

Detente and the West

Exploring the depths of decision-making

Lesson Objective

- To enhance communication skills by collaborating within groups
- To foster a nuanced understanding of the background of historical events which led to the end of the Cold War in years 1985-1991

Refresh your memory...

- **What is consensus?**



Vocabulary

- **Consensus** – a generally accepted wide agreement



Leaders of the West

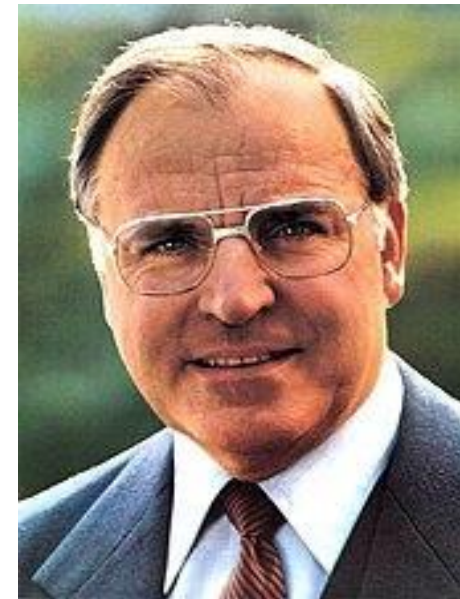
- US President
(1981-1989)
Ronald Reagan



- UK Prime-minister
(1979-1990)
Margaret Thatcher



- FRG (West
Germany)
Chancellor
(1982-1998)





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Roles Within Your Country Groups

- President (for USA) / Prime-minister (for UK) / Chancellor (for West Germany)

Coordinates the work of the group;
Has "an ultimate decision" right

- Secretary of State (for USA) / Foreign Minister (for UK and West Germany)

Responsible for negotiations with other groups

- Defence Minister

Responsible for army deployment

- Economy Minister

Responsible for group's money and resources

- Information Minister

Responsible for the official press releases

Game Description

You will be presented with a political scenario, providing context and challenges

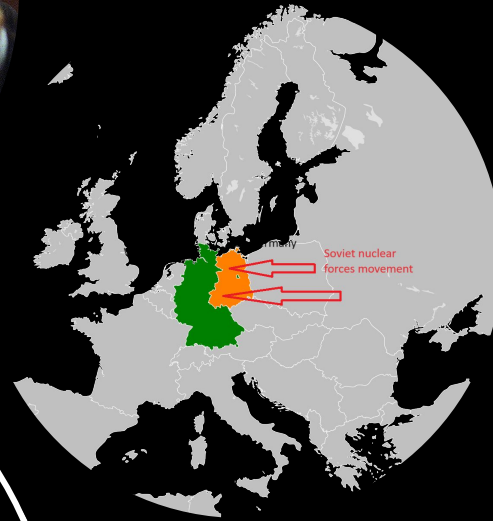
- **Stage 1:** Working with your assigned groups you must formulate a decision to address the presented situation
- **Stage 2:** After this you must negotiate your decisions with your counterparts (another groups) by sending your foreign ministers to them
- **Stage 3:** After receiving proposals from another countries you may adjust your decisions
- **Stage 4:** Final decisions are presented by the heads of state (president/prime-minister/chancellor) on a global political summit

Game Objectives

- To secure your country's political interests
- To reach a **consensus** on the presented scenario
- **NOT to provoke** Soviet Union for any hostile actions

Remember:

Your countries are the allies for each other! Even if you have different interests and disagreements, Soviet Union is still your common enemy! If you get into a direct confrontation, Soviet Union will use this chance to destroy ALL of you!

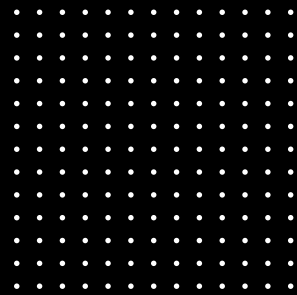


It is the year 1987, and the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, has announced plans to relocate a significant portion of its *nuclear weapons* into **East Germany**. This move is perceived as a direct threat by **West Germany**, causing concerns about the delicate balance of power in Europe.

**Situation #1:
Suspicious Soviet
Action...**



- The government of West Germany is deeply troubled by the Soviet decision to station nuclear weapons in East Germany, considering it a clear and immediate threat to their security. The possibility of a nuclear strike on West German soil raises alarms.



- The United Kingdom, however, sees an opportunity to foster improved relations with Gorbachev's Soviet Union. The UK government believes that engaging in diplomatic discussions will influence Gorbachev's policies in a long run.
- The United States is worried of escalating tensions into a nuclear conflict. The U.S. government is cautious about taking aggressive actions that could provoke the Soviet Union into a dangerous response.