Enormous because of the impact in Latin America. Also has an impact of US politics- contra hearings= de-legitimisation of the Reagan administration. Solidarity politics with Latin America in the 1980s. Bottom up view of Cold War foreign policy in Latin America.
- Period of proxy war become again like they were in the 1950s. Angola- communist vs anti-communist civil war. Cuba sending troops to support communists in Angola.

What was the place of the US in the end of the Cold War?

- Military build-up real.
- Had to negotiate because of the vast sums of military weapons and nuclear power.

What about the idea that Reagan’s strong stance of the USSR and the affirmation of US values was the reason for the end of the Cold War?