

HY29520 / HY39520 - The Soviet Union and the World, 1917-1991

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The Soviet Union stood as a state at odds with others throughout much of the twentieth century. As a revolutionary state, other powers viewed the Soviet Union as aggressively expansionist, dangerous, and difficult to deal with. The Soviets, held much the same view of the capitalist world, and in the second half of the twentieth century the Soviet Union and the United States were locked in the Cold War. This module examines the content and conduct of foreign policy of the Soviet Union and its relationship with other states. Beginning with an overview of late Russian imperial foreign policy, the module examines the impact of the Russian Revolution and the rise of the Bolsheviks on the relationship between Russia and the rest of the world, how security was sought in a challenging interwar world, the development and origins of the Cold War, foreign policy after Stalin's death, and the demise of Soviet power under Gorbachev. Themes addressed include continuity and change in foreign policy, ideology, the export of revolution, diplomacy, intelligence, anti-fascism, imperialism, conflict, reform, arms control, and ultimately the loss of power in the 1980s.

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