

## Warm-Up: Star Wars (SDI)



The national debt of the United States nearly doubled as work on Star Wars missile program began. Unfortunately, our scientists never were able to get it to work. What it did, however, was force the Soviets to increase their military spending as well. By the late 1980's the Soviet Union was broke and new leader Mikhail Gorbachev was in danger. Gorbachev had allowed the Soviet people to voice their opinions about the USSR's problems. Ethnic groups within the Soviet Union used this new-found freedom to demand self-rule. By 1991, Gorbachev had resigned and the country had broken up into many separate parts.

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1. What was "Star Wars" made to do?
2. Explain the humor of the cartoon.
3. How did Star Wars affect the USA? The USSR?
4. What was the United States' most powerful weapon in fighting the Cold War?