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Soviet Presence and Influence, 1972-1982

During the last decade the Soviets succeeded in significantly expanding their presence and influence throughout the world. In contrast to 1972:

- Eight vice seven countries are under total Soviet domination (add Afghanistan).
- Six vice three countries actively act as Soviet proxies (add Libya, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua). In addition, North Vietnam annexed South Vietnam.
- Eighteen vice sixteen countries are under a significant degree of Soviet presence and/or influence despite the fact that four countries turned away from the USSR. (Add Benin, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Laos, and Kampuchea. Subtract Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, and Mauritania plus Afghanistan, which came under complete Soviet domination).
- Twelve vice eight countries are facing insurgency supported by the Soviets and/or one or more of their proxies in one degree or another. (Add El Salvador, Guatemala, Morocco/Western Sahara, Chad, Zaire, Sudan, Somalia, and Pakistan. Subtract Angola, Mozambique, Laos, and Kampuchea, which are now under heavy Soviet influence).
- Three vice two countries are rated as highly unstable and vulnerable to Soviet influence (Iran, Ghana, and Madagascar vice Uganda and Libya).
- Ten vice three countries, in addition to being in one of the above categories, have a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviets. (Add Vietnam, Afghanistan, Syria, PDRY, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, and Congo. Subtract Egypt, which abrogated its treaty).

The above shows that the Soviets have lost influence in some countries and have switched sides in some regional conflicts. On the whole, however, Soviet influence and control and Moscow's ability to make trouble for the U.S. have grown over the past decade.

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