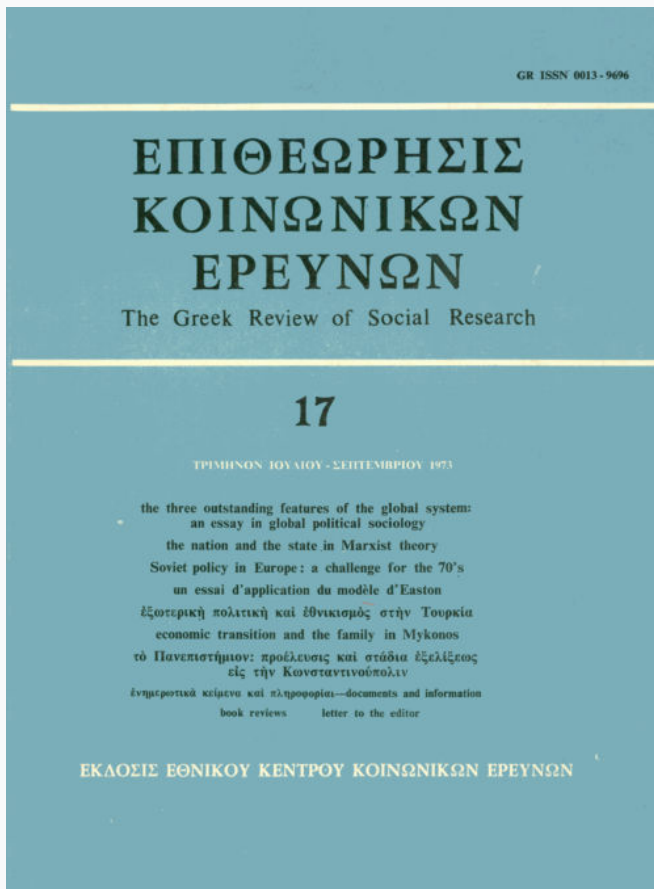


The Greek Review of Social Research

Vol 17 (1973)

17



Soviet policy in Europe: A challenge for the 70's

Paul M. Angelides

doi: [10.12681/grsr.247](https://doi.org/10.12681/grsr.247)

Copyright © 1973, Paul M. Angelides



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

To cite this article:

Angelides, P. M. (1973). Soviet policy in Europe: A challenge for the 70's. *The Greek Review of Social Research*, 17, 91–98. <https://doi.org/10.12681/grsr.247>

Soviet policy in Europe: a challenge for the 70's

by
Paul M. Angelides

*Assistant Professor of Political Science
Rio Grande College, USA*

In this era of detente, 1973 is said to be the year for Europe. The issues of European security and cooperation loom larger as the recent breakthrough in Vietnam, at the SALT Negotiations and the Berlin-Moscow Treaties set the stage for what Mr. Nixon calls «the era of negotiations». Yet optimism that such progress will be repeated in Europe may be premature. There is a tendency in the West—particularly in Washington—to overestimate the prospects for detente and cooperation, and to underestimate or even ignore some of the more subtle dimensions and problems involved. This paper examines these dimensions in the context of the West's position in general, and of US policy toward the Soviet Union in particular, and suggests some alternative views toward a more adequate framework for analysis.

In this era of revolutionary change, an era featuring the closing of the bipolar world order and the new emerging forces that will shape the new one, is the West prepared—politically as well as militarily—to meet the challenges of the 1970's? Will yesterday's adversaries become tomorrow's reluctant but realistic neighbors, or will the «thawing» cold war turn into a «hot» peace? Above all, how adequate are Western, and especially American, views of, and attitudes toward, Soviet external policy and behavior? These are some of the questions examined here. It is beyond the scope of this paper to provide any definitive answers. But the focus may be sharpened, some of the main issues clarified, and a number of tentative conclusions reached.

the Nixon doctrine: the balance of power revisited

As the bipolar structure of the postwar international order «has ended»,¹ US foreign policy is confronted by an emerging world order featuring an increasingly multipolar structure, nuclear parity between the superpowers, and the conviction among the American people that other nations ought «...to share the burden of world leadership».² The new «strategy for peace», whose main task is to seek—in this era in which the Powers «are compelled to coexist»³—to build an order which «...all will work to preserve because all recognize their stake in its

1. *US Foreign Policy for the 1970's: A New Strategy for Peace*. A Report to the Congress by Richard Nixon, February 18, 1970 (Washington: GPO, 1970), p. 2.

2. *US Foreign Policy for the 1970's: The Emerging Structure of Peace*. A Report to the Congress by Richard Nixon, February 9, 1972 (Washington: GPO, 1972), p. 3.

3. Henry Kissinger, quoted in *Nato Review*, XX, 7-8 (July-August 1972), p. 7.

preservation»,¹ is based on three main pillars: strength, partnership with our allies, and continued negotiations with our foes or adversaries.² The superpowers are likely to remain ideological adversaries and to confront each other on a number of still divisive issues, but the new joint interests of «global trusteeship» give rise to a certain «commonality of outlook»³ that encourages a spirit of *Realpolitik*, and restraints or inhibits ideological drive and any apocalyptic visions of world domination. Of course, the chief architects of the Nixon Doctrine do not expect the Soviet Union to suddenly be transformed into a conservative, *status quo*, Power, but the expectation (or hope) is that under the combined weight of domestic and intra-Bloc problems, the responsibilities of maintaining the new «balance», and with the rise to power in the Soviet Union of a new, less revolutionary-minded generation, the Soviets «will more and more forsake ideological blinders», and opt for a more pragmatic policy based on enlightened self-interest.⁴ Indeed Mr. Nixon was far more emphatic on this issue when he declared the passing of the «ideological accessories» of the past: «today», he asserted, «...the 'isms' have lost their vitality».⁵

The stability of the new balance of power will result mainly from a basic consensus among the major actors on the fundamental legitimacy of the system which, as noted earlier, derives from a common interest to preserve it. Here is how Henry Kissinger puts it in the one work that seems to have most inspired the Nixon Doctrine:

Stability... means no more than an international agreement about the nature of workable agreements and about the permissible aims and methods of foreign policy. It implies the acceptance of the... system by all major powers.⁶

The major actors that are to forge together the new pentagonal order include, of course, China, Western Europe and Japan. It is assumed that they, along with the Soviet Union, are willing *and* able to perform the new roles as envisaged by Washington.⁷ But

1. *US Foreign Policy for the 1970's: The Emerging Structure of Peace*, p. 13.

2. Walter F. Hahn, «The Nixon Doctrine: Design and Dilemmas», *Orbis*, XVI (Fall 1972), p. 363.

3. Kissinger, *Op. cit.*, p. 7.

4. Hahn, *Op. cit.*, p. 365.

5. *US Foreign Policy for the 1970's: A New Strategy for Peace*, *Op. cit.*, p. 3. Reference to the ideological elements as «accessories» suggests the view that these were at no time prominent or central to policy-making. It follows from this, that the 'isms' did not have much vitality to lose, which, of course, is historically inaccurate, and especially for the Soviet case.

6. Henry A. Kissinger, *A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace, 1812-22* (Boston, 1957), p. 1.

7. Stanley Hoffmann, «Weighing the Balance of Power», *Foreign Affairs*, 50, 4 (July, 1972), p. 639.

the US redefinition of its allies' commitments in terms of sharing a greater load of the burden of world peace, entails a re-distribution of military and political power which—given the present state of power imbalance between the US and the USSR, on the one hand, and Western Europe, China and Japan, on the other—does not seem forthcoming. For example, the US is very reluctant to promote the creation of a nuclear Europe, and expects continued deterrence credibility of its nuclear «umbrella» despite rising apprehensions in Europe and Japan over increasing popular support in the US for a «lowered profile» in world affairs and even voices for neo-isolationism. There is a lack of clarity in US policy—an ambivalence that is reflected in the contradiction between a desire for disengagement and self-restraint, and the persisting ambition of shaping a system in which its influence predominates.⁸ It is this sort of ambivalence that generates a sense of insecurity among allies, resulting in increasing efforts not to support the new «balance», but instead to seek to accommodate differences with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc.⁹

In the transition from confrontation to negotiation, the twin pillars of strength and partnership are vital,¹⁰ and that means partnership that does not regard US allies as mere pawns or «pieces in...a grand design»,¹¹ but rather entails a relationship between equals. Thus, we are told, any moves toward bilateral negotiations are to be coupled with close consultations with one's allies, as in the case of SALT, the US-Soviet Trade Agreements, etc. But consultations means more than keeping one's allies informed, and no amount of «briefing», however meticulous, will reduce the uncertainty about US policy, and the feeling among Europeans that they were in effect being asked to give their approval to decisions already made in Washington and in Moscow, decisions that are likely to affect them directly and often substantially. And that uncertainty stems not only from Washington's strong emphasis on bilateral ties and its heavy-handed treatment of sensitive issues (e.g. the 1971 monetary crisis), but also from what appears—and Mr. Kissinger's assurances of an «underlying philosophy» to the contrary¹²—as a certain lack

8. *Ibid.*, p. 637.

9. *Ibid.* See also, Michael Mandelbaum and Daniel Yergin, «Balancing the Power», *The Yale Review*, LXII, 3 (March, 1973), pp. 321-31; and Zbigniew Brzezinski, «Half Past Nixon», *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1971), pp. 3-21. This tendency seems to be growing in Western Europe where the lessons of Germany's *Ostpolitik* has left a deep impression.

10. *US Foreign Policy for the 1970's: Building for Peace*. A Report by Richard Nixon to the Congress, February 25, 1971 (Washington, 1971), pp. 30-31.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 25.

12. As quoted in *Nato Review*, *Op. cit.*, p. 6.

of an overall central framework in US policy.¹

The two key premises of the Nixon Doctrine involve the gradual «decline» of Soviet ideology as a determinant of policy, and the related assumption of cumulative progress in consecutive negotiations. In reference to the latter, what may be called the «spill-over», or «linkage» effect,² Mr. Kissinger said in connection with SALT and other issues that by simultaneous action

we have sought to move forward across a broad range of issues so that progress in one area would add momentum to the progress of other areas. We hope that the Soviet Union would acquire a stake in a wide spectrum of negotiations.³

But also implied in the Nixon Doctrine is a necessary *dichotomy* between a policy of *Realpolitik* on the one hand, and ideology, on the other. Yet, the fact, as will be shown later that the Soviets have embarked upon a policy of pragmatic and enlightened self-interest, may change but does not necessarily reduce⁴ or inhibit the role of ideology as a guide to action or general framework for meaning and conceptual orientation. The alleged dichotomy between ideology and *Realpolitik* misses the crucial point in the relationship between ideology and power in a Marxist-Leninist context, a context which in

fact features an ideology of power.⁵ Indeed, as this paper will argue, the changing role of Soviet ideology promises to be *more* functional and assertive—though perhaps more subtle and indirect—in the world of the 1970's. No doubt, recent Soviet emphasis on the politics of power and a business-like tone of behavior, tends to reinforce the view of a declining role for ideology. But it is erroneous to limit the role of ideology merely to a function of a variable dependent on the short-run power interests of an elite in power, a view that ignores the broader framework of ideology's role⁶ in the context of the evolving Soviet system, and world Socialism in general.

the new Soviet 'westpolitik': coexistence and ideology

Soviet foreign policy is in a major transition phase. While seeking to normalize intra-Bloc relations after the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968, Moscow is increasingly confident about relations with the West and its «image» around the world, and is assuming a leading role in shaping the future of Europe and influencing the conduct of world affairs. Such developments as the Bonn-Moscow Treaties and the SALT Agreements, along with the Soviet initiatives⁷ for a pan-European Security Conference (ESC), illustrate

5. R. Judson Mitchell, «The Brezhnev Doctrine and Communist Ideology», *The Review of Politics*, 34, 2 (April, 1972), pp. 190 - 209. In *What is to Be Done?* and *Imperialism*, Lenin makes the important theoretical «break» with classical Marxism, and lays the basis for an ideological framework based on the need for the «vanguard» of the proletariat and thus for power. See Robert Conquest, *V. I. Lenin* (New York, 1972); see also, Louis Althusser, *Pour Marx* (Paris, 1965), for a strong argument on the power- and action-oriented Leninist tradition.

6. Ideology provides meaning, relevance and guideposts to action, all of which are necessary in the making of *choice*, and this is particularly so at a time of rapid socio-political change, complexity and uncertainty about the future. See Henry D. Aiken, in Waxman, *Op. cit.*, pp. 229 - 58; Willard A. Mullins, «On the Concept of Ideology in Political Science», *The American Political Science Review*, LXVI, 2 (June, 1972), pp. 498 - 510; Clifford Geertz, «Ideology as a Cultural System», in D. Apter, ed., *Ideology and Discontent* (New York, 1964), pp. 47 - 76; Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Ideology and Power in the Soviet Union* (New York, 1962); Philip Converse, «The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics», in Apter, *Op. cit.*, pp. 206 - 261; Michael Walzer, «Puritanism as a Revolutionary Ideology», *History and Theory*, 3 (1963), pp. 59 - 90.

7. Formally launched at the Warsaw Pact's Summit in Bucharest in July, 1966, and subsequently re-stated and refined at the April, 1967, Meeting of European Worker's Parties at Karlovy Vary and at the Pact's Summit in Budapest in March, 1969, the proposal for an ESC called for the erection of new security arrangements for the continent to eventually replace the two hostile Blocs. The «common advantages» to all would be reduced tensions and armaments costs, increased East-West trade, and a general «spirit» of detente and co-operation. *Pravda*, March 19, 1969; July 9, 1969; *Jund* 26, 1971. *Isvestia*, April 15, 1970.

1. According to J. Robert Schaezel, veteran diplomat and former US representative to the EEC, America no longer has a «foreign policy strategy» with which to meet the new complexities that demand synthesis and new direction. See, *The New York Times*, Sunday, October 29, 1972. And Brzezinski, too, sees in US policy a lack of a common vision or central framework: «It is here that the Nixon Doctrine is most deficient. It is essentially a negative concept reacting to the excesses of the past... offering little leadership or historical direction». See Brzezinski, *Op. cit.*, p. 13.

2. According to this view or theory, the interrelatedness or «multiple linkages» in US-Soviet relations throughout the world will increase their interdependence, so that action by the US in Vietnam will have a direct impact on Soviet behavior in Berlin. See Brzezinski, *Op. cit.*, p. 467.

3. As quoted in *Nato Review*, *Op. cit.*, p. 8.

4. The decline- or end-of-ideology thesis is based on a very narrow definition which views ideology as being a «distortion» of reality, or as a «... pseudo-systematic formulation of a total vision of the historical world». See Edward Shils, «The End of Ideology?» pp. 49 - 63; and Raymond Aron, «The End of the Ideological Age?», pp. 27 - 48, in Chaim Waxman, ed., *The End of Ideology Debate* (New York, 1968). For a critique of the above based on a view of ideology as a broader, more flexible and more heterogeneous phenomenon that essentially specifies «a set of values that are more or less coherent», seeking «to link patterns of action to the achievement... of a future (or the maintenance) of an existing state of affairs», see Joseph La Palombara, «Decline of Ideology: A Dissent and an Interpretation», in *Ibid.*, pp. 315 - 41. For the classic statement on the need to distinguish between ideology as a distortion of reality, and ideology as a more flexible «utopian» sort, see Karl Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia* (London, 1955).

this new thrust in Moscow's foreign policy. Commenting on the flexibility and sense of sophistication of this policy, one author concludes that the Soviets «...have certainly come a long way from the days of the two-camp theory»,¹ in their approach to Europe, while another, in reference to Moscow's response to the EEC, finds that response to be «...highly flexible», and the ideological elements of the response «carefully calculated and very receptive to new information...».² The 24th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party further illustrates the new emphasis on pragmatism and *Realpolitik*. The overall tone at the Congress was one of moderate caution, guarded optimism and a sense of conservatism.³ On policy statements for Western Europe, the emphasis was on combining a pragmatic «mixture» between bilateral ties with different nations—especially in economic and technological terms, and a new security framework to be realized through an ESC.⁴ To be sure, Soviet long-term objectives have not changed: the demise of NATO and the reduction of American influence in Europe are still top priorities. But instead of confrontation and potential crisis, the new policy aims at more subtle forms of influence; by working with rather than against the prevailing «forces» in Europe,⁵ the influence of the US (and hence the power of the Western Alliance) might be neutralized. Thus the Soviets, «like cautious *rentiers*... propose to act prudently... slowly gathering the rewards of their improving position in the world».⁶

The apparent success of West German *Ostpolitik* could not have been achieved, had not the Soviet Union decided, for a number of domestic, intra-Bloc and external considerations, to pursue its own policy of *Westpolitik* based on detente and coexistence.⁷ It

1. Trond Gilberg, «Soviet Policies in Western Europe», *Current History*, 61, 362 (October, 1971), pp. 198-206.

2. David Forte, «The Response of Soviet Foreign Policy to the Common Market, 1957-63», *Soviet Studies*, XIX, 3 (January, 1968), pp. 373-86. Emphasis added. The EEC, in the Soviet view, is too «rigid» and «exclusive», and the «dollar crisis» of 1971 is evidence that its present close ties, and dependence in, the US is not in the «best interests» of all Europeans; see *Pravda*, June 26, 1971.

3. Adam Ulam, «The 24th Soviet Party Congress», *Current History*, 61, 362 (October, 1971), pp. 222-47; see also, Janis Sapiets, «The 24th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party», *The Russian Review*, 31, 1 (January, 1972), pp. 11-24.

4. Ulam, *Op. cit.*, p. 223.

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*, p. 224.

7. See Lawrence Whetten, *Germany's Ostpolitik* (London, 1971); and, Wolfgang Wagner, «German Ostpolitik and the East-West Realignment», *International Journal*, XXVII, 1 (Winter 1971-2), pp. 18-31. For an excellent account of the historical precedents to Soviet views and policies of coexistence, an argument that views such a policy as deeply-rooted in the early revolutionary period and quite consistent with Lenin's views on external affairs, see Evgeny Chossudovsky, «Genoa Revisited: Russia and Coexistence», *Foreign Affairs*, 50, 3 (April, 1972), pp. 554-77.

appears that Moscow, after a hard re-appraisal of the dangers and bitter fruits of past confrontation (e.g. in Berlin and Cuba) and an assessment of the Chinese challenge and the Czechoslovak crisis, has decided that a more prudent policy was in order, and that «...playing with fire is too dangerous a pastime for grown-up powers».⁸ The need now, it seems, is to limit one's objectives and concentrate energy somewhere; and Moscow's attention may well be focused on Europe, the one area in which the threat or use of force has shown to be ineffective and even counter-productive.

But in pursuit of its policy of coexistence, the Soviet Union is confronted by a serious dilemma: such a policy is reasonable (and increasingly necessary) in view of the realities of the Nuclear Age, and desirable since increases in contact and trade with the West relieve growing domestic pressures for more consumer goods, technological and economic growth, etc.; but the very same policy sets in motion within Soviet society and the Eastern Bloc, liberalizing forces toward 'incipient pluralism' and ideological diffusion that undermine the purpose and unity on the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) and the hegemony of the Soviet Union. Was not Dubcek's «Socialism with a human face» a result of such «openings» to the West and its ways? How, then, is Moscow to coordinate and control such inevitable openings or transactions between East and West, while pursuing its policy of detente and coexistence?⁹ In the current rapprochement with the West, as illustrated by the Warsaw Pact's agenda¹⁰ for a Security Conference, Moscow must anticipate that Bloc member states may seek to pursue their own policy of *Westpolitik*, independently of Soviet dominance.¹¹ Thus in the aftermath of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, growing criticism of the Pact by some member states,¹² reinforced by severe attacks from China,¹³ has resulted in considerable intra-Bloc tensions and re-assertions

8. Wagner, *Op. cit.*, pp. 23-4.

9. This dilemma was clearly evident in Brezhnev's policy statement to the 24th CPSU Congress. See Sapiets, *Op. cit.*, p. 16; and 24th Congress of the CPSU: Documents (Moscow, Novosti Press, 1971).

10. The main items include: (1) establishment of new principles governing relations between states, including the renunciation of force; (2) relations contributing to the free flow of people, ideas and information; and (3) cooperation in the cultural and environmental fields. See, Michael Palmer, «The Prospects for a European Security Conference», *The Atlantic Community Quarterly*, 6, 3 (Fall 1971), pp. 299-300.

11. Robin A. Remington, *The Warsaw Pact* (Cambridge, 1971).

12. Thus far, Rumania has been the outspoken critic.

13. In one of a series of scathing attacks, Peking has branded Soviet proposals for a 'Socialist Community' as «echoes of imperialist ravings», and as «synonyms for colonial empire». *Peking Review*, 13, 17 (April 17, 1970), p. 10, quoted in *Ibid.*, p. 140.

of sovereignty. Ceausescu's direct criticism at the July, 1968, Meeting of the Warsaw Pact—as if in anticipation of the invasion of Czechoslovakia—sent reverberations throughout the Communist world:

When the Warsaw Pact was set up, it was conceived as an instrument of collective defense... not a reason for justifying interference in the internal affairs of other states.¹

Such signs of internal dissent and pressure for more collective decision-making within the Pact are growing,² and Moscow is apparently willing to accept some sharing of power, *provided* internal cohesion is maintained to meet the possible divisive and de-stabilizing effects of detente and coexistence.³ In other words, the Soviet Union is seeking to make the prospects for «openings» to the West *conditional* upon the acceptance by Pact members of the vital priorities, namely internal coherence and a 'united front'. Thus it appears, that more and more the Warsaw Pact is assuming an increasingly important *internal* role of coordination and control,⁴ a role that seems necessary in an era when the 'threat' of former enemies has diminished, and that of new adversaries is not widely seen as urgent or serious.⁵ It is increasingly evident that, despite Moscow's repeated warnings for the need to «prepare» against the new Chinese «threat» to the USSR «...and the other socialist countries»,⁶ many East Europeans do not share Soviet views on the new China; consequently the new «threat» has not been very effective as a binding force within the Warsaw Pact. In this context, the view that the Warsaw Pact is becoming an instrument for military *and* political coordination among European Communist states,⁷ is essentially correct.

The Soviet response to the «paradox» of coexistence and incipient pluralism or liberalism, has been the so-called «Brezhnev Doctrine». Initially advanced

in *Pravda* to support and justify⁸ Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, and subsequently refined and broadened⁹ so as to provide an analysis of (and theoretical basis for) current trends in social development and modernization and the effects of these on the foreign policy of the 'Socialist Commonwealth', the Doctrine has been generally viewed as a reaction to the needs for continued revolutionary dynamism by a Power that must also attend to the demands of superpower status,¹⁰ or as a hasty attempt to justify the Soviet decision to intervene in the affairs of other socialist states on the basis of the concept of «limited sovereignty».¹¹ In both such views, the emphasis is on treating the Brezhnev Doctrine mainly as a function of the short-run power interests of the Soviet elite; ideology is seen as having a derivative function dependent upon power interests and relationships. But such views, which regard Soviet ideology as an «esoteric code» that has been «routinized» and used by the elites to «sell» the system to the masses and re-assure their own legitimacy,¹² ignore the fundamental relationship between ideology and system change or transformation, and miss the long-term ideological implications of the Brezhnev Doctrine and the new interpretations of the problems and prospects of socialist development that it entails.¹³ Ideology does not merely serve to legitimize the functions and protect the power interests of the Soviet elite; it also provides them with operational guidelines and thus shapes their responses to various circumstances. It is, after all, the task of the elite to explain and assess the immediate *and* long-term significance of socialist and capitalist development trends—a process that gives meaning and coherence to foreign policy priorities.¹⁴ It is simply false and misleading to hold that ideology in the Soviet Union—in spite of the effects of bureaucratization and social

8. Sergei Kovalev, «Sovereignty and the International Obligations of Socialist Countries», *Pravda*, September 26, 1968.

9. O. Klestov, «New Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty», *International Affairs* (July, 1970), pp. 11-18; Leonid Brezhnev, «In Defense of Socialism and Peace», *International Affairs* (September, 1968), pp. 1-7.

10. See John S. Reshetar, Jr., *The Soviet Polity* (New York, 1971); Michel Tatu, «L'Invasion de Tchécoslovaquie et la Détente en Europe», in J. Lukaszewski, ed., *Les Démocraties Populaires Après Prague* (Bruges, 1970), pp. 95-106.

11. Ghita Ionescu, «Le Nationalisme en Europe de l'Est», in Lukaszewski, *Op. cit.*, pp. 223-250; T. Davletshin, «Limited Sovereignty», *Bulletin of the Institute for the Study of the USSR*, XVI (August, 1969), pp. 3-9.

12. See Alfred G. Meyer, «The Functions of Ideology in the Soviet Political System», *Soviet Studies*, XVII, 3 (January, 1966), pp. 273-85.

13. Mitchell, *Op. cit.*, p. 191.

14. *Ibid.* See also, R. J. Mitchell, «The Revised 'Two Camps' Doctrine in Soviet Foreign Policy», *Orbis*, XVI, 1 (Spring 1972), p. 23.

1. *Agerpress*, July 15, 1968. Quoted in *Ibid.*, p. 108.

2. Signs of dissent were evident as early as 1966, despite Kosygin's assurances of «unity» and «cohesion». *Pravda*, October 14, 1966.

3. Remington, *Op. cit.*, p. 125; see also, Whetten, *Op. cit.*, p. 40.

4. Remington, *Op. cit.*, p. 125; Karl Birnbaum, *Peace in Europe* (London, 1970), p. 111.

5. The alleged threat of West German «revanchism» and «militarism» is no longer credible, and China seems far removed from the issues and problems confronting most Europeans.

6. Remington, *Op. cit.*, p. 143. Emphasis added.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 109. It may well be, that during periods of relatively prolonged detente, the respective functions of opposing blocs or coalitions tend to be oriented more towards the political rather than the military aspects of policy objectives.

differentiation— has been reduced to «...a mere ritual... almost as removed from actual life and its activities as Sunday sermons».¹ Indeed, it may well be argued that it is precisely at this time of increasing development and social differentiation in the Soviet Union and other socialist states, that ideology may yet play a more important and flexible role² in terms of providing a broad framework for understanding the complex phenomena of today's world, and in integrating the differentiated (and potentially divisive) groups and structures in socialist societies.

The view of the world that emerges from the Brezhnev Doctrine is that of two structurally similar but opposing social systems engaged in a competitive struggle for survival and power. But there is no longer here the determinism of previous Soviet analyses pointing to the inevitable victory for the socialist camp, resulting from the «inherent contradictions of capitalism»;³ Indeed, automatic victory can no longer be assured, as increasing modernization and development have ushered in «difficulties» or «contradictions» in some sectors of the socialist camp (e.g. Czechoslovakia and to some extent Poland), that now make the restoration of capitalism and «bourgeois ideology» possible.⁴ This significant admission of «difficulties» or what may be called «the weakest links of socialism»,⁵ constitutes a major departure from previous doctrine, and is the central theoretical contribution of the Brezhnev Doctrine to contemporary Soviet analysis of social development and the international world order.

1. Meyer, *Op. cit.*, p. 284.

2. For a valuable and much-needed «debate» on Soviet ideology and Sovietology centering on the multiple dimensions and functions of ideology in a changing socio-political context, see J. M. Bochenski, «The Three Components of Communist Ideology», *Studies in Soviet Thought*, 11, 1 (March, 1962), pp. 7-11; David Joravsky, «Soviet Ideology», *Soviet Studies*, XVIII, 1 (July, 1966), pp. 2-19; Rudolf Schlesinger, «More Observations on Ideology», *Soviet Studies*, XIX, 1 (July, 1967), pp. 87-99; Kurt Marko, «Soviet Ideology and Sovietology», *Soviet Studies*, XIX, 4 (April, 1968), pp. 465-481; Robert G. Wesson, «Soviet Ideology: The Necessity of Marxism», *Soviet Studies*, XX (July, 1969), pp. 64-70; Vera Pirozhkova, «The Recent Events in Czechoslovakia and the Fundamentals of Soviet Foreign Policy», *Bulletin of the Institute for the Study of the USSR*, (October, 1968), pp. 5-13; Richard Lowenthal, «Development versus Utopia in Communist Policy», *Survey* (Winter-Spring 1970), pp. 3-27; François Billoux, «Peaceful Coexistence and Ideology», *World Marxist Review*, XV, 1 (January, 1972), pp. 47-56; and Erwin Scharf, «Socialism's Impact on System of International Relations», in *Ibid.*, pp. 57-64.

3. See Marx and Engels, *Selected works*, Vol. 1; Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (New York, 1939), pp. 119-22.

4. *Pravda*, June 8, 1969, p. 3; A. Sovetov, «The Present Stage in the Struggle Between Socialism and Imperialism», *International Affairs* (November, 1968), p. 4.

5. Mitchell, «The Brezhnev Doctrine...», *Op. cit.*, p. 191.

In the Soviet view, the *weakest link* thesis provides both a rationale for collective efforts («in defense» of those socialist states whose level of development make them «ripe» for «revisionism» and even capitalism, and—more importantly a prescription for a state of preparedness throughout the socialist system of states. As emphasized by Brezhnev, that prescription for preserving the integrity and «solidarity» of the socialist camp against «imperialist» attempts of «...seeking out the weak links... and drive wedges between them»,⁶ consists of: intensification of the ideological struggle against «revisionism» and «nonconformity»,⁷ greater coordination, in all fields, of the activities of all socialist countries,⁸ and a strengthening of the role of the party throughout the socialist camp. The message of the new directives was clear: the main threat to socialism lies in spontaneous development and the possible restoration of «bourgeois» ideology. Clearly, the Soviets have «re-discovered» Lenin's warning⁹ that spontaneity in socialist development and modernization inexorably leads to a decline in revolutionary dynamism, and the creation of social roles and structures antithetical to it. As one contemporary disciple of the Leninist tradition puts it, the need is to

act on ideology and transform it into an instrument of deliberate action on history... men's adaptation to their conditions cannot be left to spontaneity, but must be constantly assumed, dominated and controlled—hence the need for ideology.¹⁰

Mere obedience to the forces of history, as Marx would have it, will not do; to prevent ideological diffusion, Brezhnev restores Lenin's emphasis on organizational power, thus drawing attention to the fundamental relationship between ideology and political power. Thus it is dubious and misleading to assert, as the Nixon Doctrine implicitly does, a simple *dichotomy* between ideology and power. As Mitchell points out:

This is precisely the Leninist contribution to the ideology—the insertion of organizational power as a crucial variable into an ideological framework that was developmental, functionalist and teleological.¹¹

Reflecting a continuity with previous policy state-

6. Brezhnev's speech at Warsaw, November 12, 1968. Cited in *Pravda*, November 13, 1968, and quoted in *Ibid.*, p. 193.

7. *Pravda*, June 8, 1969, p. 4.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

9. Lenin, *What is to Be Done?* (New York, 1929), p. 90; see also, Milovan Djilas, *The New Class* (New York, 1957), pp. 39-60.

10. Althusser, *Op. cit.*, pp. 232-35.

11. Mitchell, *Op. cit.*, p. 207.

ments,¹ the above clearly indicate that peaceful coexistence does not extend to the province of ideology. Indeed, under the new conditions of «peaceful competition»,² conditions that now make it possible and desirable to «mobilize» world public opinion and the support of «all European peoples» for Moscow's new «peace offensive» as would be expressed by convening a Security Conference on Europe,³ the prospects are that «... the struggle is now primarily an ideological one, with the outcome open-ended».⁴ For in the communist view, it must be remembered, the concepts of «peace» and «security» have a dual character: while reflecting major tactical steps in a new policy of *Realpolitik* aiming at the prevention of major war and the promotion of enlightened self-interest in the *present* world, they continue to be embodied in a logically coherent vision, world-view or *Weltanschauung* of a world order that is to be in the *future*; thus they suggest properties that are far more broadly political and action-oriented than would be found in their Western counterparts. As one author says flatly, «...the struggle for peace and security is closely intertwined with the struggle for human progress, and a revolutionary remaking of the world».⁵

In the Soviet context, the pursuit of practical matters of enlightened self-interest is not incompatible with intensification of the ideological front; indeed, the two may coexist and even reinforce each other. It may well be, that the Soviets are not prepared to be restricted in their practical behavior by Marxism dogma; but neither are they prepared to give up a familiar guide to understanding and action, and now especially that new departures (and uncertainties) in policy give it a new and active role.

conclusion

After the initial period of skepticism during which the Soviet appeals for an ESC were branded as «mere propaganda» and the proposed agenda viewed as «nebulous and imprecise»,⁶ the US has belatedly and unenthusiastically agreed to hold preparatory talks for an ESC. We shall not comment on the pru-

dence of the continued latent skepticism in Washington and elsewhere; no doubt some caution is necessary, lest an inflated «spirit» of detente creates pressures in the West, which may further undermine its unity and bargaining position if the rising expectations for real peace and detente are not realized. But whatever the virtues of such tactical moves in this era of negotiations, it is becoming increasingly imperative that the West—whether it waits or decides to take up the initiative for European security and cooperation—must speak uniformly and with the same voice. In the continued absence of such unity, which is further compounded by America's ambivalence vis-a-vis Europe and its overemphasis on the military-strategic aspects of security at the neglect of the social-political ones,⁷ the alternative seems to be continued «selective detente»: thus, the West *must* somehow act; but it acts not as a unit, but in its various parts, thus inviting Moscow to achieve, bilaterally and piece-by-piece, some of the main objectives it has been seeking all along multilaterally.⁸ Until the West re-assesses its common goals and purpose, and achieves a common definition of «security» in Europe, it will remain in relative disadvantage vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

Moscow's emerging challenge to the West is not a military or technological one, but essentially a challenge to the *ability* of the West to unify and strengthen its common purpose. It is a subtle and indirect (and thus less apparent or manageable) challenge aimed at the West's ability to look upon and resolve problems within a commonly accepted framework. The possible alternative of the failure to achieve such a framework is well put by Camps:

Increasingly, many problems will have to be looked and acted upon as common ... or the network of existing relationships, both socio-economic and political, will have to be deliberately loosened.⁹

7. As one author puts it, «The slogan *L'Europe se fera en marchant* only makes sense if this Europe gets a better idea about the direction in which it is supposed to march...». See, Gasteyer, *Op. cit.*, p. 156; see also comments by Mr. Brandt's secretary to the effect that the key issue for Nato consists not so much of military security, but of the challenge of political manipulation; cited in *Der Spiegel*, 10 February, 1969. Brandt himself has called for a «New Relationship» between the US and Europe based on military security through the Western Alliance system, and a «true partnership» based on «political interdependence» between the US and Europe. See his «Germany's 'Westpolitik'», *Foreign Affairs*, 50, 3 (April, 1972), pp. 416-426.

8. For the strong tendency in Europe to assume the political initiative while depending on US security guarantees, see Heinrich End, «Political Tensions in the Mediterranean Theatre», *Europa Archiv*, 21 (Fall 1971).

9. Miriam Camps, «European Unification in the Seventies», *International Affairs*, 47, 4 (October, 1971), p. 676; see also Richard N. Cooper, «Economic Interdependence and Foreign Policy in the Seventies», *World Politics*, XXIV, 2 (January, 1972), pp. 159-181.

1. The Central Committee of the CPSU, quoted in *The Current Digest of the Soviet Press*, August 7, 1963, pp. 22-23.

2. T. Timofeyev, «The Role of Social Forces in Action For European Security», *International Affairs*, 2 (February, 1972), 30.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 31.

4. O. Selyaninov, «Proletarian Internationalism and the Socialist state», *International Affairs* (November, 1969), p. 10. See also, Billoux, *Op. cit.*, p. 56.

5. Sh. Sanakoyev, «The Soviet Union's Struggle For Peace and Security of Nations», *International Affairs*, *Op. cit.*, pp. 67-75.

6. William Rogers, «Our Continuing Commitment to Western Europe», *Department of State Bulletin*, December 29, 1969, p. 624.

A mutual problem-solving orientation will first require, that the relevant issues and priorities facing the West are so framed or posed, that they correspond not to some current or popular notion of the «problem» and the *level* of its solution, but to the real dimensions of the problem itself. In other words, there are tendencies—and this is characteristic of the ambivalence in US policy noted earlier—to «push» to the European level certain issues, not on the basis of the appropriate problem-dimensions that such issues raise, but rather on the basis of a set of «images» that the notion of Europe as a weak or powerful actor on the international scene might evoke.¹ Thus in the context of European security, the need for a coordinated Western *Ostpolitik* will not be realized until the NATO Allies—in addition to a common military defense policy—design an appropriate *political* framework of security,² and until the US *political* commitment to Europe is broadened and clarified. There is a serious discrepancy in treating Europe both as a military whole and a set of political parts, a discrepancy that may open up new options for Soviet policy in the area.

In a world of increasing social and economic interdependence, ever-growing patterns of transnational³ (and supranational) phenomena that transcend national boundaries and elude government direction or control, and the obscuring of the boundaries between domestic and external affairs, the very nature of security is taking on added dimensions. Security in today's world entails a complex network

1. *Ibid.*, p. 675.

2. Gasteyer, *Op. cit.*, p. 159.

3. See Robert O. Keohane and Joseph Nye, eds., «Transnational Relations and World Politics», *International Organization*, XXV, 3 (Summer 1971).

of phenomena, involving far more than the military and technological considerations. Reflecting on the sort of policy required to meet the Soviet challenge in Europe, one author perceptibly points out that

there are infinite gradations of the strength which makes it possible to oppose Soviet policies and the weakness which makes it necessary to comply with them.⁴

The new patterns of interaction and forces of change in the relations between nations and within them, reflect the increasing complexity and structural differentiation that are characteristic of our modern era. Herein lies the major task facing the West in the 70's: change and differentiation are an integral part of the processes of growth, development and progress; but differentiated structures—along with important changes in popular attitudes and values—need to be *integrated* and coordinated, lest their divisive tendencies result in fragmentation. In the Soviet Union, a new role for a changing, more flexible and less doctrinaire ideology seems to be designed to meet this task. Is the West as well preoccupied or prepared? The Soviets seem to know the kind of world they want to build—do we? If the West is to move away from the ideological defensive and assume the initiative in building the new world; if it is to unify and re-organize itself for the complex tasks that lie ahead, then it will have to establish a common «image» of that world, the set of priorities required, and the conceptual framework needed to define and view common problems in perspective, and then solve them. If this is not a prescription for some sort of appropriate ideology, it is a call for its functional equivalent.

4. *The Economist*, August 14, 1971, p. 12.

The concept of economic stress may be more useful than that of social disturbance in describing the adjustment process. Economic development implies an opening up of a new range of economic opportunities. Exploitation of these opportunities can imply a breach of traditional social observances and this may be reckoned to have a cost.

David Feldman, *Politics and Change in Developing Countries*