

# Chapter 17-5

- No Intro Question!
- The Cold War Thaws
  - I) The Soviets Dominate Eastern Europe
  - II) From Brinkmanship to Détente
  - III) Détente Cools

# I) The Soviets Dominate Eastern Europe

- After Stalin died, Nikita Khrushchev took over the USSR.
- Nikita Khrushchev became the dominant leader in 1953 and removed Stalinist influence from the USSR (destalinization)
- Leonid Brezhnev replaced Khrushchev in 1964 when he lost prestige over the Cuban missile crisis, and imposed repressive measures in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.
- As China became a more confident nation, they resented being the Soviets junior partner, and they split with the USSR .

## II) From Brinkmanship to Détente

- President Nixon instituted a policy of Détente, which sought to reduce the tensions and avoid confrontations with the Soviet Union.
- In 1972 Nixon became the 1<sup>st</sup> president since the beginning of the Cold War to visit communist China and the Soviet Union.
- After a series of talks with Soviets, Nixon and Brezhnev sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) I treaty to limit the number of ICBM and submarine-launched missiles each side could have.

# III) Détente Cools

- In June 1979, President Jimmy Carter and Brezhnev finished a second round of SALT negotiations, and sign the SALT II treaty.
- The USSR invaded Afghanistan to reestablish the Communist regime.
- The fiercely anti-communist Ronald Reagan won office as president in 1981, and continued the United States retreat from détente.
- In 1983 Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or Star Wars because it was designed to protect America against enemy missiles by shooting them down in space.