



Recognizing Cause and Effect

In the late 1980s the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union ended. As you read the following passages, try to identify the cause-effect relationships described. Then complete the activities that follow.

A. As more information was revealed, it was apparent that the dimensions of the economic crisis were staggering. Huge budget deficits had been completely concealed; there was sharp inflation, deep corruption, stagnant economic growth, social malaise, and a catastrophic shortage of basic commodities, including food. Gorbachev [Communist leader of the Soviet Union] desperately needed a breather in foreign affairs to permit concentration on this domestic crisis.

B. The Soviet Union sought ways to limit and reduce its military rivalries, eliminate confrontational features in relations with other states, and suppress conflict and crisis situations.

C. Because the United States and Soviet Union each had invested such a great portion of their wealth in trying to checkmate one other, they jeopardized the health of their own economies. Thus, the wisdom of arms reduction and a thaw in the cold war became more apparent when viewed through the lens of economics.

D. The economic exhaustion of the Soviet Union forced the Soviet leader Gorbachev to release its political hold on the countries of Eastern Europe. One by one, the satellites of the Soviet Union shrugged off their Communist governments and embraced democracy and capitalism.

1. **(a)** Reread passages A through C. Identify the passages that describe cause-effect relationships. _____

(b) Identify the cause(s) and effect(s) described in each passage.

(c) Identify the words, if any, that signal the cause-effect relationship.

2. Now reread passage D. Draw a diagram to show the cause-effect relationships described.