The End of the Cold War: A Bibliographic Essay

Christopher Maynard Ph.D.

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.una.edu/nahr
Part of the Public History Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://ir.una.edu/nahr/vol1/iss1/25

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNA Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Alabama Historical Review by an authorized editor of UNA Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact jpat1@una.edu.
The End of the Cold War: A Bibliographic Essay

Because of the length and complexity of the Cold War (1945-91), developing a reading list can be quite daunting; however, focusing on the end of the Cold War is more manageable. Moreover, exploring how the Cold War ended can in many ways help one understand the underlying factors that created and continued to fuel the superpower rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States. The end of the Cold War unfolded during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush on the American side and under the rule of Mikhail Gorbachev on the Soviet side. One of the best overviews of this period is Melvyn Leffler’s *For the Soul of Mankind* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007), which connects the end of the Cold War back to its origins. John Prados’ *How the Cold War Ended* (Washington, D.C.: Potomac Books, 2011) is one of the most recent overviews and focuses on Gorbachev and Reagan. My own *Out of the Shadow: George H.W. Bush and the End of the Cold War* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2008) is, to date, the only focused treatment of the end of the Cold War and the Bush administration. Collectively, these three books offer history students a solid foundation for studying the end of the Cold War and each contains an extensive bibliography for further reading.

Beyond that, participant memoirs are plentiful and offer some of the most direct insight to the decisions that pushed the two countries to a resolution of the conflict. *The Reagan Diaries* (New York: Harper Collins, 2007), edited by Douglas Brinkley, is both readable and enlightening. Mikhail Gorbachev’s massive *Memoirs* (New York: DoubleDay, 1996) is quite long but ultimately compelling, and Jack F. Matlock’s *Reagan and Gorbachev* (New York: Random House, 2004) offers a comparison of the two leaders from one of the participants who had unparalleled access to both leaders, having served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union under both Reagan and Bush. Bush’s own *A World Transformed* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998), written with his National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, provides a step-by-step examination of the final events of the Cold War. Philip Zelikow and Conodleezza Rice, both members of the Bush administration, focus on the reunification of Germany in *Germany Unified and Europe Transformed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995). James A. Baker, III, who served in both the Reagan and Bush administrations, provides an exhaustive chronicle of the diplomatic challenges of this period in *The Politics of Diplomacy* (New York: Putnam, 1995). From the Soviet side, Anatoly Chernayaev’s *My Six Years with Gorbachev* (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2000) and Eduard

Christopher Maynard, Ph.D.
University of North Alabama