COLD WAR CARD 7

PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE COLD WAR

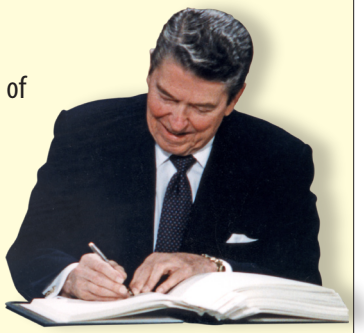
President Reagan and Soviet General Gorbachev signing the INF Treaty in the East Room of the White House | December 8, 1987

Background:

In February, 1987, Gorbachev de-linked the INF disarmament negotiations from the Strategic Defense Initiative. As a result, the Reagan Administration and later the Soviet Union moved forward to create drafts of what would become the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty or INF Treaty for short.

The INF Treaty was signed in the East Room of the White House by both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev December 8, 1987.

It was the first treaty to actually require the reduction of nuclear arms rather than just requiring the countries not to build more nuclear weapons. Included in the treaty were provisions for monitoring and inspecting the arms reductions.



Quotes:

" I think as long as you've got a chance to strive for peace you strive for peace." **President Reagan, 1987**

" [the INF Treaty] has a universal significance for mankind." **General Secretary Gorbachev, 1987**

Questions:

- What is a treaty?
- What was the importance of the INF treaty?
- What was ground-breaking or new about the INF treaty in comparison to other treaties which had been signed in the past?
- Who do you think was responsible for making the INF treaty happen? Explain.
- Could the INF treaty have been possible without the leadership of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev?

Research:

- Has the treaty been followed? Explain.
- Have there been additional nuclear arms reduction treaties since 1987?
- Describe world reaction to the INF treaty.
- Why did Gorbachev decide to de-link the INF disarmament negotiations from the Strategic Defense Initiative?
- What key individuals, other than President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, were responsible for creating the INF Treaty?
- Find a treaty involving the United States that is in the news now. Describe the treaty. Do you think the United States should sign the treaty? Why or why not?

Activities:

Design your own treaty. Think of a disagreement the student body has had with the administration of your school. Imagine a way you could compromise on this issue. Write up a treaty which states and explains the issue and describes what you will do to solve the problem. Send your principal a copy of your treaty. Ask the principal if they would like to make any changes, if so, decide whether or not you'll approve the changes. If you reach an agreement, invite your principal to a signing ceremony with your class. Invite a journalist and a writer from your school newspaper to attend and write a story on your treaty.

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