

GRADE 12 HISTORY**IF 3. RESULTS OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE USSR****THE RISE OF AMERICA**

The most significant result of the collapse of the world's second biggest super-power was that it allowed America to rise unchallenged and to dominate world events for the next 40 odd years. She rose as the single greatest power in a multi-polar world to create a 'new world order'.

There was nobody in any position to oppose the USA at this stage:

- The EU was not established and/or strong enough
- The Chinese were trading partners, and whilst seen as rivals, were not a threat
- The CIS were weakened by internal instability and financial crisis
- France and Britain had never recovered to their former glory after the Second World War
- America had support of the UN and NATO

GLOBALIZATION

A spin off of Western supremacy, and the advancements in technology, allowed the world to shrink and to fall under capitalist control. America has dictated financial affairs across the globe in recent years.

WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET AID TO HER ALLIES

Former allies with the Soviets, such as the ANC and Angola, lost their economic and political support. In South Africa this turned out to be a good thing as it led to the 1994 elections because the threat of communist influence had been removed. But in other countries, such as Congo, the political vacuum allowed for dictators to come into power.

THE USSR DISSOLVED

The Soviet Union dissolved into 15 smaller states. 12 of them formed the Commonwealth of Independent States, or the CIS, of which Russia is the biggest but she is divided into 12 republics, and the 3 Baltic States that chose independence.

THREAT OF NUCLEAR WARFARE

The threat of nuclear warfare still remains. Under American 'reign' this fear has not gone away. The Cold War may have ended but the arms race continues....

POST COLD WAR TENSION AND CONFLICT

Also under American 'reign' there has been more instability, local conflict, international wars, acts of terrorism, ethnic and regional wars, disease, poverty and human rights abuses than there was during the Cold War.

Eg. Kuwait Invasion (1991), Afghanistan (2001), Iraq (2003), Sanctions against Libya and Iraq, Non-intervention in Rwanda (1994), Non-intervention in Bosnia (1993/5), India vs Pakistan conflict (2002), African dictators, human rights violations and legacies..... not to mention the Twin Towers attack and more recently the Boston Marathon bombings.

HOW THE COLLAPSE OF THE USSR AFFECTED SOUTH AFRICA

(Adapted from Focus on History, Maskew Longman Miller)

South Africa's involvement in civil wars

- South African forces were involved in civil wars in Angola and Mozambique
- The USA's policy was to support SA because they were fighting against the spread of Communism; so they did not apply as much pressure on SA to change apartheid policies
 - Called —constructive engagement till (change through talks rather than economic pressure)
- **Angola:**
 - SA and USA supported UNITA
 - USSR and Cubans supported MPLA
 - Late 1988 Cuba and USSR wanted to withdraw from Angola (reduce military spending)
 - SA had been defeated at Cuito Cuanavale and also wanted to withdraw – but only when Cuba and USSR start withdrawing
 - Negotiations in late 1988
 - Cuba agreed to withdraw from Angola when SA starts withdrawing from Namibia
 - Namibia became independent in 1990
 - Angolan peace agreement in 1991
 - MPLA ruling party in Angola – started moving away from its strict socialist policies
- **Mozambique**
 - Early 1980s SA supported rebel movement Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO)
 - Mozambique's ruling party was socialist (FRELIMO) (support from USSR)
 - By end of 1980s FRELIMO had moved away from socialism and peace was reached between FRELIMO and RENAMO
 - SA no longer involved
- African countries were no longer important to the one remaining superpower at the end of the Cold War (USA)
- Therefore, SA was no longer a catalyst against Communism in the eyes of the USA
- Therefore, USA no longer supported SA

Impact on ANC

- ANC had been supported by USSR
 - Weapons
 - Training
 - Finance
- This support now disappeared with the collapse of the USSR
- ANC no longer had the backing of a superpower to strengthen their resistance

Impact on NP policies

- Total Onslaught now a fallacy as there is no longer a Communist threat against SA
- ANC could no longer be seen as a communist organisation - NP's policy of not negotiating with communists null and void
- NP also knew that the ANC would be weakened now that their support was gone and the NP could capitalise on this.
- SA was also weakened by increased sanctions from USA: therefore negotiation was becoming imperative