

5HD450 Chapters in History of the Cold War

8. Détente period.

9. The end of détente.



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Reasons for détente

- **Less bipolarization**
- **End of Pax Americana** – Western Europe + Japan economically more important, U.S. defeat in Vietnam
- **Economic stagnation in the Soviet Bloc** – USSR focused on inner problems
- **Growing influence and independence of Third World countries** – Oil Crisis of 1973 (OPEC) + Non-Aligned Movement countries



U.S. in Latin America

- **After 1964 U.S. harder stance in Latin American countries**
- **Non-intervention** against dictators if they were friendly to US business interests
- **Intervention** against Communists regardless of their policies (Brazil, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Chile)
- **Johnson Doctrine** – domestic revolution is not a local matter when the aim is to establish communist leadership

More reasons to cooperate

- **NATO weakened** – 1966 France left + began its own nuclear research
- 1968 Czechoslovak Prague Spring – Warsaw Pact countries invasion – Yugoslavia, Romania, China, and Western European communists
- 1968 **Brezhnev Doctrine** – USSR had right to violate the sovereignty of any country attempting to replace Marxism–Leninism with capitalism.
- **Sino–Soviet split culminating 1969**
- **Ping-pong diplomacy**
- **1972 Nixon visited China, met chairman Mao Zedong + Mao visited U.S. wanting to obtain advantage over the USSR**
- **1972 USSR and U.S. nuclear parity**



Détente – peaceful coexistence

- **1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks**
- **SALT I + Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty** – ban on the development of anti-ballistic missiles and nuclear missiles
- **1972–1974 support for increased trade**
- **Ostpolitik of West Germany (Willy Brandt)**
– change in West German approach to East Germany – cooperation instead of fighting



Helsinki Accords

- **Not-binding attempt to improve relations between the Communist bloc and the West**
- Signed by 35 states
- Diplomatic boost for USSR?
- American policy remained the same
- Human Rights Watch
- Principles for foreign relations:
 - Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty
 - Refraining from the threat or use of force
 - Inviolability of frontiers
 - Territorial integrity of states
 - Peaceful settlement of disputes
 - Non-intervention in internal affairs
 - Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief
 - Equal rights and self-determination of peoples
 - Co-operation among states
 - Fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law



The end of détente I

- **Still ongoing indirect conflicts in Middle East, Chile, Ethiopia, and Angola**
- **Beginning of the second Cold War – highly intensive military tension in the late 1970s and early 1980s**
- **1979 unsuccessful attempt at SALT II**
- 1979 Iranian Revolution (Oil Shock of 1979)
- 1979 revolution in Nicaragua backed by the USRR
- **Pro-American leader overthrown in both cases**

The end of détente II

- **1979–1989 Soviet–Afghan War** – USSR supported pro-Soviet unstable government x mujahideens
- New American President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for **tougher stand against the USSR** as “*evil empire*”
- Reagan: “*My idea of American policy toward the Soviet Union is simple, and some would say simplistic. It is this: We win and they lose. What do you think of that?*”
- 1980 U.S. boycott of Summer Olympics in Moscow



Readings & videos

- Documentaries

BBC The Cold War – Détente, Good Guys, Bad Guys, Freeze

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bwcobw2KJ0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28JcfxvdmE>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftYkDAqHJ_M

Cold War History Videos

- <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history/videos>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

- Specialized Resources / Collections / Cold War Files

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>
- <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collections>
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world_politics/cold_war/default.stm
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20080411004848/http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?thisunit=0&fuseaction=events.list>
- <http://www.avclub.com/special/cold-war/timeline>



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