

New Era of International Action

May 15th, 2014

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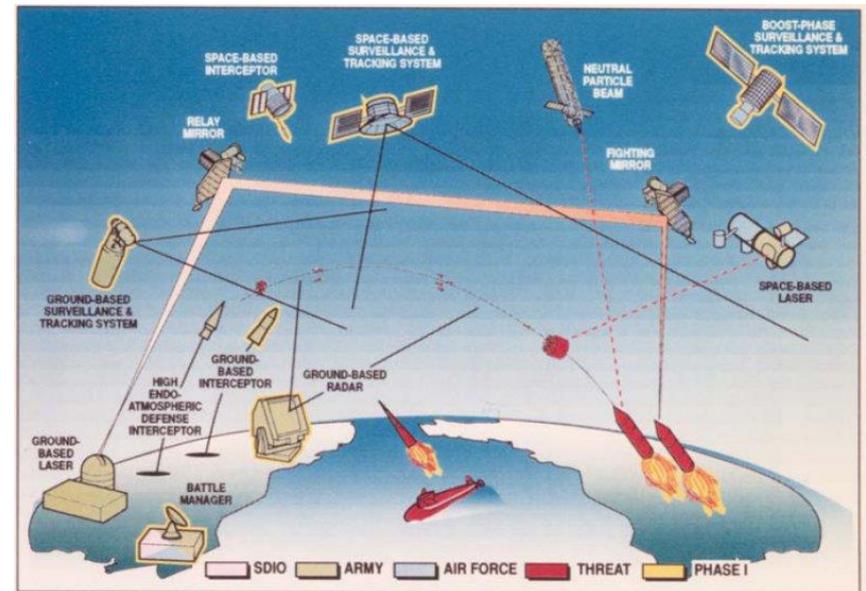
The Cold War Continues

- 1981: USA announced an increase in its defence budget.
- USA supported right wing governments and gov'ts that didn't respect human rights in order to prevent communism.
- USSR supports pro communist struggles.
- Sept 1983: USSR jets shot down Korean passenger jet that had gone into their air space.
- Oct 1983: US forces invaded Grenada.
- PM Trudeau appealed to the US and USSR to show some more restraint.



Mulroney and the USA

- Mulroney's international relations approaches were the opposite to Trudeau's.
- He worked to bring us closer to the USA.
- 1983: USA came up with an idea to build a defence shield, which would partly orbit the earth. Called Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).
- Anti-nuclear groups in Canada protested our potential involvement. In the end we declined to get involved.



End of the Cold War

- Mid-1980s: Mikhail Gorbachev (USSR leader) realized they couldn't afford arms race with the USA.
- Gorbachev proposed cuts in both powers' arsenals. Began to reform USSR economically, socially and politically.
- Two policies: perestroika (reconstruction) and glasnost (openness)
- 1991: Soviet Union Collapsed and Cold War was over.
- A new Russia emerged under Boris Yeltsin, ex-commie now supporter of democracy.
- China experimented with allowing capitalism to flourish in certain parts of the economy.
- But it wasn't political freedom.
- June 1989: Tiananmen Square: Red Army soldiers attacked and killed students involved in the democracy movement.



Talk to your Partner About...

One thing you already knew and one thing in particular that you learned!

Persian Gulf War

- Aug 1990: Iraqi forces under Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.
- UN demanded Iraq withdraw, threatening economic sanctions. The US insisted on military force.
- First time since the Korean War, that the UN sanctioned the use of military force.
- US was joined by forces from 35 other countries.
- Mulroney argued that we had agreed to support the UN, not just the US. Critics said economic sanctions hadn't been given enough time.

Continued

- Jan 1991: Coalition forces began bombarding targets.
- Feb 27, 1991: Iraqis were overwhelmed and we had won. There were minimal casualties.
- Gulf War destroyed the Iraqi fighting force and much of their infrastructure.
- Pres. George H.W. Bush declared a new world order. UN would have a more active peacemaking role.



Rwandan Genocide

- Rwandan population divided into two main groups: Tutsis and Hutus.
- Colonial gov't put Tutsis in power.
- 1994: Prominent Hutu was slain. Hutus overthrew Tutsi led gov't. They began to slaughter Tutsis and supporters.
- UN sent a small detachment under Canadian Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire.
- He sent an appeal to UN HQ with a military plan to stop the killings.
- He needed speed and the support of the US.
- They were unenthusiastic.
- Dallaire was forced to watch as close to a million people were murdered in the genocide.

Civil War in Yugoslavia

- Post WW2: Yugoslavia was made up of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro, also Kosovo and Vojvodina. Led by PM Josip Tito til 1980.
- 1989: Slobodan Milosevic became Serbian Pres. Tensions broke out into ethnic conflict.
- UN Peacekeepers (incl. Canadians) sent in but were unable to control the situation.
- May 1995: NATO forces launched air strikes against Serbian forces, who were perceived to be the aggressor.

Continued

- 1998: Serbian forces moved into Kosovo to keep it under their control. Albanian Muslims were persecuted, murdered and displaced.
- Spring 1999: Diplomatic forces failed to stop Serbian operations. NATO launched first ever attack against independent country.
- Canada took part in the bombings of Yugoslavia. Some Canadians believed we were obligated to help NATO and others believed NATO shouldn't have interfered w. the domestic affairs of a sovereign nation.

9/11

- Sept 11, 2001: Members of a fundamentalist Islamic group called al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets.
- Two planes flew into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in NYC.
- One plane was flown into the Pentagon.
- Final plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after the passengers attack the hijackers.
- 2796 people were killed.

