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Is Cold War II Inevitable?

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Is Cold War II Inevitable?

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Origins of Cold War I

- ❑ Ideological conflict.
 - Rooted in early calls for revolutions following the Russian Revolution (1917)
 - Western support for “Whites” during Civil War and mediocre support during World War II.
 - “Historic inevitability of a clash between Capitalism and Communism”
 - Mutual claims to a unique destiny/natural greatness.
- ❑ Post-World War II Settlement.
 - Europe and Russia’s “cordon sanitaire.” (Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia)
 - De-colonialization and search for allies turned the conflict global.
 - Competing visions of economic order.

Russian “New Thinking” Expectations/Goals

By renouncing the “inevitability of conflict,” the Soviet Union expected:

- Acceptance as an equal partner with the US in the international community.
 - Respect for international law
 - Respect for national sovereignty (non-intervention in internal affairs)
 - Integrity of national borders
- New World Order with United Nations as forum for multinational problem resolution.
- Principles of “2+4” Ottawa Talks (1991)
 - A united Germany had its choice of alliance
 - Reduction of military forces in former Warsaw Pact member-states (No permanently stationed combat troops)
 - NATO to become more political organization, less military
 - OSCE as primary forum to guarantee security in Europe.

Origins of Cold War II

- ❑ Belief the US and NATO “won” Cold War I.
- ❑ Russian internal politics, e.g. “Old Guard” rallying national pride.
- ❑ Mutual neglect or underestimation of national priorities.

Key International Events-Post Ottawa

Bosnia and Kosovo (Clinton)

Iraq War II (Bush)

Georgia (Bush)

Libya, Syria, Ukraine, etc. (Obama)

Security Dilemma

- ▣ Recent actions mutually reinforce trends toward Cold War II.
 - NATO expansion eastward “in violation” of Ottawa
 - NATO reorientation following Ukraine crisis
 - Sabre-rattling/exercises
 - Military modernizations?
 - Missile defense deployments in Romania (Aegis), Lithuania (THAAD), and Poland (Aegis)

Discussion Questions

Has Cold War II already started?

What would it take to reduce the tensions?

Given their strategic interests, what type of relations are possible between Russia and the US?

Russia's Interests

- ❑ Reassert “Great Power” status
- ❑ Stability on its borders
 - Protect Russian minorities
 - Contain “Islamization.”
- ❑ **Geo-strategic**
 - Warm water ports
 - Loyal countries on its periphery
- ❑ Economic **prosperity**

“Cold War”

A state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare, usually used in reference to the state of political hostility that existed between the Soviet bloc countries and the US-led Western powers from 1945 to 1990.*

***Except for lull following the Russian Revolution, Russia and the US have had diplomatic and trade relations since 1787.**

Destiny?

There are at the present time two great nations in the world, which started from different points, but seem to tend towards the same end. I allude to the Russians and the Americans. Both of them have grown up unnoticed...The world learned their existence and their greatness at almost the same time....Their starting-point is different, and their courses are not the same; yet each of them seems marked out by the will of Heaven to sway the destinies of half the globe."

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1835)