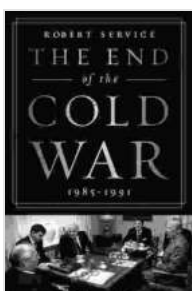# The End of the Cold War: A Historical Turning Point, 1985-1991

The Cold War, a period of intense geopolitical rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, came to an end in 1991. This article examines the key events and developments that led to the collapse of the Soviet bloc and the eventual reunification of Germany.

The Origins of the Cold War

The Cold War had its origins in the aftermath of World War II. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the war as the two dominant superpowers. The Soviet Union, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, sought to expand its influence in Eastern Europe and beyond. The United States, led by President Harry Truman, was determined to contain the spread of communism.

The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991 by Robert Service

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 11853 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 688 pages

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The Cold War was fought on many fronts. There was an ideological struggle between the two superpowers, as well as a military standoff. The

United States and the Soviet Union each built up massive arsenals of nuclear weapons. There were also proxy wars fought in various parts of the world, such as the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The Collapse of the Soviet Union

The Cold War began to thaw in the 1980s. The Soviet Union was facing a number of economic and political problems. The Soviet economy was stagnant, and the people were becoming increasingly restless. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev introduced a number of reforms, including glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). These reforms were designed to make the Soviet Union more democratic and efficient.

Gorbachev's reforms had a number of unintended consequences. They led to a loosening of the Soviet Union's control over its satellite states in Eastern Europe. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and East Germany became independent. The collapse of the Soviet Union's empire continued in the following years. In 1991, the Soviet Union itself dissolved, and the Cold War came to an end.

The Impact of the Cold War's End

The end of the Cold War had a profound impact on the world. The United States emerged from the Cold War as the sole superpower. The collapse of the Soviet Union also led to the reunification of Germany and the independence of many former Soviet republics.
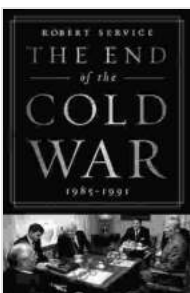
The end of the Cold War also had a major impact on the global economy. The collapse of the Soviet Union led to a decline in the global demand for

oil, which resulted in a sharp drop in oil prices. The end of the Cold War also led to a decline in global military spending.

The Legacy of the Cold War

The Cold War was a defining event in the 20th century. It had a profound impact on the world's politics, economy, and culture. The end of the Cold War marked a major turning point in history, and its legacy continues to shape the world today.

The Cold War was a complex and multifaceted conflict that had a profound impact on the world. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era. The legacy of the Cold War continues to shape the world today.

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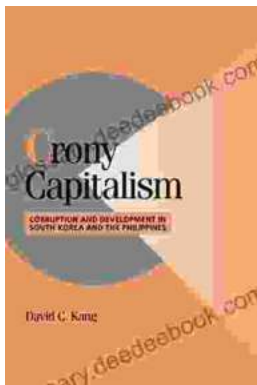|	
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