

Objectives

- Explain the thinking behind Richard Nixon's foreign policy.
- Define Nixon's foreign policy toward China and the Soviet Union.



Terms and People

- **Henry Kissinger** – President Nixon's leading advisor on national security and international affairs
- **realpolitik** – the belief that political goals should be defined by concrete national interests instead of abstract ideologies
- **Zhou Enlai** – Premier of China when Nixon made a state visit to China in 1972



Terms and People (continued)

- **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty** – an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union that froze the deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles and limited antiballistic missiles
- **détente** – an easing of Cold War tensions between East and West





How did Richard Nixon change Cold War diplomacy during his presidency?

After the Vietnam War, President Nixon developed a new approach to the Cold War.

He redefined America's relations with the Soviet Union and China.



President Nixon redefined U.S. foreign policy.

- He did not **divide the world** into “us” (democratic countries) and “them” (communist countries).
- He practiced **realpolitik** — foreign policy based on concrete national interests rather than ideology.
- He concluded that there was **no united worldwide communist movement**.



Henry Kissinger was President's Nixon's leading adviser on national security and international affairs.

Together they altered America's Cold War policy, improving the country's relations with China and the Soviet Union.



A political realist, Nixon wanted to establish diplomatic relations with China.

- Diplomatic relations with China would bring **economic opportunities** to the United States.
- An improved relationship with China would **weaken China's ties to the Soviet Union**.

The United States stood to gain much by recognizing China.





China invited a U.S. ping-pong team to play in a tournament.

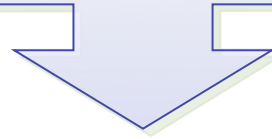
Kissinger used that opportunity to work behind the scenes, talking with Chinese leaders and ironing out sensitive issues.



In February 1972
President Nixon
visited China
and met with
Chinese Premier
Zhou Enlai.



Nixon's visit to China resulted in several benefits to the United States.



- Trade thrived between the U.S. and China.
- American tourists began to visit China.



Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev invited President Nixon to visit Moscow.



In May 1972 Nixon met with Brezhnev in Moscow.

- They signed SALT 1, the **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty**, a major step towards ending the nuclear arms race.
- The two leaders agreed to reduce pollution and undertake a joint U.S.–Soviet space mission.



Nixon's policy of **détente**, the easing of Cold War tensions, replaced the old policy based on suspicions and distrust.

His foreign-policy breakthroughs moved the world closer to the end of the Cold War.



Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

