This chapter examines the decline of the Cold War during the period 1985–9. It begins with a discussion of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's 'new diplomacy', a more flexible, less ideological foreign policy based on his belief that 'a less confrontational stance towards the outside world would provide greater security than endless rearming'. It then considers Gorbachev's reforms, the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty signed in December 1987 by Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, and US–Soviet relations under George H. W. Bush and Gorbachev. It also analyses the end of the Cold War in less developed countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, and Cambodia, before concluding with an assessment of the demise of Soviet communism in Eastern Europe.
19. The Decline of the Cold War, 1985–9

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