

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What factors impacted on Sino-American relations, 1949 - 1979?
- Why did détente develop between the USA and China in the 1970s?
- What was China's regional and global impact?
- Why was there a Sino-Soviet split?

STEP 1: [View](#) this PowerPoint on the Sino-Soviet Split

STEP 2: [Watch](#) this video

During the Second World War, the United States had given some aid to the CCP to help it fight against the Japanese. However, most aid went to the GMD. During the civil war that followed the defeat of the Japanese, the USA continued to aid the GMD and following the victory of the CCP, it refused to recognize the People's Republic of China as a legitimate state. Rather they continued their support of Jiang Jieshi and the Chinese Nationalists who had fled to the island of Taiwan. The Americans then ensured that it was Taiwan rather than the PRC that was given a seat on the security council of the United Nations

Several areas of dispute kept relations between the PRC and the USA hostile after 1949: Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Tibet. This only changed at the end of the 1960s.

TIBET

- Mao was determined to establish his control of the peripheral regions of China in what became known as 'reunification campaigns'. These areas - Tibet, Xinjiang, Guangdong and Taiwan - were border regions that were thus vulnerable to foreign influence and so needed to be controlled. Mao was concerned that the Soviets might extend influence into Xinjiang, whose large Muslim population meant that it had a lot in common with other Soviet areas, and the leader of Tibet, the Buddhist Dalai Lama, also represented a threat to Mao's position. In both areas, the importance of religion in all areas of life was also a challenge to communist attempts to order society according to communist principles.
- Chinese troops, without warning or provocation, crossed the Dri Chu river, which has for long been the boundary of Tibetan territory, at a number of places on October 7, 1950. In quick succession, places of strategic importance such as Demar, Kamto, Tunga, Tshame, Rimochegotyu, Yakalo, and Markham, fell to the Chinese. Tibetan frontier garrisons in Kham, which were maintained not with any aggressive design, but as a nominal protective measure, were all wiped out. Communist troops converged in great force from five directions on Chamdo, the capital of Kham, which fell

soon after. Nothing is known of the fate of a minister of the Tibetan Government posted there.

Little is known in the outside world of this sneak invasion. Long after the invasion had taken place, China announced to the world that it had asked its armies to march into Tibet. This unwarranted act of aggression has not only disturbed the peace of Tibet, but it is also in complete disregard of a solemn assurance given by China to the Government of India, and it has created a grave situation in Tibet and may eventually deprive Tibet of its long-cherished independence. We can assure you, Mr. Secretary-General, that Tibet will not go down without a fight, though there is little hope that a nation dedicated to peace will be able to resist the brutal effort of men trained to war, but we understand that the UN has decided to stop aggression whenever it takes place.

The armed invasion of Tibet for the incorporation of Tibet in Communist China through sheer physical force is a clear case of aggression. As long as the people of Tibet are compelled by force to become a part of China against their will and consent, the present invasion of Tibet will be the grossest instance of the violation of the weak by the strong. We, therefore, appeal through you to the nations of the world to intercede on our behalf and restrain Chinese aggression.

TASK:

1. China's aims with regard to Tibet

2. How annexation was accomplished by the Chinese

3. The impact of Chinese actions on Tibet both in the short term and in the longer term

KOREA:

- China's intervention in the Korean War following the US's army push over the 38th parallel into the North, and the resulting three-year war that followed led to open conflict between the USA and the PRC.
- Following the end of the Korean conflict, hostility between the Chinese and Americans became a key factor in international relations. The USA now pledged themselves to the defense of Taiwan. Prior to the war, they had been reluctant to do this but now they were determined to thwart Chinese aims in every sphere and to keep them diplomatically isolated. This

included keeping the PRC out of the UN, instigating a regional containment bloc, SEATO, and instigating a trade embargo with the PRC. The fact that Mao was now less in awe of the power of the USA and, indeed, had increased both his prestige internationally and domestically through standing up to the US in the war further deepened the conflict.

TASK

1. What, according to this extract was the impact of the Korean War on Sino-American relations?

- On the Chinese mainland 600 million people are ruled by the Chinese Communist Party. that party came to power by violence, and. so far, has lived by violence. It retains power not by the will of the Chinese people but by massive, forcible repression. It fought the United Nations in Korea; it supported the Communist War in Indochina; it took Tibet by force It fermented the Communist Huk rebellion in the Philippines and the Communist insurrection in Malaya. it does not disguise its expansionist ambitions. it is bitterly hateful of the United States, which is considers a principal obstacle in the way of its path of conquest. As regards China, we have abstained from any act to encourage the communist regime - morally, politically or materially. Thus, we have not extended diplomatic recognition to the Chinese Communist regime. We have opposed seating in the United Nations. We have not traded with Communist China or sanctioned cultural exchanges with it.

TASK:

1. According to this source, what are the characteristics of the Chinese regime?

2. According to this source, why is China so dangerous?

3. What actions, according to this source, has the US government taken against China?

FOR WHAT REASONS, AND WITH WHAT RESULTS, DID THE SINO-SOVIET SPLIT INFLUENCE THE COLD WAR

Nixon was determined to reduce the political and economic cost of America's longstanding commitment to 'containment' and 'rollback' of communism, which had led to disaster for Johnson in Vietnam and which had created dangerous tensions with China and the USSR.

- He quickly decided, with his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, that a policy of Detente (de-escalation of tension) with the USSR and China would be the centerpiece of his strategy. This would place pressure not just on Vietnam to negotiate, but would also disrupt Sino-Soviet relations and allow the USA to play each one off against the other. In summary, he would play China against the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union against China, and both against North Vietnam – a policy he called 'Triangle Diplomacy'.
- The challenge was to pursue this policy in such a way that didn't create an impression of weakness – which would be dangerous for him politically and for the USA economically. He was aided at the outset by two factors:
- First, he was a renowned and militant anti- Communist. As such, any overtures he made to China and the USSR could not lead to meaningful accusations of being 'soft on communism'
- Second, shortly after coming to power in 1969, the Apollo moon landing had given America a welcome boost in diplomatic terms. Nixon joined approximately 500 million people around the world in watching Armstrong and Aldrin as the astronauts left their lunar landing module and walked on the moon. (The Soviet Union and China, America's two biggest rivals in the space race, banned the broadcast in their respective countries.) After they planted an American flag on the moon's surface, the astronauts spoke directly to President Nixon, who congratulated them on their historic mission. His phone was linked via satellite through the NASA control center in Houston, Texas. In 1972, Nixon approved development of the [Space Shuttle program](#).

Less than a week after the moon landing, Nixon announced "The Nixon Doctrine", which brought forth fruit in state visits to both China and to the USSR.



What is the meaning of this photo?