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Activity - **Cold War in Latin America: El Salvador Political Cartoon Analysis**

Background: The Cold War was an ideological, and sometimes military, conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. In general, the Soviet Union supported the expansion of communist governments around the globe, and the United States supported anti-communist regimes, including both democracies and dictatorships. During this time, El Salvador experienced a decade-plus long civil war that was heavily influenced by events of the Cold War.

Objective: Analyze political cartoons to determine the author's point of view.



#1: See the larger image here and detail at the Library of Congress.



#2: See the larger image here and detail at the Library of Congress.



#3: See the larger image here and detail at the Library of Congress.



#4: See the larger image here and detail at the Library of Congress.

All of the cartoons above are used with permission from the Herb Block Foundation.

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Analyzing Political Cartoons - Examine either the pair of cartoons on the left side (#1 & #2) or the right side (#3 & #4) above. Provide your analysis of #1 or #3 below.		
OBSERVE: Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What words do you see? What do you see that looks different than it would in a photograph? What do you see that might be a symbol?	**REFLECT:** What's happening in the cartoon? What was happening when this cartoon was made? Who do you think was the audience for this cartoon? What do you think the cartoonist's opinion on this issue is? What methods does the cartoonist use to persuade?	**QUESTION:** What do you wonder about? Think about… Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Analyzing Political Cartoons - Provide your analysis of #2 or #4 below.		
OBSERVE: Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What words do you see? What do you see that looks different than it would in a photograph? What do you see that might be a symbol?	**REFLECT:** What's happening in the cartoon? What was happening when this cartoon was made? Who do you think was the audience for this cartoon? What do you think the cartoonist's opinion on this issue is? What methods does the cartoonist use to persuade?	**QUESTION:** What do you wonder about? Think about… Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

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Reflection and Further Investigation: Compare the political cartoons, and provide your analysis below.	
After debriefing with a partner, how are the two sets of political cartoons both similar and different?	
Which cartoon do you feel is most effective in communicating its intended message? Explain using references to elements of the cartoon.	
Pick one of the political cartoons above. How might the cartoon be different if it had been created by a cartoonist with a different point of view? Describe which cartoon you chose and what elements you think would change and why.	
All four of these cartoons come from the same author and focus on the same set of circumstances in El Salvador. Provide a one sentence summary of the author's point of view.	

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