

GEOPOLITICS AND TREATIES OF THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE COLD WAR

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*Niculae GAMENT**

Abstract

The Soviet Union, one of the two global superpowers to the Cold War, has had over this period an ably adapted and pragmatically differentiated foreign policy, in an often successful and costly attempt to obtain influence, cooperation, security and sometimes a domination in the international relations plan. This fact led, with the temporary cost of the largest military budget in the world and exorbitant expenditures of military and economic assistance, to establishment and subsequent collapse of a huge military and political construction, of an influence empire and social-political system, atypical and unique in history.

Key words: *alliances, geopolitics, Soviet Empire, Cold War, treatises, The Soviet Union*

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The system of international relations, supported and sometimes even orchestrated by the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.) led to the creation of two types of geopolitical spaces, part of a vast politico-economic-military construction that some authors call the Soviet Empire.

The so-called Soviet Empire, along with the two types of geopolitical spaces, included the 15 (temporarily 16) Soviet republics, among which the former Russian Soviet Socialist Republic did not hold a dominant position, being rather a financial supporter of the Soviet Union the so-called Soviet Empire¹. State entities that formed the former Soviet Union and are now independent states (the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic, the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic, the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, the Gagauz (Georgian) Soviet Socialist Republic, the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, the

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¹ This was due to the image of a bloc of states based on the socialist ideology, not on Russian nationalism, a nationalism that was felt culturally. In addition, Soviet leaders I.V.Stalin, N.S. Khrushchev were not Russian nationals.

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic).

The Soviet Union was created by the Treaty Establishing the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concluded on December 30, 1922 and originally signed by the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian S.S.R., the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic² and the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic. This treaty was repealed by the Belavezha Accords. The 1922 Treaty contains a preamble and 26 articles and is a flexible compromise between the national minorities of the Union while allowing the reception of new republics in a framework based on "socialist freedom" explicitly opposing in the Treaty to capitalism and colonialism.

Most of the states in the two types of geopolitical areas in which the influence of the Soviet Union is exercised have benefited from its economic and military assistance, generally offered on the basis of bilateral agreements of cooperation, friendship, assistance, etc. The Soviet Union has made a number of investments in these states, amounting to 140 billion US dollars at the time of the dissolution of the Union.³

In our view, the *first geopolitical space* is a stable one over time, based on relations of *cooperation, security and hegemony*, and the states that were part of it between 1945 and 1991 concluded bilateral treaties of friendship with the Soviet Union. These states were in most cases members of the Warsaw Pact Organization⁴ or the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (K.A.E.P.), the Soviet Union could intervene directly with troops when it considered that the rule of law or the values of socialism were endangered (Brezhnev Doctrine, etc.). In this area the U.R.S.S. exercised serious political, economic, and military control, maintaining troops or military bases as desired. This area included *integrally* the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Federal Socialist Republic, the Romanian Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Vietnamese Socialist Republic, Cuba and partly the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania (excluding the period of relations deterioration between 1955 and 1973).

In a special situation, the Federal Socialist Republic (People's Republic of Yugoslavia), which was in cordial relations with the U.S.S.R. between 1945-1948 and 1957-1991 concluded two treaties of friendship with the Soviet side, one in 1945 and another in 1957. The agreement signed on April 5, 1945, allowed the temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslav territory. To these treaties is added an Association Agreement to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in 1964, with Yugoslavia

² To increase Soviet influence in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Belarusian S.S.R had their own votes.

³ Dmitri Trenin, *Post-Imperium: A Eurasian Story*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2011, p. 144.

⁴ The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance was signed on 14 May 1955 in Warsaw, and was abolished on 1 July 1991 (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warsaw_Pact). They were part of the Warsaw Pact Organization: the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Federal Socialist Republic, the Romanian Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Bulgarian People's Republic and the Albanian People's Socialist Republic until 1968. , other socialist states within the KAEP also participated in the work of the Organization as observers such as the Mongolian People's Republic after 1963. Although apparently an international collective security alliance, the U.S.S.R. controlled and coordinated the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact Organization.

participating in most of the organization's structures as a member with special status. However, internationally this state was considered unaligned. However, the Yugoslav government made available to the Soviet state based on bilateral agreements the naval locations at Split and Tivat necessary for the Soviet Navy in the Mediterranean Sea. Another special case is that of Finland, which remained unaligned since the conclusion of the Soviet-Finnish Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on April 6, 1948 (YYA Treaty) and which until 1991 would have a strong Soviet influence in its internal affairs. The Soviet side also obtained a military naval location at Porkkala. The treaty offered security guarantees only to Finland, against the Federal Republic of Germany and its allies, in fact against the United States. The treaty did not allow Soviet intervention on Finnish territory without a prior request from the Finnish side.⁵ Also another special situation is the case of Malta, an official non-aligned state, which under the Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet Union has provided a naval location near Valletta for the Soviet Navy since 1980.

The second geopolitical space, in our opinion, is one of *influence, alliance and assistance*, the assisted states belonging with the exception of the P.R of China to the third world. The Soviet Union concludes agreements with a number of such states that entered within its sphere of influence for a period of time. However, some of those states will officially retain their *non-aligned status*. In fact, the Soviet Union did not give unselfish political, economic, and military support to these states, but to the "friendly" regimes that temporarily ruled them, which followed the political direction of the Soviet government. This space included several states, mentioned in the following lines, in time intervals that followed one another for over four decades.

In the Far East, the People's Republic of China concluded a treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance with the Soviet Union on February 14, 1950, partially inapplicable since 1960, which expired on February 16, 1979. By this treaty, the Soviet Union recognizes the People's Republic of China, the two states promising mutual support in the event of aggression by Japan or its allies, a form specific to Soviet diplomacy, with potential allies being the United States. Through the Treaty, the Soviet side brought a number of territories and facilities back under Chinese control: Xinjiang, Manchuria, including the ports of Dalian and Lushun. The Soviet side offered the Chinese side a \$ 300 million loan⁶, needed to rebuild the unmodernized and war-torn Chinese economy, as well as economic assistance. Soviet economic assistance has been drastically reduced since 1960, with the People's Republic of China withdrawing from the Council's Mutual Aid Council and four years later from the organization's market, which it will return to in 1983. From 1989 onwards, the cooperation will include the provision of military assistance by the Soviet Union to the People's Republic of China. The allies of China and the USSR, Indonesia, under an agreement benefited from economic, financial and military assistance (including loans) provided by the Soviet side to the Sukarno regime from 1959 to 1965, the country providing the Soviet Union with a submarine location.

In Central Asia, India has benefited from military assistance since 1955 and security guarantees (in relations with the United States and the People's Republic of

⁵ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finno-Soviet_Treaty_of_1948.

⁶ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Soviet_Treaty_of_Friendship,_Alliance_and_Mutual_Assistance.

China) from 1971 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, according to the Peace Treaty, Friendship and co-operation concluded on 9 August 1971. The preamble to the Treaty generally affirms the previous good relations between the Parties and their desire for peace and co-operation. The convention in art. IX and X create obligations for the parties not to grant any kind of support to another state with which a party is in conflict and in case of any external military aggression against any of the signatory states, they will immediately proceed to consultations to take the measures required⁷. Due to its strategic importance, this country received the most comprehensive military, economic and financial assistance in the Third World. For example, in 1960, economic and military assistance to India exceeded that of R.P. Chinese, which irritated the Chinese side, the USSR's official ally at the time. India's geopolitical rival, Pakistan receives political assistance (especially advisers, experts and technicians) and economic ⁸ in favor of the Bhutto Regime, in particular between 1972 and 1977, in accordance with the 1974 Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Trust⁹, assistance was phased out after April 4, 1979. In the same geographical area, the People's Republic of Bangladesh received considerable political, economic and military support (air and naval) from 1971-1975 from the Soviet and Indian sides, which was later reduced and ended amid diplomatic tensions. The two countries were the first to recognize the statehood, sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh on January 25, 1972. The Indian Union and the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace (Indira-Mujib Treaty) on 19 March 1972, similar in content to the bilateral treaties concluded by the Soviet side during the Cold War. By the Treaty in Art I. The parties recognize their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring mutual relations of peace and friendship. The parties undertake to eliminate the consequences of colonialism and racism and to work together to maintain international peace and security (Art. II-III). Art. VIII-X includes military and security provisions, the parties undertaking *"not to participate in alliances or actions to the contrary, and if a Party is attacked or threatened, they shall immediately enter into consultations with each other in order to take the necessary measures to remove the threat and to ensure their peace and security"*.¹⁰ The treaty was concluded for a period of 25 years, but after the fall of the Mujib regime, the relations of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with the Soviet Union and the Indian Union gradually diminished and even compromised, with the Bangladesh Party avoiding the extension of the Treaty in 1997. Friendships and support were established by the U.S.S.R and its regional ally India and the (Democratic Socialist) Republic of Sri Lanka after 1958 and especially until 1978, but relations with the Soviet Union diminished as the Sri Lankan side continued to impose socialist measures on the economy.

In Indochina, the Socialist Republic of the Burmese Union (Burmese People's Democratic Republic) received economic and military assistance to the Ne Win regime from 1962-1968. Also in Southeast Asia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, between

⁷ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Soviet_Treaty_of_Friendship,_and_Cooperation.

⁸ For example, the Pakistan Steel Mills complex started in 1972 or Soviet interests in the port of Karachi.

⁹ Completed in accordance with the request of the Pakistani parliament in 1972, the withdrawal of this state from CENTO and SEATO in 1974, followed by the US embargo from 1976-1977.

¹⁰ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Bangla_Treaty_of_Friendship,_Cooperation_and_Peace.

1975 and 1991, entered into a friendly treaty between the Vietnamese Socialist Republic and its guarantor, the USSR of this state to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in 1986. Another state that entered the sphere of Soviet influence in this region during the years 1979-1989 was the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which also concluded treaties of friendship with the U.R.S.S. and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

In the space of pan-Arab socialism, and in the Muslim world in general, the *Syrian Arab Republic* was the Soviet Union's most loyal political and military ally in the Middle East between 1955 and 1991. The U.R.S.S. obtained by agreement the naval locations of Latakia and Tartus. The Democratic People's Republic of Iraq purchased weapons as one of the Soviet Union's best customers during 1958-1963 and 1968-1991. Rival of Iraq, Iran received political support between 1951-1953, and cooperation, including through military assistance, was resumed after 1980. The Arab Republic of Egypt, (United Arab Republic), received the widest military assistance between 1954-1976, economic and financial of the Third World after India, assistance granted to the Nasser and Sadat Regimes, treaties of friendship and cooperation being concluded in 1954 and 1971, the last being officially abolished in 1976. USSR obtained by agreement the naval military locations from Alexandria and Marsa Matruh. *The Libyan, Popular and Socialist Arab Jamahiriya* was one of the best clients of the Soviet defense industry between 1969 and 1991 during the Gaddafi regime, benefiting greatly from Soviet assistance. Military assistance and economic exchanges were achieved through numerous one-off agreements, forming a true Soviet-Libyan alliance, without a framework treaty to that effect.

The Soviet Union agreed to the naval locations at Tripoli and Tobruk. The People's Democratic Arab Republic of Algeria received economic and military assistance from 1962-1990, including indirect support in the Western Sahara conflict in which it was involved. The Soviet side obtained a naval base at Mers el Kabir by agreement.

The only real communist Arab state, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, maintained a close friendship with the socialist countries between 1967 and 1990, a fact recognized internationally by joining the state as an observer at the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in 1986. The Soviet Union received by agreement the naval military locations at Aden and Socotra. The Arab Republic of Yemen concluded assistance agreements with the Soviet Union, which received a military naval location at Hodeidah from the 1970s until 1987.

In Latin America, the *United States of Mexico* received economic cooperation and military assistance (especially naval) from the Soviet side from 1975, with its admission as an observer to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance until 1982. The close relations (which could not lead to a military alliance contrary to traditional Mexican policy)¹¹ were encouraged also by the often radical leftist position of the Mexican executive, materialized by the nationalization of certain sectors of the economy, tensions with the United States, and support for Nicaraguan Marxists.

After visits of Mexican heads of state to Moscow in 1973 (Alvarez) and in 1978 (Portillo), the U.S.S.R acceded to the Treaty (from Tlatelolco) on the Prohibition of

¹¹ Mexico being a member of the Organization of American States (OSA), as a result of not being able to legally engage in security conventions contrary to the US, this state pursuing a general policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, but still politically closer to the United States until 1973 and after 1982.

Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean)¹². The Treaty in Art.1 presents the commitment of the Parties to “use only peacefully the nuclear facilities under their jurisdiction and to prohibit and prevent in their territory the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition or reception, storage, installation and placement”¹³ of nuclear weapons. *The Republic of Nicaragua was in excellent relations with the U.S.S.R, Cuba and the rest of the members of the Council for Mutual Aid, which it joined in 1986 as an observer.* Grenada, in the name of embracing the cause of socialism, in the period 1979-1983 obtained economic assistance from the K.A.E.P., including military assistance from Cuba. Friendships and cooperation were also established between the Soviet state and the Republic of Panama between 1962 and 1984.

In South America, the Argentine Republic received military assistance during the Peron Government between 1973 and 1976, and after 1983 economic cooperation and the provision of military equipment and assistance were resumed. However, this country did not become a regional ally of the Soviets. The Republic of Peru was the main beneficiary of Soviet economic and military assistance in South America during the two left-wing regimes that ruled the country (1968-1975 and 1975-1984), U.S.S.R. obtaining the positioning of a military base. The Republic of Chile, in turn, hoped for assistance from the Soviet Union and the Mutual Aid Council during the Allende regime between 1970 and 1973, but got a quarter of the investment it expected. Also in this region, close relations with the Soviet Union were fostered by the Cooperative Republic of Guyana between 1980-1991, the last state participating as an observer in the meetings of the K.A.E.P. Ephemeral friendships have been established by the U.S.S.R. and Cuba with the Republic of Bolivia between 1969 and 1971, compromised by the subsequent military regime, and good relations resumed after the end of the Cold War by the Russian Federation.

In East Africa, the Democratic Republic of Sudan has received Soviet economic, military, and logistical assistance since 1968 (including military locations), which was reduced to tensions in 1972 and shut down in 1977. *The Democratic-Socialist Republic (Ethiopian People's Republic) of Ethiopia* received substantial Soviet and Cuban financial, military and logistical support from 1974-1991, maintaining cordial relations with the socialist bloc, which is evident internationally by its joining as an observer the Mutual Aid Council in 1986. USSR obtained by agreement the military naval location of the Dahlak Archipelago, strictly necessary for the Indian Ocean fleet after the loss in 1977 of the base in Berbera (Somalia)¹⁴. The Democratic Republic of Somalia was a socialist ally that gave the Soviets an excellent position in the Horn of Africa during the Bare Regime between 1969 and 1977, with the Soviet Fleet gaining an excellent location in Berbera¹⁵. The United Republic of Tanzania, a socialist state, also benefited from Soviet assistance after 1964, often serving regional interests, but often contradicting them by pursuing a nationalist path and a foreign political oscillation

¹² https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tratado_de_Tlatelolco

¹³ https://es.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tratado_para_la_Proscripcion_de_las_Armas_Nucleares_en_la_America_Latina_y_el_Caraibe

¹⁴ See in this regard, Oleg Sarin, Lev Dvoretzky, War on the human species - Soviet aggression against the world 1919-1989, Editura Antet, București, 1997, p.169-180.

¹⁵ Idem. p.169-180.

between the U.S.S.R. and the P.R. of China¹⁶. The establishment of a pro-Soviet regime in Seychelles with Tanzanian support between 1977 and 1991 led to the establishment of a Soviet naval location for the Indian Ocean fleet.

In Central Africa, the Republic of Uganda cooperated militarily with the Soviet side during the Obote (between 1969 and 1972) and Amin (between 1972 and 1979) regimes. Ephemeral friendly relations were also established with the Central African Republic (1970-1976) during the presidential regime of Bokassa, which, adhering to the values of scientific socialism, obtained economic assistance from the Soviet Union, but also with the Democratic Republic of Congo between 1960 and 1961, during the Lumumba government (where although there was parliamentary support, the presidency opposed direct Soviet military assistance relations in order to maintain law and order in the state).

In West Africa, the Republic of Ghana obtained Soviet assistance from 1964-1966¹⁷, on the principle of supporting the states that build socialism, the latter acquiring Soviet weapons even after 1969. The People's Republic of Benin also joined in the period 1975-1990, the Soviet sphere of influence and interests. The People's Democratic Republic of Guinea was the Soviet Union's most stable political and military ally in West Africa from 1960-1978. In agreement with the Guinean government, the Soviet state has set up a naval military base in Conakry to protect its strategic interests in the region. The Republic of Mali used the Soviet model and economic and military assistance between 1960 and 1968, which was later reduced.

The Republic of Burkina Faso between 1982 and 1987, during the Samkara Regime, implemented a Marxist-inspired social model, establishing close bilateral relations with the Soviet side and obtaining military assistance from it. The pro-Marxist government of the Republic of Guinea Bissau developed a close rapprochement with the Soviets between 1973 and 1991. The left-wing political power in the Republic of Cape Verde, continuing the tradition of cooperation during the colonial conflict between 1975 and 1991, maintained a privileged relationship with the Soviet Union. The USSR also provided economic and military assistance to Mauritania after 1979, with Soviet weapons reaching Algeria and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic after 1976. There was also a form of influence in the Republic of Nigeria that began with military assistance to the state by the Soviet Union (along with the United Arab Republic) during the Biafra Conflict, 1967-1973, which continued until the break-up of the state. Soviet, leading alongside the British superior position in Nigerian trade. At the United Nations General Assembly, the U.R.S.S. and Nigeria cooperated in condemning South Africa's domestic and foreign policies.

In South-West Africa, the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo had special relations with the Soviet state from 1969-1991, obtaining economic and military assistance but providing the Soviet side with a naval base at Port Noire. In the same region, the People's Republic of Angola became, during the years 1975-1991, the most assisted military state by the Eastern Bloc in southern Africa, the Angolan socialist state joining the socialist community and the KAEP meetings as an observer since 1986. This country, based on friendly legal relations established in 1975, hosted advisers from the Soviet bloc and a Soviet naval military base in Luanda.

¹⁶ Idem. p.169-180.

¹⁷ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Empire

In agreement only with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Angola and without prior consultation with the Soviet side, the Republic of Cuba sent combat military units to the country, which were (with the expected result) involved in the internal conflict in that country.¹⁸ Between 1968 and 1979, the *Republic of Equatorial Guinea* was a spearhead of the Soviet export of revolution in sub-Saharan Africa, which also housed a Soviet military base on its territory. A similar situation occurs in the case of the *Democratic-Socialist Republic of Sao Tome and Principe* during the years 1975-1991, which received Soviet economic assistance and provided accommodation for the Soviet military fleet operating on the west coast of Africa.

In *Southeast Africa*, the *Malagasy Democratic Republic*, in turn, developed a Soviet-backed project to build socialism between 1972 and 1991. Also in the same region, the People's Republic of Mozambique became the most loyal Soviet ally between 1975 and 1990, a state attached to the socialist community, a fact consecrated by receiving in 1986 as an observer of this state in the work of the K.A.E.P. In exchange for economic and military assistance, the Soviet side was given the right to place a naval base in the Port of Maputo. In the same geographical area, the Republic of Zambia also benefited from 1967-1991 of a stable relationship of friendship, cooperation and assistance from the U.S.S.R.

Conclusions

The spheres of security and Soviet influence were differentiated geopolitically according to the chronological evolution of the Cold War. In the 1950s and early 1960s, the Soviet Union developed a system of alliances that would allow it to have obvious land dominance over the Eurasian Plateau, from Albania to Indonesia, thanks to a visible favorable difference in ground forces. This aspect is also found in the conception of priorities in the field of Soviet foreign policy, which focused on relations with neighboring states in Europe, Asia and the Arab World. However, the faction of relations to some communist states, such as the case of the People's Republic of China, which compromised the 1949 Treaty of Friendship and the collapse of friendly regimes in states such as Indonesia or Iran, forced Soviet state power in the 1970s. 80s "to find new political alliances in the Third World, countries generally at considerable distances from the borders of the USSR.

This, along with the Cuban Crisis, forced the Soviet Union to incur additional military spending on huge expenditures already made, especially in order to provide military assistance to the new "friendly states," as well as to build a colossal war fleet. The new allies, who often shared only the most formal Soviet ideology, were good markets for Soviet armaments, but they did not always pay for it. Often the U.S.S.R supported socialist states that became regional promoters of the export of revolution, the limits of the Soviet sphere of influence extending further and further beyond its borders. Thus, some pro-Soviet zonal powers formed their own regional influence, which may or may not involve, as the case may be, Soviet policy.¹⁹ In fact, in the

¹⁸ See in this regard, Oleg Sarin, Lev Dvoretzky, *War on the human species - Soviet aggression against the world 1919-1989*, Editura Antet, București, 1997, p.169-180.

¹⁹ For example, Vietnam has formed its own military assistance relations with Laos, Kampchia and North Korea, India with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Syria with Lebanon, Egypt with Syria, the Yemen and Nigeria Arab Republic, Libya with Uganda and Egypt, Cuba with Nicaragua, Congo, Grenada, Angola and Ethiopia.

1970s, American analysts feared the "expansionism" and "encirclement" of the West with friendly states of the Soviet bloc, countries usually ruled by dictatorships with left-wing political excesses.

The situation is somewhat repeated in the 1950s, when the United States, in an attempt to stop communism, surrounded the Soviet bloc with a series of alliances in which some allied regimes were far from constituting Western-style democracies. We also have the following remark: some works appreciate the territorial maximum influence of the Soviet Union before the faction with the People's Republic of China, i.e., in 1960. In our opinion the maximum territorial influence is exerted in 1975. Even if the Soviet Union loses the alliance with the People's Republic of China and Indonesia, it managed to conquer influence over many countries such as: India, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia, Angola, Congo, Peru, Argentina, Burma, Laos, South Vietnam, North Yemen, Yemen South, Bangladesh, Peru, Panama, Guinea, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, etc.

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10. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warsaw_Pact

In general, these regional policies were complementary to Soviet foreign policy, but in some cases the Soviet Union was not directly involved so as not to compromise relations with some affected states in the area. For example, Algeria and Mali assisted the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (R.A.D.S.) with Soviet weapons, but the Soviet bloc did not become directly involved with the RADS, even though it defined itself as a Marxist-oriented socialist state, so as not to damage relations with Morocco.