



# Terrorists or Freedom Fighters? | USA/USSR Superpowers in Decline?

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Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Good design and full colour illustrations are often quoted as important features of the best non-fiction for teenagers. Neither is a factor in this excellent new series dealing with major world issues.

There is much to admire in these volumes not least the style of writing which is informative, analytical and clear. Issues such as Iran-Contra, or relationships between factions in the Middle East, are explained concisely without undue simplification. Case studies, 'talking points' and 'focus on' sections help to exemplify and develop the text. Both books are current to July 1990 and each includes an annotated bibliography (a rare and welcome feature!).

**Superpowers in Decline?** chronicles events in both the USSR and the USA and how their relationship has altered. The huge changes and economic revolution faced by the USSR and American financial difficulties and social problems are compared, as are the relative strengths of Gorbachev, Reagan and Bush. **Terrorists or Freedom Fighters?** develops from a consideration of its title to an assessment of the effects of terrorist action. Despite the subject and its sometimes harrowing coverage, the author puts terrorism into context and suggests possible ways of reducing terrorist power. **Superpowers in Decline?** also has a positive note that the end of the cold war provides an opportunity for discussing 'fundamental problems like the global environment'. Neither book has great immediate appeal but both are rewarding and they should prove valuable for able older teenagers.

Running Order:

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