

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 ended the period of détente between the USSR and the US. In this new phase of escalation of the Cold War, Ronald Reagan's administration applied a new foreign policy strategy in the Third World. This new strategy, known as the Reagan Doctrine, included increased assistance to anticommunist insurgencies against client regimes of the USSR. This thesis examines the application of the Reagan Doctrine in Afghanistan. Using this country as a case in point, it attempts to find out to what extent the Reagan Doctrine was a coherent strategy or whether there were any inconsistencies in its application. Also, it seeks to find out how successful the Reagan Doctrine was in Afghanistan with regards to forcing the Soviet troops to withdraw. It also shows the long-term consequences for the USSR, the United States and Afghanistan itself.