

The Main Reasons of U.S. and NATO's Victory in the Cold War

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Abstract

The paper explores the main nature and characters of the cold war and basic geopolitical, economic, information, military, ideological, cultural and other reasons, which determined the US, NATO and in general victory of the International Democratic Community over communist block and USSR during the "cold war", which played the decisive role for the strengthening international security and further enlargement of democracy in the different regions of the World.

Keywords: Globalization, International Banks, International Business, Trans National Corporations, trade

Introduction

When the World War II had ended, most of the countries in the world, especially European states were devastated by the consequences of the war. The United States was practically the only country, which gained the victory from both – military and economic point of views. For example, together with the increasing its military presence and geopolitical influence in Europe and far East, accordingly after the defeating Nazi Germany and Militarist Japan, the GDP of USA increased for 93% and in 1946 on the share of USA was coming about 50% of the World GDP (Chitadze, 2008). It was seemed that US to be the only global power that could establish the post-war world order and balance the power among the states all around the world. However, meanwhile the Soviet Union was trying to gain more and more power by its expansion policy, taking an advantage of the weakness of the surrounding minor states from Eastern and Central Europe and making the international political system obviously bipolar. Thus, in a new era the Soviet Union appeared to be the second superpower and dictatorial enemy. So, the former US ally during the World War had become the enemy from geopolitical, military, ideological and economic point of view. This factor of course demanded the collaboration of a new strategic vision. Therefore, the Soviet threat was becoming even more formidable. Reports emerged in 1949 that the Soviet Union also had nuclear weapon. This had come as a surprise to the American nation, as it meant that the US nuclear monopoly was broken. In such a tense situation was extremely necessary to undertake some serious steps to stop such dangerous developments and expectations. American policy makers recognized that it was no longer just a difficult rival but an enemy. The US thus began the policy of containment. It realized that the time came when the US needed to demonstrate its mood to overcome Soviet attitudes. It was a new strategic vision of foreign policy. Together with the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine, one more containment policy was the foundation of NATO. In April 1949 Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, 2006). Europe had be-

come "*the first line of American defense*" and at the same time the US would fight to preserve Europe's freedom that was supposed to prevent the Soviet attack. Article 5 of the NATO treaty affirmed the pledge of collective security- "the parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all" (NATO, 2006). This even included the commitment to use nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union. All this was quite a change from earlier American foreign policy, such as isolationism.

The Truman Doctrine (McCullough, 1992) and the Marshall Plan (Britannica, 2008) were economic measures. What was needed now was a broad and extensive military buildup and increase in defense spending. The large-scale rearmament involved 3 tasks for NATO: the establishment of a command structure, the formulation of a strategy by which to defend Europe and rebuilding its ground forces. These efforts began with the appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower to serve as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

However, one of the primary differences between the Cold War and other historical great-power struggles were, that the Cold War was about principles, not just power. The competition was not just between rival nations but also between opposing ideologies. This "ideological bipolarity" was shared between the Western powers or NATO and communist countries. Therefore, the victory in the Cold War was not gained by superior military force. It was gained by the political and economic and not military means, by the power of open societies and their superior values: freedom, democracy, tolerance, superiority of law, competing ideas, market economics, etc. But on the other hand, although military power did not "*win*" the Cold War, yet US and NATO's successful deterrent posture ensured that the East-West competition stopped short of direct, open conflict, even in the deepest international crises. As a result, the West retained its natural advantage, the potential for continuing political, social and economic innovation. In this sense, military power was a precondition for the West's ultimate political

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victory in the Cold War. Once the two superpowers were at the brink of nuclear war, especially during the Cuban Missile Crisis, but this weapon was not used in the Cold War at all. The various containment policies were implemented when for example the US and NATO had prevented a Soviet breakthrough into the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. Now we have better to list and discuss the reasons of US and NATO's victory in the Cold War in details.

Research question: Based on the policy of USA and NATO in order to analyze the role of those both sides in providing the prevention of communism and further geopolitical and ideological expansion of USSR on the global level, one has to ask the following question: What were main political, geopolitical, military, socio-economic, human and other reasons which contributed to the dominance of the western values – particularly as a result of the activities of USA and NATO during the “cold war” period which have determined the victory of the west and disintegration of the world communist system?

Methodological base of the research. Theories related to the international relations and geopolitics, played an important role in the construction of research methodology. First of all, the concept of political realism, principle of collective security and geopolitical theory in the framework of American geopolitical school: approaches, having been worked out in the framework of the subsystems and models of the world politics and world economy.

The findings of the presented work are connected with the following issues:

1. Complex review of the policy of USA and NATO in favor of peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and at the other regions of the world;
2. Deep comparative analysis of the political, military and economic differences between east and west, which have determined the victory of democracy headed by USA and NATO during the “cold war” period.

Main Characters of the Activities of USA and NATO during the Cold War

The Cold War was the term coined to describe the relationship between the democratic and capitalist United States and the Communist USSR in the post-World War II era. Western European countries and their North American allies viewed with concern the expansionist policies and methods of the USSR. Western governments became increasingly alarmed as it became clear that the Soviet leadership intended to maintain its own military forces at full strength. And in view of the declared ideological aims of the Soviet Communist Party, it was evident that appeals for respect for the United Nations Charter and for respect for the international settlement of problems reached at the end of World War II, would not guarantee the national sovereignty or independence of democratic states faced with the threat of outside aggression or internal subversion. It may be stated

that in the period of the Cold War the mankind managed to avoid the Third World War by the help of US and NATO's active maneuvers.

Several reasons can be identified which have determined US/NATO's victory: One of the main reasons was perhaps the fact that NATO, created after the WWII, was regarded as a united team, unlikely the communist Warsaw Pact. Since the very first days of NATO's creation the Western European states were trying their best to keep and grow the size of the US military contingent on the territory of Europe in order to be secured from the Soviet Union expansionism. In fact, the main aim of the Alliance was also to keep the US in Europe. That's why on the territory of NATO's European allies were placed more than 200 US military bases and military units on the voluntary basis, mutual consent and reciprocal action of both the United States and Western Europe (Chitadze, 2008). At the same time, the majority of the Western European population used to feel and realize the serious real threats from the Soviet Union and therefore had quite positive intentions, feelings or aspirations toward the US. It can be freely pointed out that one of the reasons of NATO's victory in the Cold War was the membership, support and force of US in NATO! But later also bringing West Germany into NATO, really strengthened the NATO alliance. NATO intended to keep the Americans in and the Soviets out, by integrating Germany into the US-dominated alliance. Some analysts think that if Moscow could compel the US to withdraw from West Berlin, NATO would collapse and the Soviet Union would become the hegemonic power in Europe. Also, after WW2 and ending the Korean War in 1953, Japan and South Korea also became a US ally that further strengthened the western democratic community. It meant a protection of the eastern and western rims of Eurasia. Thus, democratic forces in the east and west were also one of the supporting factors for NATO's victory. The Soviet Union found out to be in a kind of vacuum or siege surrounded by NATO's anti-communist spheres of influence.

During the Cold War the Soviet Union turned the Eastern Europe “red” and spread communism in these countries, which became its satellites, in fact, by forceful means. Although these countries did not enjoy the public support because of anti-democratic direction, the communist forces came to power and government of the Eastern Europe as a result of Soviet pressure. Because of the uncertain ties, protest and dissatisfaction, the communists were trying to keep their power by forceful means for 50 years e.g. by repressions, massive arrests, emigrations, torture, punishment, murder and aggressive propaganda. Such dictatorial and authoritative regime, such activities used to cause the feeling of disgust and massive protests in societies. While in NATO's member states the governments were elected by the free and independent elections and authorities were legitimate or lawful, in the Soviet Union the governments did not possess any kind of legitimacy. The results of such conditions were the whole numbers of revolutions, uprisings, public rebellions, civil wars, mass demonstrations or liberation movements in various Eastern or Central European states. For example, mass protest actions in Poland and Hungary in 1956, Prague Spring in 1968, strikes in Poland under Solidarity in the 1980s etc. These peoples had demands on the right to have independence and to

leave Warsaw Pact. All of them had clear aspirations toward Western-held democratic organizations and institutions like NATO. It meant their extreme desire towards Western ideas as well: individualism, liberty, equality, human rights, rule of law, free markets, liberalism, capitalism, constitutionalism, free and fair elections, free press, freedom of speech, freedom of expression and so forth. The Soviet Union had politicized, occupied everything and robbed these nations a chance to democracy, imposing the communist rule over them under compulsion, suppressing free voice of human life, holding unjust ruling and other numerous numbers of subversive characteristics of communist authoritarian rule. Millions of citizens were unified and expressed solidarity or reciprocity with each other by parallel demonstrations. Thousands of people got together against the common enemy. As a result, we can mention that the block of NATO used "soft power" in order to use its attraction of political values and societal strengths that these European states admired. This was certainly followed by the victory of NATO over the Warsaw Pact. Thus, another reason of its victory was NATO's clear directions toward democracy and freedom, which gave stimulus to other countries to imitate NATO and collapse or dissolve other forceful blocs that could only exist under terror. The United States had been appeared as their rescuer and defender.

In relation to all these facts NATO was the unified block, which was based on unified and shared interests, values of its members too. Here, the relations among its member states were developed and advanced on the basis of their equality of rights. Although the dominant position, by the military point of view, was assumed in NATO by the United States, every decision-making process was based on consensus, where every member state had equal rights of vote. The states have made decisions independently without any pressure of dominant state or the organization. There were the occasions when some states even left NATO's military institutions e.g. France, Greece, which later joined again an appropriate institution of the Alliance etc. Such an unconstrained system of NATO's policy, where there was no place for coercion, compulsion and embarrassing, supported its victory. The states themselves, within NATO, gave it the possibility to operate actively during the Cold War and achieve triumph, as if generally the organization is not strong inside otherwise it will explode or collapse from inside and lose the war. Such a system will end, finish itself! That's why NATO, of course, survived, preserved and even won. Today NATO is the strongest military organization in the world. It has been strong firstly because of its strength of member states. The totalitarian regime of the Soviet Union, its illegal activities caused dissatisfaction in its members, which weakened and exhausted USSR itself.

Unlikely in Warsaw block the relations were developing on the "vertical" basis, where the Soviet Russia played the only dominant role, was the dictator and the only "boss" in its alliance. Warsaw Pact was the politico-military block where the states were involved states by forceful means and thus their membership was compulsory achievement. Under the domination of Soviet empire, about 8 countries of Eastern and Central Europe were in vassalage position, just they were the satellite, under-dependent states, which had been manipulated by the Soviet Union like marionettes.

These countries were: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Republic of Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Albania and the Soviet Union itself. In the beginning, with any political process that had undesirable and anti-communist nature within the sphere of Soviet influence, the regime stopped, put down or suppress them immediately by forceful means. The obvious examples are Berlin Blockade in 1948, the bloody repressions of demonstrations in various Warsaw Pact countries, trying to compel these republics to fight even with each other and to hold military operations on the territory of Czechoslovakia and so forth.

On the basis of its principle of equality, NATO expressed its effective capabilities in the enlargement process. Regarding with favor of its correct policy the organization has been widened since its creation. The process of enlargement included, for example, that in 1952 the members of the alliance became Turkey and Greece; in 1955- Federal Republic of Germany; in 1982 - Spain and so on. Such developments were further strengthening the relations among the states of a democratic world. Its obvious confirmation was the creation of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1960, in which were integrated the US, Canada, 18 democratic states of Europe, some of which were NATO member states, and later Australia, New Zealand and Japan entered OECD too (OECD, 2018). All these consequences determined the unity of democratic world and peace among its members. Completely different situation was in the Communist bloc. As we have mentioned from the very beginning, the communist system's existence has given origin to tensions and disagreement among these states. Firstly, in 1948, Yugoslavia was officially excluded from the Soviet Information Bureau of communist parties. Later, official Belgrade refused to join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance when the country was invited by the Soviet Union. Yugoslavia also refused to become a member of the Warsaw Pact. Another failure or crash for the communist system was the dissolution or split of Sino-Soviet alliance in the 1960s. Thirdly, we have to mention the confrontation between the Soviet Union and Albania, which was forced to leave the Warsaw Pact in 1968.

Other decisive reasons of NATO's victory were the **military factors**. In the military point of view, NATO was much stronger organization than the Warsaw Pact. First of all, we have to point out the military superiority of the leading member of NATO - the United States. If after the Second World War the Soviet Union's military bases were located in only 5 or 6 states of the communist block countries, the US in the late 80s possessed about 1600 military bases on the territory of about 34 states, in which simultaneously and permanently were dislocated about 500 000 American military servicemen. Besides, the US possessed strong bases directly near the borders of the Soviet Union, more specifically in Turkey were placed its 7 bases and near the Eastern borders of the Soviet Union, in the Far East and the Pacific Ocean region the US used about 350 military units, 40 of which were functioning in South Korea and 32 in Japan and so on (Chitadze, 2008).

Apart from military strength, the US had a very high level of economic development, which was giving the possibility to increase funding in defense! Also providing the social security for American military servants, turning the army to the

professional standards and the right military-political ideology determined the high level of fighting efficiency or capacity of the US army. One more aspect was that in the process of American military building and advancing the key role were playing the most powerful world companies, which had been receiving huge orders from Pentagon. Among them are: “General Dynamics”, “McConnell Douglas”, “General Electric” “Lockheed”, etc.

On the other hand, the level of fighting efficiency was lower in the army of the Soviet Union. Although the whole number of soldiers and officers was about 5 million, the half of this composition served in the construction troops, when they were used as cheap labor force, who did not study any military skills. Only a small amount of army represented the elite military subunits (Chitadze, 2008). Besides, high level of corruption in the Soviet Union was especially visible in the Soviet troops, e.g. during the selling the Soviet arms in the world market, also bribery in return for calling on the youth of military age in “convenient” places for the conducting of compulsory military service.

We have to notify that the people were serving in the Soviet Army only because it was an obligatory system of military service. This was caused by the fact that the Soviet Union was multinational and half of the militaries were not Russians. They did not regard the Soviet Army as their own one, because each of them had patriotic feeling only toward his own countries (soviet republics) and not to USSR wholly, or its unified army. All these events were affecting negatively the army’s fighting capacity. The same corruption existed in the Soviet military-industrial complex. There was no competition in its economic markets which determined the backwardness of the Soviet military technique. The feebleness and weakness of Soviet Army was clearly showed in one of the most backward country of the world, Afghanistan, during the military operations. The Soviet feebleness was also indicated by the fact that occurred in 1987 when small German plane entered within the Soviet air space without any trouble and landed in Moscow, on Red Square. In the Warsaw Pact the Soviet Union, with backward military technology and with low fighting capacity, was performed as the sole military power, while other EEC-s (Eastern European Countries) of Warsaw Pact were completely dependent and subordinated to USSR.

With discussing the differences between NATO and Warsaw Pact, and NATO’s superiority, we also have to focus on the fact that not only the US was the strongest military power in NATO, but it had other militarily and economically strong powers of Europe as well. For instance, when after the WWII the crisis was overcome, the strongest military powers were the Great Britain and France that have become the nuclear powers. Later other states managed to establish efficient troops as well, e.g.: Canada, Turkey, Italy and Federal Republic of Germany (Even today Turkey has one of the biggest armies based on per capita, the number of which was about 700 000 military servicemen during the period of the Cold War). We have to mention that in the post-WW2 period, NATO’s member states largely developed their military technology. For example, in 1982 France’s share in the world military technologies export compiled 11.4%; Britain’s share was 5.6%; etc. Besides, in the 80s the share of NATO member states in the non-nuclear arms sphere was

increased significantly, e.g. European allies share in NATO’s non-nuclear sphere on the territory of Europe was 80-90% military servicemen and various types of conventional armament (Chitadze, 2008). One more difference was that, while the Communist bloc had established only one military-political organization-Warsaw Pact, meanwhile the US with its allies founded several military-political organizations in the different regions of the world - NATO, Western European Union (WEU), Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEA-TO), Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), Australia, New Zealand, the US Security Treaty (ANZUS), Australia, New Zealand, UK (ANZUK) and so forth (Davitashvili & Elizbarashvili, 2010).

NATO’s military superiority was of course determined by its economic superiority as well. In this case we have to mention that even after the WW 2 the US was powerful economically, while other states, especially the European ones or the Soviet Union were almost completely devastated by the war. E.g. during the WW2 by the result of military orders, GDP of USA had been increased by 93% (Dzneladze, 1997). From the very beginning the US had the possibility to provide economic assistance for its European allies and thus began the first major U.S. foreign-aid programs at the first stage of the cold war period. Only a tremendous program of economic aid could restore Europe’s economy; such was the Marshall Plan since 1948, which was a huge success. It had set Europe on the path to health. The volume of financial over a 4-year period prevailed \$12 billion. The plan even included the Soviet republics but the Soviet Union rejected the US offer.

By implementing such policy, the industrial production volume of Western Europe had been increased by 35% (Kapanadze, 2006). However, they were not enough of course. The creation of NATO marked the foundation of the first peacetime military alliance in American history. To the Truman Doctrine’s political-diplomatic commitments and the Marshall Plan’s economic assistance, NATO added the military commitment to keep US troops in Europe and the collective security pledge that the US would defend its European allies if they were attacked. Thus, NATO was the military and political counterpart of Marshall Plan, guaranteeing Europe its security (Kriendler, 2006). One of the aims of NATO was to prevent a Soviet attack, to keep the US in Europe. But it had double purpose: contain Soviet power as well as to abolish the Warsaw Pact and communist bloc bringing about the victory of Western powers or NATO. On the contrary, the Soviet Union had had serious economic loss. It could not provide the similar assistance for its EEC allies, as it was suffering huge economic difficulties and troubles itself. During the next stage of the Cold War the economic difference between the West and the East was growing more and more intensively. The most major reason of such consequence was the superiority of free market over the centralized, planned economy. The free and healthy competition was further raising the productivity of labor in the West, and on the other hand, the closed economy was further dropping and lowering the productivity of labor in the communist bloc countries. Its obvious confirmation was the fact that if the West, more dynamic in the technological and economic spheres, was developing increasingly quickly, meanwhile the Soviet Union and its satellites were moving

in the period of stagnation and accordingly could not provide the equal, worth and suitable competition in both economic sphere as well as in military technology sphere. By this reason, a big difference existed in the economic development level between the West and the East. Such disproportions were proved by the fact that after the WW2 the Western states sharply started improving their economics, but as time had been passing the Soviet Union states were becoming more and more vulnerable and feeble. Military expenditures in the Soviet Union were a great burden on its economy. Perhaps it was a great military power, but its people lived in disadvantaged circumstances throughout the Cold War. As there was no private economy and everything or every state relied upon and subordinated to the centralized government of the Soviet Union. They had no experience in the governing policy. In 1949 by the initiative of USSR was established the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, in which the East European countries were depended upon the Soviet Union and the latter was supplying these states mostly with raw materials. The Warsaw Pact countries were absolutely away from the current events or developments occurring in the world economic market for about 50 years. As being suppressed and forced by the Soviet Union, the Eastern European states after the end of the WW2 refused to become the members of such important international financial organizations as are the following: World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). One of the reasons of Soviet economic backwardness was also the fact that there was no demand on the Soviet outdated arms equipment in the world market; that's why more than 70% of the Soviet export contained raw materials, especially the oil (Dzneladze, 1997). Accordingly, after the sharp overthrow or fall of oil price in the world, the Soviet budget experienced considerable losses. For example, budget deficit of USSR within the period 1985-1988 increased for 5 times (Abashidze, 2001).

By the contrast, within democratic community, after the economic rehabilitation in the 50s, there appeared 3 the most powerful economic centers - the United States, Japan and the Western Europe. As well as we know in 1957 by the initiative of 6 Western European states was signed the Treaty of Rome, establishing the European cooperation and community, by which even further was hurried their development. For example, already for 1979 the amount of the export of European Economic Community (future EU) was for 3 times outstripping the US's export size (Chitadze, 2008). Thus, a serious economic competition immediately appeared between North America and the Western Europe. Such a competition usually makes the economic development more rapid and faster.

As well as the West had several military-political organizations, it also had more than one strong economic organizations: The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, European Economic Community (since 1992 European Union), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), etc. Meanwhile, the communist bloc had only one economic-oriented organization - Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

As an example of the differences of the socio-economic development between the democratic and communist coun-

tries can be pointed out the information from the report of World Bank for the year 1983. If on the share of the countries from the democratic west was coming only 15% of the world population, they produced more than 63% of the world GDP. In the countries under the communist regimes lived 33% of the world population, but those countries produced only 19% of the World GDP. In the developing countries lived 52% of world population and on their share was coming only 18% of GDP (Heywood, 2007)

This was giving them a possibility to apportion more sums for collective security system. For the objective of arms modernization in 1978, NATO session asserted a 15-year program, where was made a decision about the growth of annual defense budgets by 3%, later the "strategic Defense Initiative" was a proposal by the US President Reagan in 1983 to use ground and space-based systems to be protected from nuclear ballistic missiles. In it already were involved those leading members of NATO such as Great Britain, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany and so on (Abashidze, 2001).

Within the same period, for USSR it seemed to be disastrous to support the developing countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia possessing socialist orientation, as it had retarded and poor economic resources and technologic conditions. While the US could perform and lead the wars in Korean peninsula in the 50s and Vietnam in the 60-70s of the 20-th century and generally while it was ready to spend about 5 trillion dollars for the victory in the Cold War, for the Soviets part it appeared ruinous to undertake the military operations in Afghanistan (USA Today, 2015). Therefore, in the final stage of the Cold War the Soviet Union could no longer implement the similar program as the "Strategic Defense Initiative" was. It forced the Soviet Union to compromise in front of the West!

One of the huge roles in the victory of NATO played the information means by which was possible to send the objective information for population in USSR and Eastern European countries about the world events and developments. In this case notable was the department of the US Information Agency ("USIA") with its broadcasting station "The Voice of America", which had a herald or was operating in 44 languages. Also, the broadcasting stations "Radio Liberty" and "Radio Free Europe" were in close collaboration, functioning since the 1950s. Together with all these radio stations also the scientific-research centers played a key role to work out the foreign-policy propaganda, such as: "Rand Corporation" (Research and Development); Carnegie, Ford, Rockefeller funds and other social organizations that were connected with the governmental administrations (Chitadze, 2008). It was just the active propaganda against that of the Soviets. The usage of informational technologies raised sympathy from the side of populations who lived under the communist regimes towards the Western democracy. On the other side, the Communist propaganda had a very weak influence, as the communist ideology was causing the disgust and aversion in people's mind when looking at the political/economic situation in the West. Its propaganda especially had weakened and had become less aggressive after the death of Stalin. The influence of the communist parties was not minimal but even zero in the NATO member states, which determined the loss of these parties in the parliamentary

elections and in some places, e.g. in France and Italy, their parties represented the absolute minority in parliaments.

When we analyze the other reasons of USA and NATO's victory, we definitely have to mention the geopolitical factor. Firstly, the Western bloc's geopolitical influence was larger than that of the Soviet Union. Its political influence was consisted of only the Eastern Europe and several backward countries of Asia and Africa. Besides, it had the sole geopolitical centre, where it was forced to gather its economic, military-strategic and intellectual resources, because of those economic or military factors that we have already mentioned. But the West's geopolitical influence, containing Western democratic values, was being spread in almost whole American continent (except for Cuba and Nicaragua), most territory of Africa, where the former colonist metropolis such as the Great Britain and France, after granting African people the freedom and liberty, preserved their economic influence. Besides, Western spheres of influence contained the whole Australia, Pacific Ocean Region, a big part of Asia including a rich Persian Gulf, the Arab countries which were the places of US military forces - about 20 000 military servicemen were deployed at this region (Kugler, 1993). But more important was that their geopolitical spheres of influence were reaching the nearest points of USSR borders and the region of Mediterranean Sea including Greece, Turkey till the Far East - Thailand, South Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Japan, the Philippines and so forth. As for Europe, here the number of Atlantic-directed states were much stronger from economic or military point of view than the ones of Communist regime. Although some states in Western Europe were neutral (Ireland, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Sweden), they were regarded as Atlantic-oriented states because of their democratic political systems. As well as we see, from time to time the balance of power and spheres of influence of "two superpowers" (USA, USSR) was drastically changing. The West was developing more and more, moving aside even further the power of another bloc. Just this specific situation was connected with the principle or policy of the so-called "Anaconda", collaborated by American General McClellan. It meant the blocking of the controlled territories of the rival power from all sides - sea/ocean and the coast approaches. Such activity usually follows the strategic exhaustion of the opponent. According to American geopolitician Alfred Mahan, who turned this principle into the world level, the rival must be smothered in the continental encirclement of "Anaconda" (Hattendorf, 1991).

Such geopolitical conception was developed by the West after the WW2, which attacked Communism and forced it to agree on serious economic, military or geopolitical concessions in relation to the West. NATO's assertive foreign policy pushed the Soviets into collapse. Gorbachev finally mentioned that his country could not win the arms race with the US and NATO.

However, the final strike to communism and its block was the ongoing process in itself, which appeared in mass protest demonstrations against the regime both in EEC and other former Soviet Republics as well. In all these countries the process of democratization and state building slowly began, revealing the ways for integration in Western-held organizations. The final collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 gave birth to the new world order, which provided the basis

for the process of NATO's transformation. There are various reasons that caused the collapse of the tyrant Soviet system. But one of the most serious reasons were the activities of the West, especially of USA and NATO, which achieved victory by declining the Soviet Union indirectly, as they never had a real fight or war, but e.g. the proxy wars and so on. Otherwise, it would not manage to win. There was a bipolar political system during the Cold War which did not let NATO be the winner and the only influencer despite the fact that the Soviet Union or the Warsaw Pact was much weaker. The hurry of its collapse was supported and accomplished definitely by USA and NATO, which was synonymous to the West and the Western great powers, democracy, peace, military strength. And nowadays the result is that NATO remains the strongest and the most powerful military organization in the modern world.

Conclusion

To conclude, gaining the victory by USA and NATO has played a huge role to keep the world peace, to spread democratic values throughout the East and to gain freedom for former communist states, especially! NATO is the first-born of the Cold War and that's why it has such kinds of aims and objectives. NATO's essential purpose was (and still is) to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members through political and military means in accordance with the North Atlantic Treaty and the principles of the United Nations Charter. Over sixty years later, despite the end of the Cold War and the transformation of old enemies to new allies, NATO continue to expand its Alliance and to project security further. Its consequences after the Cold War were determined in short: by the unity/reciprocity, strength of its member states (economic and military), its unconstrained character, US power together with its huge companies, NATO's geopolitical spheres of influence, various programs of containment policy, its positive propaganda, Western values, NATO's active movement! Although there were just few disagreements about some aspects between American and some Western European allies, there was a common agreement on the major and vital strategic aspects of the alliance, which was determined, for its part, by the necessity of such common priorities as standing together against common Soviet threat, their shared, common democratic principle and values. The Cold War was won by Europe and North America together. It was won by a transatlantic community that shared not only common interests, but also common values.

The democratic block won eventually, the dictatorial one lost. It means the victory of peace, as "the democratic countries do not attack each other". NATO means the cooperation of democratic states that contributes to peace, security and nowadays has quite a new direction and aims, as the Soviet Union does not exist anymore, and is now replaced by new threats before the international community e.g. terrorism, local/regional conflicts, WMD problems, etc. And since the end of the Cold War, NATO has also been able to develop partnerships with neighboring countries.

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