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«Reimagining the Future:
Collaborative Solutions for Global Problems»
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ECONOMIC OUTLINE OF THE DÉTENTE ERA: ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE STUDIES

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The reasons for the close attention that modern researchers are paying to events more than 60 years ago are not only scientific, but also of a purely practical geopolitical and economic nature. Firstly, we are talking about the formation of new contours of polarization in the modern world. Secondly, this process is expectedly accompanied by an increase in the number of armed conflicts in the frontline zones of civilization centers and their active coverage in the media. Thirdly, the political context of most conflicts makes us suspect the indirect participation of "big players", as was the case during the confrontation between the USSR and the USA. The fourth reason consists in renewal of the configuration of "triangular diplomacy" and the China factor, familiar from the times of H. Kissinger and R. Nixon. The fifth covers a latent warming in relations between traditional adversaries and a cooling in relations between traditional allies, similar to the conjuncture fluctuations of the 1970s (especially clearly recorded after the arrival of the Trump administration in the United States). And finally, we should not forget about the economic crisis that befell the world economy then and is engulfing global markets today.

Therefore, there are a sufficient number of analogies between the period of détente in the 1970s and the period of aggravation of international confrontation in the 2020s, which opens up the appropriate space for scientific forecasts and the search for effective solutions. After all, each generation of researchers has ultimately faced the same problem, as expressed by Raymond L. Garthoff in 1982: "...whether the experience of the rise and fall of 'the decade of détente' in American-Soviet relations in the 1970s was a test of the viability of a policy of détente, or simply a unique turn of the wheel of history" [1, p. 6-7].

In such a pragmatic context, working with the English-speaking segment of the historiography of the problem provides significant advantages, as it creates the opportunity to overcome a number of ideological stereotypes. The spectrum is wide: from old Soviet narratives picked up by Russian propaganda to domestically formed notions of the "perestroika" era, which are often a mirror image of outdated ideologies.

And so, détente is a phase of relative geopolitical warming within the framework of the general confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, which unfolded immediately after the end of World War II [2]. The question immediately arises: what forced the American and Soviet administrations to change their foreign policy tactics?

Without a doubt, the problems of the USSR were analyzed primarily on the pages of English-language publications. The imbalance between investments in the military-industrial complex and the production of consumer goods was emphasized, as well as the low efficiency of the collective farm and state farm system against the background of the destabilization of Eastern Europe by attempts at liberal reforms [3].

"From the Soviet perspective, of four crucial areas, the Soviet Union was doing relatively fine in just one. The four essential areas were (I) military, (II) Eastern Europe, (III) Sino-Soviet relation, and (IV) the economy" [4, p.3]. Continuing the idea, the author of the quote, Professor Bronislav L. Slantchev, argued that the unprecedented growth of the USSR's nuclear and conventional power became possible due to the total concentration of all available resources in the

military sector to the detriment of other sectors of the economy and directions of state policy. Thus, the crisis in which the Soviet Union found itself in the early 1970s, unlike the American troubles, was declared structural, that is, one that stemmed from the very flawed nature of the socialist system [4, p.4].

This belief, in one way or another, runs like a red thread through all English-language publications dedicated to the era of détente. However, some doubts about the steadfastness of the US economic positions compared to Soviet troubles arise at the stage of comparing the conclusions regarding the initiators and beneficiaries of détente.

An interesting observation made in this vein belongs to Professor of International History and Politics at the Institute of International and Development Studies, Jussi M. Hanhimäki: "One of the immediate result of the Warsaw Pact intervention was that the planning for a Soviet-American summit had to be aborted at short notice". However, as the author emphasizes, "Disillusionment did not last long. In September Johnson resumed contacts with Ambassador Dobrynin". Ultimately, the historian concluded, the invasion of Czechoslovakia led to nothing more than a revision of strategy and only postponed the signing of future agreements, not canceled them [5]

This conclusion suggests that of the two superpowers, the United States was primarily interested in the negotiations. And since the one who is in a more vulnerable position always seeks reconciliation (even if he manages to hide it), there is a high probability that the economic failures of the Americans (in particular, the dollar default) were as systemic in nature as the miscalculations of their opponents from the socialist camp.

The desire of the "architects of détente" R. Nixon and G. Kissinger to persuade rivals to cooperate precisely in the area where the rivals managed to achieve competitive advantages seems quite justified and characterizes the American president and his advisor as wise and far-sighted politicians. This is, let us recall, about limiting offensive nuclear weapons. However, English-language sources contain virtually no information about real attempts to take advantage of the USSR's "weak spots" in Eastern Europe and in the economic sphere.

Regarding the economy, the discussion here was more about the West's plans to more closely integrate the economies of the socialist bloc into the system of world cooperation and the international division of labor, which in itself is evidence of the stagnation of Western markets [3]. Thus, by the recent analogy with the arms race, one can make the assumption that the economic advantage of the United States and its partners over the Soviet Union and its partners at the beginning of détente was less obvious than it seems today, when we already know about perestroika, the collapse of the USSR, the CMEA and the ATS, and the expansion of the EU and NATO.

In general, English-language studies of the détente period contain indirect but convincing evidence that the world economy of the 1960s and 1970s was experiencing a deep, all-encompassing crisis. The policy of détente in this regard should be considered as the result of the search for adequate ways out of the impasse, carried out simultaneously by both participants in the global confrontation.

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