WHAT IS "REVISIONIST HISTORY?"

Historical scholarship relies on revision. Scholars of the Cold War continually revise through:

1. **New Sources**
The declassification of Cold War records provides new sources for scholars to examine.

2. **Expanding Interpretations**
The conflict between the United States and Soviet Union influenced global events but did not fully determine them.

3. **Increasing Diversity**
Including accounts from different historical actors, such as communist refugees who influenced US foreign policy, presents a more complete picture of the Cold War period.

4. **Opening up the Conversation**
Involving political scientists, scientists, and people who lived through the Cold War enriches historians discussions about nuclear weapons and their legacy.

5. **Shifting Scholarly Understandings**
Rather than declaring the United States to have won the Cold War and the Soviet Union to have lost, it is also possible to see imperialism as the true victor.

6. **An Evolving Process**
With each revision of the scholarship, Cold War narratives make more space for the people and places between the superpowers.

“There are many different people who have varied perspectives on the Cold War period. Understanding all of that is important to the story.”

- Manu Bhagavan, Professor of History and Human Rights, Hunter College

Part three of a larger series

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