

US History The Cold War - B

Learning Target:

I can observe how the mood of the cold war changed under President Nixon and moved towards detente.

4. Nixon Establishes Détente

Nixon and Realpolitik

- Realpolitik – Foreign policy should be based on considering a nation's power not its philosophy or beliefs
 - Designed by Henry Kissinger and implemented by Nixon
- A departure from strict containment
- Nixon would ignore communist countries that were not powerful
- Nixon would negotiate with communist countries that were powerful

Nixon and China –

- Soviet Union had become bitter enemies with China by 1960
- Nixon saw an opportunity to divide the communist world by improving relations with China (“*the enemy of my enemy is my friend*”)
- Both sides agreed to work together to promote peace in Pacific and US agreed to remove troops from Taiwan and eventually reunite it with the mainland
- China visit gave Nixon leverage in policy with the Soviets

The Moscow Summit –

- USA – Richard Nixon
- USSR – Leonid Brezhnev
- May 1972 the summit occurred only three months after China visit
- Nixon understood that nationalism was stronger than communism
- Used his recent Chinese visit to establish détente

Détente -

- A lessening of military and diplomatic tension

Two Examples of Détente Between the US and USSR –

1. Agreed to promote trade and cooperate on issues of mutual concern.
2. Signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) Treaty – limited the number of intercontinental nuclear missiles each nation could have

- Foreign policy success in China and the USSR helped to reelect Nixon in 1972
- Nixon also promised peace was close in Vietnam (would take 6 more months)