



OCEANS VENTURED

Winning the Cold War at Sea

JOHN F. LEHMAN

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A thrilling story of the Cold War, told by a former navy secretary on the basis of recently declassified documents.

When Ronald Reagan took office in January 1981, the United States and NATO were losing the Cold War. The USSR had superiority in conventional weapons and manpower in Europe, and had embarked on a construction programme to gain naval pre-eminence. But Reagan already had a plan.

Reagan pushed Congress to build the navy back to its 1945 strength of 600 major ships. He gathered a circle of experienced naval planners, including the author, to devise an aggressive strategy that would move the American fleets within spitting distance of Soviet waters. New radars, sensors and emissions technology would make ghosts of U.S. submarines and surface fleets.

They would operate aircraft carriers in Arctic waters which no navy had attempted. The Soviets, surrounded by their forward naval strategy, bankrupted their economy trying to keep pace. It wasn't long before the Berlin Wall fell and the USSR was disbanded.

JOHN F. LEHMAN, a former U.S. Navy pilot, served as United States Secretary of the Navy from 1981 to 1987. From 2003 to 2004 he was a member of the 9/11 Commission.



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