

The World At Large

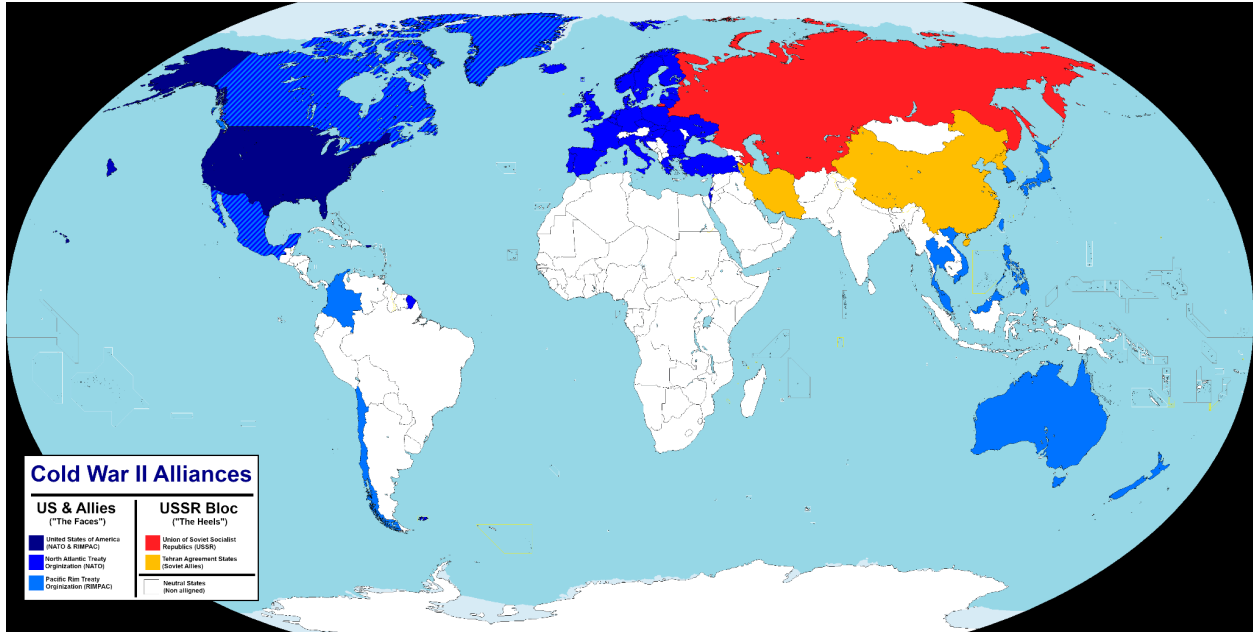
The Most Important difference to know between the world of The Donoverse and Our timeline is that the Post-Cold War “End of History”/ “New World Order” mentality never happened.

In our timeline, following the end of the cold war Western governments and institutions embraced the belief that liberal democracy had “won,” that major-power conflict was over, and that globalization would steadily integrate the world into a single economic and political system. Defense budgets were slashed, NATO shifted toward peacekeeping, and many nations assumed that large-scale geopolitical rivalry was a thing of the past. But if the War on Terror, Putin's War in Ukraine, and China's saber rattling in Taiwan & the Asia Pacific were any indication, we all know how that dream turned out.

But in the world of the Donoverse, no such ideological victory lap ever occurred. The collapse of the Soviet Union was incomplete, messy, and morally ambiguous, leaving the USSR weakened but still intact. Instead of a triumphant West declaring the end of great-power conflict, the United States and its allies continued to treat global politics as a multipolar, unstable environment. Military readiness remained a priority and technological competition between blocs continued rather than faded.

As a result, the world of the Donoverse actually surpasses our real world technologically and culturally because the absence of post-Cold War complacency forced nations—especially the U.S., Japan, and their allies—to maintain high levels of research funding, industrial capacity, and cultural output. Instead of the “peace dividend” cuts of our timeline, the Donoverse saw continuous investment in aerospace, computing, energy, and media. This produced earlier breakthroughs in technologies like satellite defense systems, nuclear energy, and robotics; while also preserving a more optimistic, forward-looking cultural atmosphere reminiscent of late-20th-century futurism.

This is the only important thing you need to remember about the world of the Donoverse. However here are some nitty gritty specifics for those who are interested



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Officially, the United States remains in an ongoing Cold War with the Soviet Union. However, in reality, The USSR has been critically weakened economically and morally (having lost 7 of its republics to independence). Also, due to a series of arms reduction treaties, global nuclear stockpiles have been reduced to 10% of their 1980s heights (**much like in our timeline**). Added to that, the Soviet Union has few allies outside of China, Iran, and North Korea in this world (the aforementioned countries forming the Tehran Agreement; **This timeline's new equivalent of the Warsaw Pact**). The Cold War isn't so much ongoing as much as the Soviet Union remains the primary adversary of the United States.

That Said, Most of America's Cold War era commands still remain active; especially the United States Air Force's Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Military Airlift Command. The United States Space Force was also still formed in the late 2010s, but this time controls a fleet of top secret laser armed Anti-ICBM satellites. Also, The Department of National Security was formed in 1995 after the Oklahoma City Bombing **and takes the place of our real world "Department of Homeland Security"**.



Columbia in particular has a major Joint Base in the inland plains. This base houses Masters AFB, Theurer AFS, Columbia's Army National Guard Armory, and the Headquarters for both Columbia National Guard (Air & Army) and Columbia State Civil Defense. Masters AFB stations Aircraft for both the US Air Force's Strategic Air Command (Bomber, Tanker, Airborne Command Posts, and ABM Aircraft), and Columbia Air National Guard (Fighters/Interceptors and Tankers). Theurer AFS is a Radar and ABM Rocket station operated by both the US Air Force's Tactical Air Command and Columbia Air National Guard, and is vital for defense against enemy bombers and ICBMs. Columbia also has a Smaller Coast Guard Station at Albertson Shipyard, and a Coast Guard Air Station at Greenville International Airport

Japan is the world's second most powerful nation behind the United States. **In the World of the Donoverse**, Japan's economy and pop culture has become as influential as the United States in all but a few aspects. That said, Japan is still a close ally to the United States and still depends heavily on the American Military for national defense. The United States and Japan are the leading members of the Pacific Rim Treaty Organization (RIMPAC), the Asia-Pacific equivalent of NATO. Birth rates are also at stable replacement levels.

The British Empire still remains in effect **in place of our timelines "British Commonwealth"**, albeit mostly in name. The British Royal family (led by King Charles and Queen Diana) still remain the monarchs of the British Commonwealth Realms (E.g. Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.), despite still having little power over the local parliaments de facto (**as in our timeline**). In addition, Australia has taken Saudi Arabia's place as the world's top energy exporter due to growing uranium demands. Likewise, Canada has become a lead exporter of rare earth minerals. Canada has also purchased and annexed Greenland from Denmark, but still leases Thule to the United States.

The European Union never materialized, due mainly to cultural differences. Instead, Europe remains united De Facto by the NATO Alliance (as well as a few free trade agreements and freedom of movement treaties). **Like in our Timeline**, Eastern Europe (i.e. Poland, Czechia, Hungary, Lithuania, Ukraine, Croatia, etc.) had broken away from Soviet domination and turned to western democracy and Capitalism. Many of these former Eastern Bloc countries have joined NATO, as well as Sweden & Finland. However, Ukraine has also joined NATO, **preventing their world's equivalent of our "Russo-Ukrainian War" with the Soviet Union**. Germany was still reunified, but with more gradual re-integration of East Germany into the unified Germany than our timeline (for example, the Palace of the Republic being renovated into a Concert hall and Convention Center instead of being demolished).

Israel is a member state of NATO **in this alternate timeline**. The majority of Arab Countries have now established diplomatic relations with Israel, which has turned over the West Bank back to Jordan (and Gaza to Egypt) in return.

Market reforms in China still happen **like in our timeline**. However, China is not as welcomed back into the global community as in our timeline due to Human rights abuses. As such, China depends mostly on business from the Soviet Union, Iran, and the Third World. Taiwan was rerecognized by the UN as a sovereign state. Likewise, Hong Kong and Macau have become independent nations

South Africa had abolished apartheid but still keeps its old flag (albeit, union jack replaced by the pan african colors) and old region names (e.g Transvaal, Orange Free State, etc). Also, Zaire still exists.

Fossil fuels have largely been phased out **in the world of the Donoverse**. Nuclear Fusion has been perfected and Nuclear Power has now become the main source of electricity for the world. Nuclear power has also become the propulsion source for Civilian Cargo Ships & Submarines, as well as all US Navy vessels. Automobiles now run on either electricity or hydrogen fuel, while the Aforementioned Hydrogen fuel has become the standard fuel for jet powered vehicles;

namely Jet Aircraft, Hovercrafts, Wingships, and turbine powered hovertrains (as opposed to the electric powered MAGLEV Hovertrains). In addition, many smaller homes and buildings come with batteries charged by solar and wind.

In Space, America's Space Station Freedom was placed in orbit in the 1990s, **taking the place of the International Space Station**. That said, an even larger multinational O'Neill Cylinder research space station is being developed in L2 orbit. The British Empire and Japan also have smaller space stations in orbit. However, **much like in our timeline**, the Soviet Mir space station is no longer in orbit. A US-led Multinational coalition has also sent the first astronauts to Mars and back.

Like in our world, the Internet also exists. However, it is used more for commercial and educational purposes **than our timeline**. **Social media and streaming services remain virtually nonexistent**.

The United States of America

Before I get started; I want to first specify that events like 9/11, the Great Recession, and the COVID-19 Pandemic never happened in the world of the donoverse. This is extremely important to note as, I believe, these three are the most important factors to America's decline in the 21st century. Remove these events and 80% to 90% of America's problems in the last 25 years go away. So, In case you wonder why I don't like the 2000s+... well... now you know (outside of personal reasons)

With that out of the way...

In the World of the Donoverse, The United States of America has been locked into a 1980s and early 1990s "Reagan-Era" mindset; Politically, economically, and Socially conservative but culturally liberal and progressive.

In the World of the Donoverse, The "ideal household" is still The Traditional Nuclear Family; a married mom, married dad, and children. Divorce rates are lower than in our timeline due to stronger social support for marriage, more generous family tax incentives, and a stronger cultural expectation of long-term commitment. Family tax credits, state level childcare programs, and a cultural emphasis on parenthood keep birth rates at stable replacement levels. Large

families (3–5 kids) are more common and socially celebrated while the Media often portrays parenthood as aspirational rather than burdensome.

That said, helicopter parenting is nonexistent in the world of the Donoverse. Kids roam around freely, as they did in the 1980s. Neighborhoods are safer, and communities are more tight-knit, reducing parental anxiety while encouraging independence and outdoor play,

Christianity, especially Catholicism experiences a cultural renaissance; once again becoming a mainstream moral and aesthetic influence (architecture, holidays, school systems). Public life includes more visible but non-coercive religious elements—e.g., voluntary prayer in schools, nativity displays, and religiously themed charity events. In addition, Protestant and Catholic communities cooperate more closely than in our timeline, reducing denominational friction.

Modesty has become more lax in the World of the Donoverse than our timeline. Leotards, Bikinis, crop tops, miniskirts, and other similar outfits have become common everyday clothing for women and girls. This Trend Started in the mid 1990s (initially women and girls wearing swimsuits and exercise clothes to public places afterwards) and become normalized and expanded as the 21st century progressed

Economically, The US has changed very little since the 1980s. Low taxes, low regulation, and pro-business policies remain bipartisan norms. Manufacturing was never hollowed out to the same degree; and the U.S. retains a strong industrial base. Inflation stays low due to consistent monetary policy and the middle class remains larger and more stable. The Reagan-era “low taxes” philosophy remains, but loopholes are aggressively eliminated. The wealthy pay proportionally more, but at lower overall rates—creating a fairer system. As a result, income inequality is significantly lower than in our timeline. Small businesses also thrive due to the simplified tax codes.

In the World of the Donoverse, Animation has become a cultural touchstone to America, akin to anime in Japan; Thanks in large part to the Animation Renaissance of the 80s & 90s (similar to our world’s “Disney Renaissance”). Also in this timeline, CGI Animation never caught on and Traditional Animation remains the dominant art form. That said, many Animated films still use some computer graphics to assist in setting & prop design, and CGI has been used in place of Stop Motion for the [small number of] 3D animation productions. Computer Graphics are also still widely used in the [declining] live action TV & Film industries as in our timeline. Home video (now stored on “video drives”) has also become the default way of consuming movies and TV, With theatres becoming more of a special event experience.

Regarding education, most states in the US have switched over to an online-based home education system. Most Children in the US (with the exception of mostly rural or intercity communities) now do their classes and assignments from home. That said, children spend significantly less time at school and more time playing or going out than in the past.

Finally, most US cities have moved away from car oriented suburbs and towards a more condensed “15 minute city” style of urban planning; akin to the cities of Japan