

The West

- o The first variant, or Violent Change, would create major problems for the West. It would mean instability and violence over vast areas and a high likelihood of involvement of neighbouring populations and states, especially where common ethnic origins and languages existed.
- o Escalation of border conflicts, within or outside present boundaries, could bring serious problems: inadequate food supplies, poverty, and refugees. The process of disarmament would be jeopardized. The West would have to maintain its armed strength and unity, either to deter war or to play a peace-maintaining role.
- o The second variant, or Peaceful Change, would pose less acute difficulties for the West, perhaps little different from those posed by Scenario 1 (and 2) and they could be less pronounced. The process would be gradual, over a period of years, and in accordance with the Constitution. On the other hand, the motives which compelled the Czars to expand Russian control in the 18th and 19th centuries could re-assert themselves, especially if the Russians were to perceive threats to their security from China or from Islamic fundamentalism.