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The Cold War: A New History

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The many different books by Gaddis give different takes on the fight among the powerful countries. The charge of the emergence of the cold war, to a large extent was put generally on the Soviet system and particularly on Josef Stalin by the American historians. A more balanced perspective was given to the American/ Soviet confrontation in Gaddis early work making it an original piece.

The two superpowers, after World War two, had no any other choice but to act rationally. This was so that they get to protect their interests. Besides, they had already sacrificed many innocent lives in the difficult struggles for victory and so each side safeguarded that living trend that they both thought of as morally superior.

Gaddi's outlook seems to be taking root as witnessed in his current work under review. He reaches the conclusion that thoughts took the glory and this was with reflecting on the events of the Cold War since 1991. Military confrontation became unimaginable due to the use of nuclear weapons in the war. The citizens were better provided for by the open-minded systems that provided for equality and the Western market economies than being provided for by the authoritative financial systems of the dictatorial system. While the Soviets instilled fear in their citizens, the west on the other hand offered their citizens with lots and lots of hope. According to Gaddis, the Soviets were primarily the group to blame for the commencement of the cold war.

The question remains on why the cold war lasted for quite some great deal of time! Secondly, why did people not rise up earlier? One sole reason for this was because of the nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons made the Cold War last even longer. The West was forced to détente and remained contained. Nixon-Kissinger détente that left several disappointed people

isolated by the Iron Curtain without any hope to count on made Gaddis develop a few kind words for this act. He tells in this book on how change was facilitated by certain key individuals. Margret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan as well as Pope John Paul the second, and Lech Walesa are among the people who brought about change in the society.

According to Gaddis, the kissing of the ground by Pope John Paul II in Poland indicated the commencement of a new phase with Cold War coming to an end. Ronald Reagan on the other hand built an antimissile shield that he had a strong feeling that the Soviets could not match. This took advantage of the weak points of the Soviet Union thus bringing it to its demise. The eventual down of the Soviet Union was propelled by the aid of Gorbachev.

The world over owes it all to him for being a far better leader than his predecessors. He was the one who realized that the Eastern Europe population could no longer be reigned by the Soviet Union and neither could the arms race continue.

The Bush administration has used Gaddis' work as a means through which social equality is spread in the Middle East but even so, it should be remembered that the people who would love to maintain the status quo, Bush himself having the thought of being one of them, are only having the ability to bring about change. For there to be real change, it has to come from the bottom upwards. This is in accordance with Gaddis' argument on real change.

The end of hostility between the two countries which was characterized by propaganda, threats and other measures was speeded up by Ronald Reagan but even so, he did not end it. There were no physical fights during the

whole period. The hostility between the two countries was eventually brought to a halt by the great assistance of the Germans from the East, the Hungarians in conjunction with the Poles. The brutal Soviet Union was then defeated.

We need a more comprehensive historical occurrence of the events but even so, the book fails to provide us with this. Instead, it only brings out the thematic aspects that are a part of the war. Instead of telling the whole story in a chronological manner, it tends to bring out the idea that Gaddis is trying to depict in each chapter on the cold war notion in particular. For instance: there is an instance where he talks about Mutual Assured Destruction "logic", and how the survival of mankind all depended on the maneuvering through the systems pitfalls by two superpowers. The book brings in the contrast between Leninist's authoritarianism vision with that of self-determination by Wilsonian.

There is also a chapter that relays the fact that the friends of the superpowers refused to abide by their rules. American absurdity, at the pick of the Cold War has also been highlighted in a given chapter of the book. There is also a chapter that talks about the people who helped resolve the Cold War. There is also one particular chapter that talks about the manner in which the war came to a halt.

These chapters are generally thought provoking and at the same time persuasive. Gaddis' view point on the existed of fundamental discomfort, illogicality, in the manner in which the Americans waged the cold war is rather true. We remained comfortable with the people who stayed on our side during the conflict despite some being tyrants who failed to put the human values into consideration for example our individual rights. Actions that could not be tolerated at home were put up with abroad. Eventually, as

Gaddis' argues, President Nixon began to practice what was initially tolerated internationally, that is carrying out the state crafting, domestically. Inconsistency, according to Gaddis, was unsustainable and so it did not take long before something of this kind occurred.