

*National Security and the Reagan  
Administration*

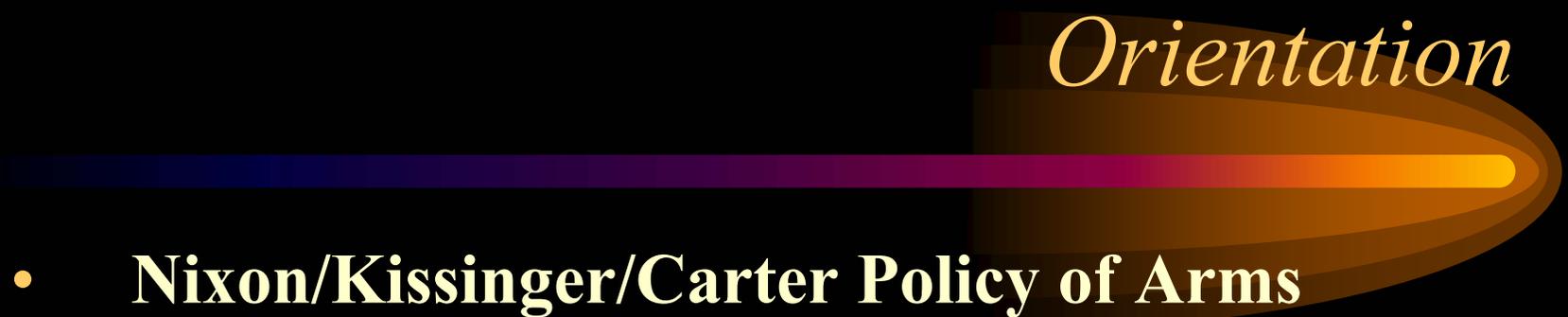
1980-1988



# *The Setting: 1980*

- **Soviet Global Engagement**
  - Africa/Middle East
  - Latin America
  - Europe (peace offensive)
  - Asia (Cambodia, Afghanistan)
- **US Decline**
  - Iran hostages
  - Vietnam
  - Largest reduction in US military capabilities relative to USSR during Cold War [Gaddis]
  - weakened US presidency
  - weakened NATO

# *Reagan National Security Orientation*



- **Nixon/Kissinger/Carter Policy of Arms Control → US Decline**
- **USSR was now overextended**
  - **USSR had constraining domestic problems – economy, technology**
  - **USSR would not risk a real confrontation with US**
  - **Soviets afraid of toughness**
    - **other countries would respect new U.S. assertiveness**

# *Reagan National Security Orientation*

- **Democracy was sweeping the developing world**
  - **tide of history favors western democracies & capitalism**
    - (opposite Marxist-Leninist philosophy)
- **→ Reagan Doctrine: reversing Soviet gains by "undermining" weak communist regimes outside E. Europe**
  - US analogue to wars of national liberation -- major segments of society resist communist regime
  - support anti-communist insurgents to point where economic, political, social, governmental costs place heavy burden on USSR

# *Reagan National Security Orientation*



- **“Decade of Neglect” & “Window of Vulnerability”**
- **→ US could be resurgent with new defense investment**

# *Policy Implementation*



- **Reinvesting in Defense**
  - **All forces**
- **Use of Force to Reestablish Reputation**
- **Covert Operations**
- **Arms Control**
  - **as political response to domestic & European peace movement**

# *Reinvesting in Defense*



- **Defense Budget**
  - \$2.4 trillion (\$600 million increase over Carter budget)
  - 1980-1985 longest sustained peacetime military budget buildup in 20th Century
  - Defense sector inflation hobbles real growth in defense capabilities

# *Reagan Defense Programs*



- Strategic Forces (Defense Guidance 1982)
  - MX
  - Cruise Missiles
    - ALCM, SLCM, GLCM
  - B-1 & B2
  - Trident SSBN/SLBM
  - SDI & strategic defense

# *Reagan Defense Programs*

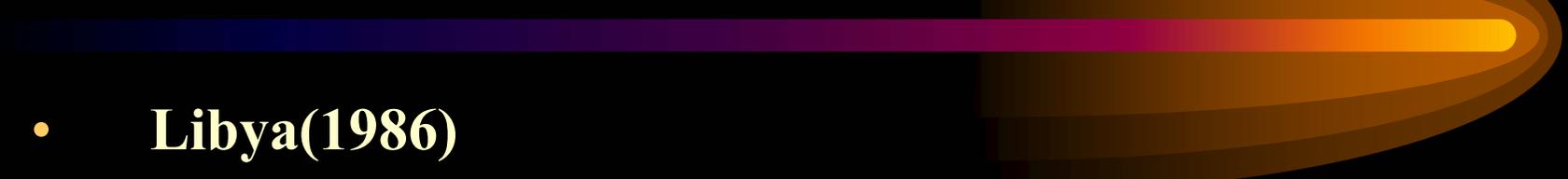


- General Purpose Forces
  - **Navy**
    - Maritime strategy & 600 ship Navy
  - **Army**
    - New hi-tech force
      - M-1
      - Bradley fighting vehicle

## *Use of Force*

- **Grenada (1983) –warning to Soviets/Cubans**
  - 6 day amphibious/air assault liberates Grenada
  - government factional infighting
  - US enters to rescue 53 US medical students
  - 6000 US troops (19 killed)
  - Cuban soldiers (>100 killed)

# *Use of Force*



- **Libya(1986)**
  - **NSA evidence of Libyan involvement in FRG bombing of US troops in night club**
  - F-111s in UK & Navy carrier Aircraft raid Libya (punish & deter)
  - France refuses overflight
- **US Builds Persian Gulf Forces**
  - air & naval bases (in Saudi Arabia; airbases 5x bigger than Saudi airforce)
  - mine clearing in Gulf (Iran - Iraq War)
  - Vincennes accidental Shoot Down of Iranian airliner (1988)

# *Covert Operations*



- **Nicaragua**
  - 1981-1990: US Builds up Contras
- **Afghanistan**
  - 1980-1990: aid to Mujahadeen to fight Soviets

# *Arms Control*

- **US & European "Peace Movement" & "Nuclear Freeze" Movement → Arms Control**
  - Public Opinion Affects National Security Policy
    - US Admin. Aggressive tone seen as more dangerous than Soviet military buildup – US & European public opinion → peace movement
      - US domestic calls for US troops to leave Europe; 1/2 US defense budget goes to conventional defense of Europe
      - many Europeans think NATO is an anachronism
    - Nuclear Winter Thesis

# *Arms Control*

- **“0-0 Option” as Political Move**
  - Pershing II, GLCM (300 rvs) v. SS-20s (1400rvs)
  - lessen domestic pressures against US deployments
  - INF Treaty (1987/1988)
    - 1/1984 Soviets walk out of negotiations; increases European anti-US feelings
    - 1987 the return/1988 Gorbachev accepts
- **START**
  - To weaken US Nuclear Freeze Movement
  - Goal of 50% reduction in SNF
  - Negotiations almost complete by 1989

*END*



# Grenada



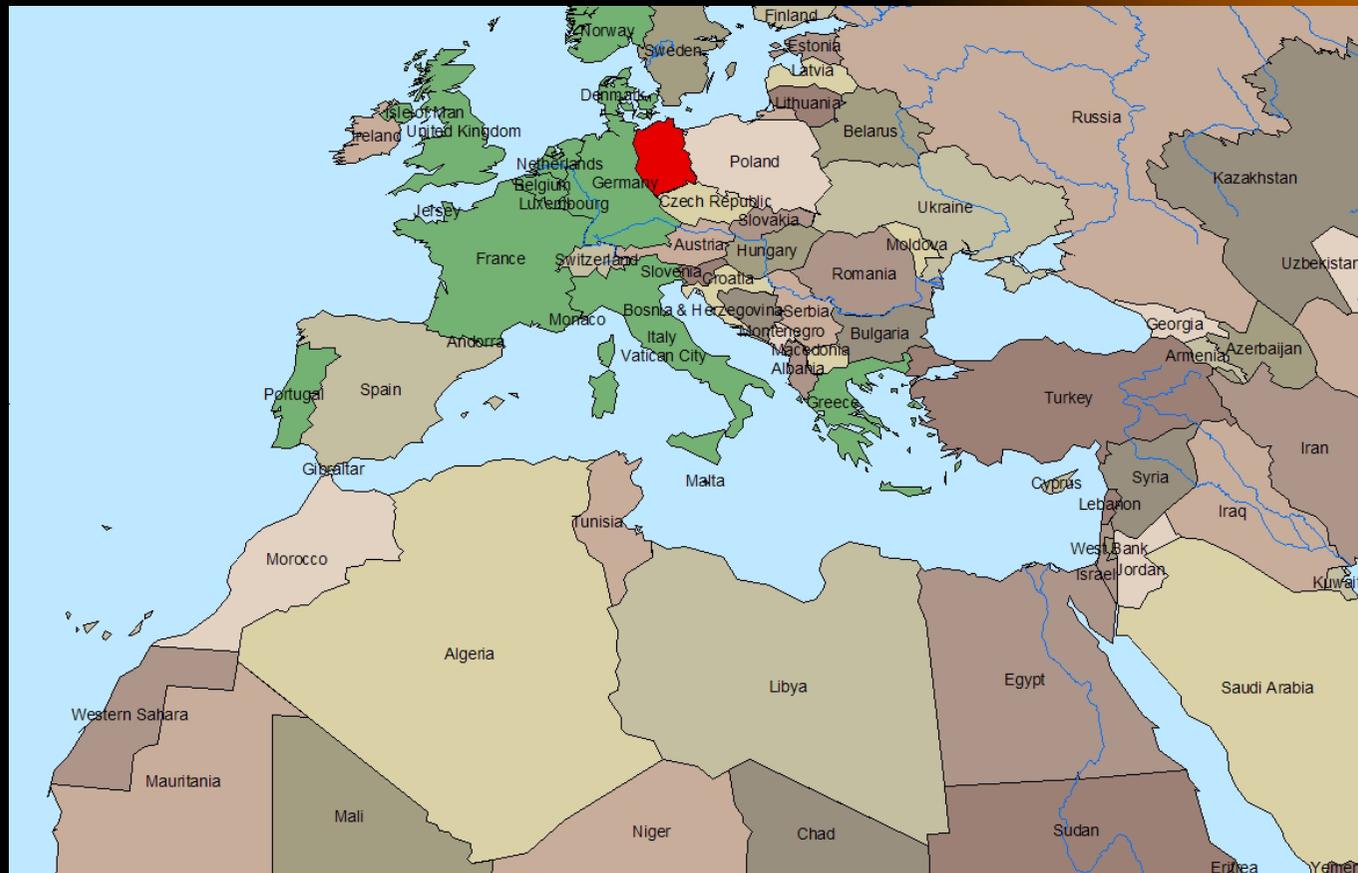
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# Central America



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# Libya (1986)



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# *Persian Gulf*



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# *INF Treaty*

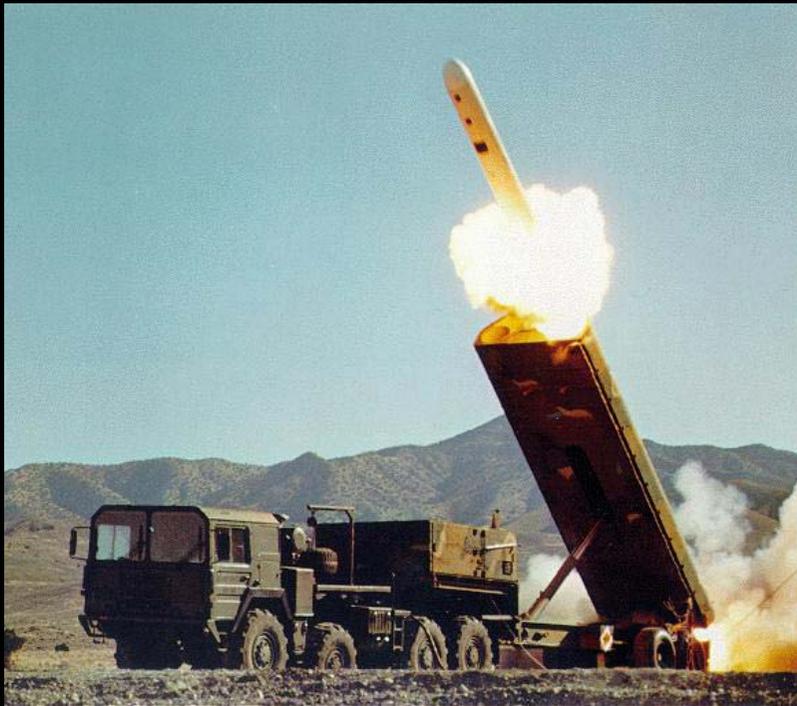
Soviet Military Power 1985



Soviet SS-20



# *INF Treaty*



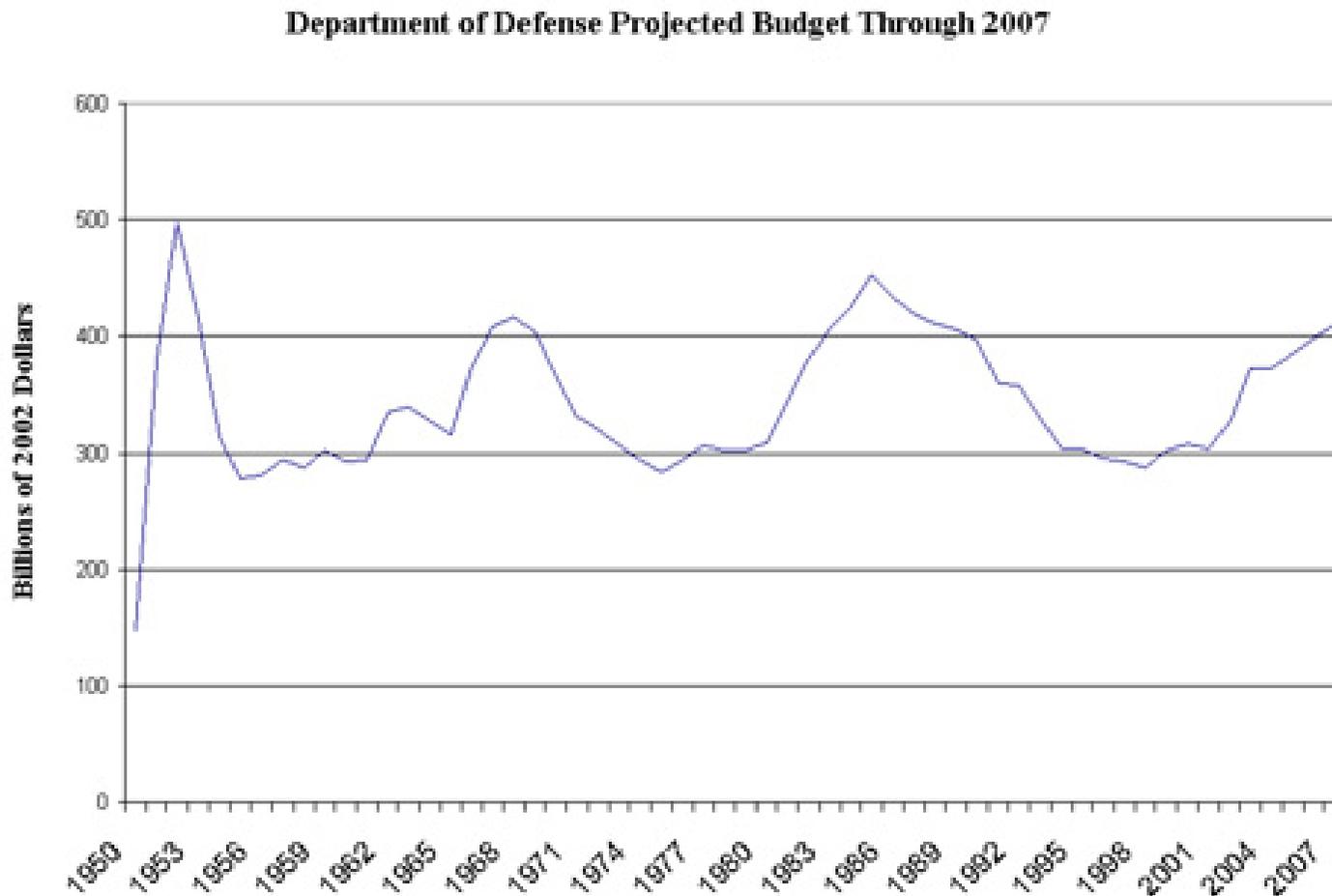
U.S. GLCM



U.S. Pershing II

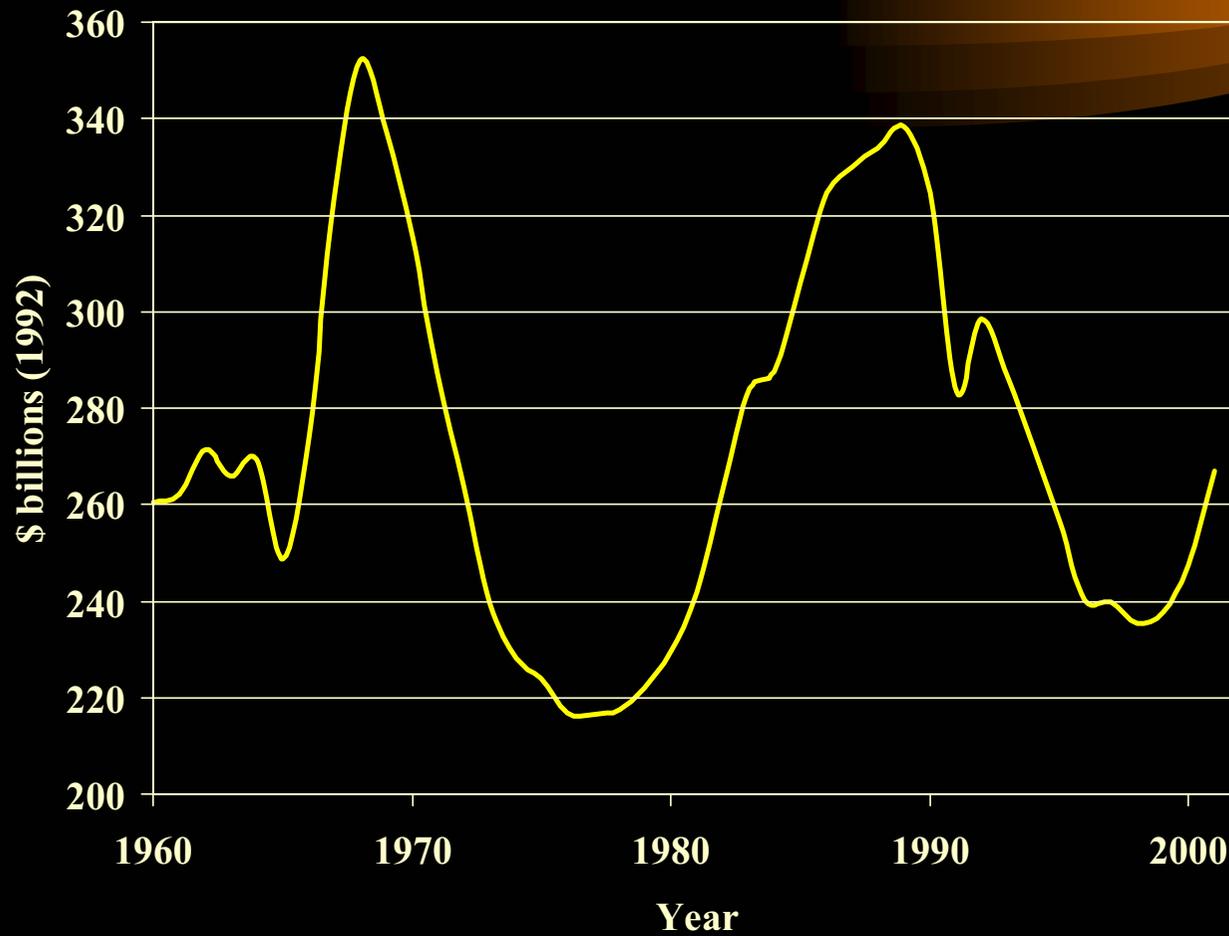
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# *U.S. Defense Budget*



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# *U.S. Spending*



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