

YES ... They were talking and coming up with agreements rather than having an arms race .. The 1970's proved a lot more peaceful than the previous 20 years.

HOWEVER, the agreements made were only limited in nature. The USSR would go on to invade Afghanistan in 1979 despite U.S. objections



Detente describes a period in the late 1960's and 1970's when there was a noticeable **IMPROVEMENT IN EAST WEST RELATIONS.**

During this period there were a number of key **TREATIES** signed aimed at limiting nuclear weapons . There were also **TRADE AGREEMENTS**

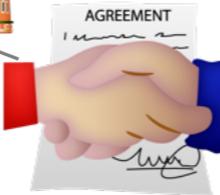


CHINA
 China is actually key to detente taking place
 The USSR and China were both **COMMUNIST**... but they had fallen out by the 1960's for a number of reasons:
 1) China was very suspicious that the USSR was trying to dominate it.
 2) The USSR would not share their **NUCLEAR** secrets with China
 3) The Chinese thought that **THEY** were the true Communists . They believed the Soviets were 'using Communism to gain more power'
 4) They thought the USSR had been too soft on the west particularly in criticising Stalin and in giving in to the Americans over Cuba
IRONICALLY THIS PUSHED THEM TOWARDS BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES!



WAS IT SUCCESSFUL?

WHAT IS DETENTE?



REASONS FOR DETENTE:

USA
 The USA wanted detente for a few reasons:
 1) It believed it had come too close to nuclear war over Cuba in 1962
 2) **VIETNAM** was regarded as unwinnable and the U.S. wanted 'PEACE WITH HONOUR' ? It wanted the Chinese and USSR to help them achieve this by putting pressure on the North Vietnamese.
 3) The USA also saw an opportunity in the breakdown of USSR-CHINA relations. This was a key division of the biggest communist powers that the USA could take advantage of. They aimed to improve the relationship with China ... Thereby putting pressure on the USSR.

DETENTE AGREEMENTS

1972: **SALT 1** This agreed to limit certain types of weapons . **HOWEVER**, many of the most powerful weapons were not included

1975: **HELSINKI AGREEMENT** : the USA accepted 'existing borders in Europe in return for an acceptance of better human rights in the USSR

1979: **SALT 2**: This suggested further reductions in weapons but wasn't passed by Congress after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan



There were also improvements diplomatically. The USSR 'recognised' **WEST GERMANY** for the first time and Cold War tensions reduced in Berlin. The USSR also benefited from imports of grain.

WHAT HAPPENED?



IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND USA deeply worried the USSR.
IRONICALLY this caused the USSR to rethink its relationship with the USA and open up talks with them. This led to several major agreements in the 1970,s especially over missile agreements and trade

IMPROVED CHINESE AMERICAN RELATIONS
 By the late 1960' China and the USA had realised that an improved relationship between their countries could be mutually beneficial.

- 1) they could both have an ally against the USSR who remained a threat to both powers
- 2) The USA could use the Chinese to help them leave Vietnam with honour by putting pressure on the North Vietnamese
- 3) There could be economic and military benefits with the opening of new markets for U.S. goods and the sharing of new military technology.

PRESIDENT NIXON VISITED CHINA IN 1972. The USA had officially ' recognised China' as a country only in the late 1960's. this opened the door for them to enter the United Nations



USSR
 The USSR faced its own problems and also sought detente

- 1) The improving relationship with the USA and China deeply worried the USSR. China was Communist but it was also a big power and right on the borders of the USSR. It aimed to keep China isolated and needed US help to do that.
- 2) The USSR had been involved in a very expensive arms race with the USA. This was very expensive and began to have an economic impact.
- 3) They also realised how close they had come to nuclear war in 1962 over Cuba

