

but where substantive Soviet action was negligible. If anything, the US action in Grenada served to confirm and strengthen Soviet caution in the region.

To summarize, the Grenadian experience is consistent with the general pattern of Soviet responsiveness to opportunities created by local instability and American hostility to radical political and social change in the region. The Soviet response was, however, clearly constrained by asymmetries in the superpowers' levels of interest in regional affairs, by asymmetries in the regional military balance, by the relative insignificance of Grenada in regional politics and, arguably, by the Soviet domestic economic situation.