

Nixon - The influence of Kissinger on US Policies towards the USSR, Latin America and China

Nixon's presidency marked a change in direction for American foreign policy it was much more pragmatic and less driven by ideology.

Latin America

1. Nixon And Kissinger feared America was losing influence in Latin America and so they've befriended and supported authoritarian government's in Latin America. This means that they in effect supported dictatorships. When the Socialist Salvador Allende was elected Chile's president in 1970 they feared that he might:
 - a. encourage other Latin American countries to turn socialist, which is close to communist
 - b. nationalize American owned companies
2. Nixon therefore had to act
 - a. he granted the CIA 10 million dollars to destabilize Allende's government
 - b. He stopped all aid and Influence banks to halt loans to Chile
 - c. he funded Salvador Allende's opponents
3. in 1975 Pinochet and the other right-wing Latin American dictators established Operation Condor. Participating Nations cooperated over political assassinations and the kidnapping and transferring a political refugees to their homeland. The Nixon administration provided important organisational, financial and technological aid. Operation Condor ended in 1983. It had been responsible for around 50000 deaths and much of large-scale torture and thousands of disappeared persons.

USSR

Nixon And Kissinger wanted detente with the Soviets because they thought:

1. Nixon would appear as peace-loving which would help him win the election of 1972
2. It was unrealistic to pursue foreign policy based on an ideology
3. the USSR was increasingly powerful and needed managing
4. Moscow could help Force North Vietnam to make peace
5. the arms race was expensive
6. the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev was responsive he feared China's growing power and sort to stabilize Europe as a result
 - a. during 1971 to 1972 the USA and USSR contributed to decrease tensions over Germany
 - b. the 1972 strategic Arms limitation treaty or salt froze the number of nuclear missiles held by each of the two superpowers.

The Soviet American detente

1. Have stabilized Germany in there by Europe

2. was an important step in a nuclear Arms control
3. assisted the American exit from Vietnam
4. help Nixon's re-election

but American cold Warriors were uneasy and a series of crises soon demonstrated the limitations of detente such as the Arab Israeli war in 1973 which led to increasing tensions between the superpowers

China

Nixon And Kissinger Wanted detente with China for the same reason as they wanted detente with the USSR

1. They wanted china to counterbalance the growing Soviet power
2. they considered it dangerous to keep a potential superpower internationality ostracized
3. when Mao responded favourably because he feared the soviets Nixon relaxed trade restrictions in 1969 and then even visited China in 1972
4. This opens a dialogue with a potentially dangerous enemy
5. it assisted the US exit from Vietnam
6. there are still tensions over Taiwan
7. Mao was disappointed when Nicks and simultaneously pursue detente with the soviets