

From Peaceful Coexistence to Détente

Lessening the Danger of Nuclear War

Raimondo Neironi, University of Rome, Tor Vergata

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Part 1

Background

- Khrushchev encouraged a policy of '**de-Stalinisation**' within the Communist Party and in the Soviet Union itself
- 1) Moving away from the **cult** Stalin had created; 2) returning to the more traditional communist agenda of the **Bolsheviks**
- Khrushchev's '**Secret Speech**', 20th Party Congress
Ending the purges of political opponents and launching a different roads to Socialism
- Furthermore, the 'Secret Speech' allowed a **temporary thaw** in relations between the USSR and the US. Why temporary?

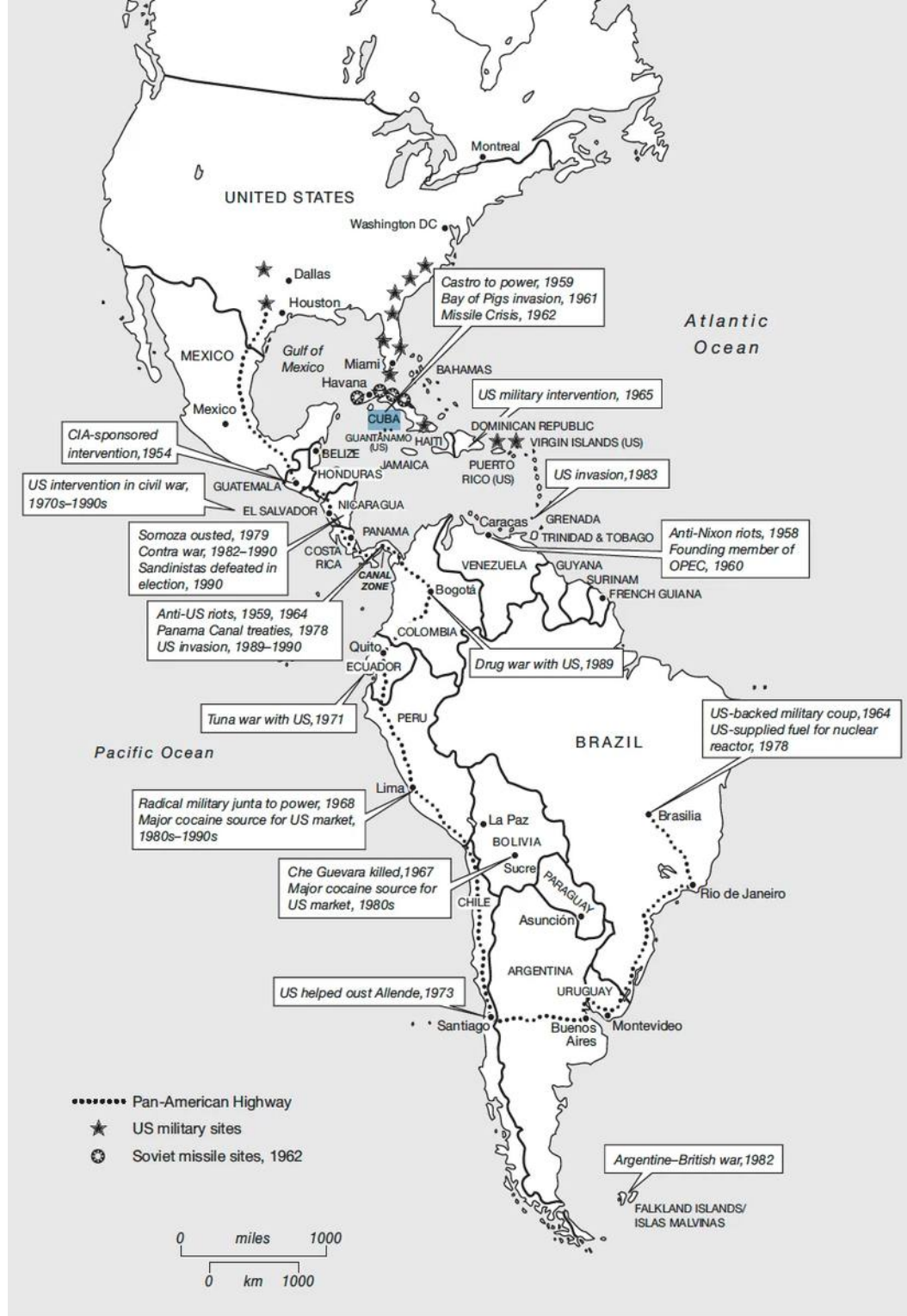
'Peaceful coexistence': the irreconcilable ideological struggle between Socialism and Capitalism **should not** inevitably lead to **an armed conflict**

The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962

- It was the moment when the two Superpowers came closest to **nuclear conflict**
- The US attempted to overthrow the Castro regime in Cuba with **the Bay of Pigs invasion**
- Accordingly, Khrushchev made a secret agreement with Cuban leaders: Moscow placed nuclear missiles on the island to deter a future US invasion
- Cuba under US **naval 'quarantine'** and the deployment of US *Jupiter* missiles in Türkiye
- **Outcome:** "back channel" negotiations and the removal of *Jupiter* missiles in 1963. Moscow, instead, dismantled its missiles from Cuba



The United States and Latin America since 1945



ASEAN: Regional Co-operation at the Periphery

- What is "South-East Asia"?
- The founding fathers of this project: Thailand and Malaya/Malaysia
- Terms of co-operation: economic, technical assistance and cultural. Not a military pact!
- Based on Five Bandung Principles (Pancasila): political self-determination, mutual respect for sovereignty, non aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality
- **Outcome:** anti-Chinese in its purpose



Number of Chinese Overseas in SEA, 2010

Country	Ethnic Chinese (excluding new migrants)	New Chinese Migrants
Thailand	7,513,000	200-300,000
Malaysia	6,541,000	100-150,000
Indonesia	5,000,000	100-120,000
Singapore	2,808,000	500-600,000
Philippines	1,243,000	150-200,000
Myanmar	1,054,000	100,000
Vietnam	990,000	50-100,000
Laos	176,000	10,000 or more
Cambodia	147,000	10,000 or more
Brunei Darussalam	50,000	unknown
Total	25,522,000	1,350,000



The 1970s: Relaxation of Superpowers' Relations

- The thaw occurred between the late 1960s and the late 1970s (specifically, 1968-1979)
- Détente took several forms: **political** relaxation, **economic** co-operation, **arms control**
- **Objective**: Managing the Cold War **in a safer and more controlled manner** so as to minimise the possibility of accidental war. How?
- - 1) Reducing the risks of war through arms control negotiations;
 - 2) Securing Moscow's de facto acceptance of the existing world order (that is, the two blocs)



Two different lists of reasons

Diplomacy at work

Washington

Opening to long-isolated China to
play the two Communist rivals off
against each other

Facilitating an exit strategy in
Indochina

Restraining Moscow's nuclear arms
build-up

Moscow

Confirming the nuclear parity with
the US

Peaceful co-existence with the US
would expand access to US grain and
technology, and facilitation of a
settlement of European problems,
such as Berlin

Counterweighting Beijing



The Sino-Soviet Split

- The demise of the alliance represented the **broken promise** of Marxism
- It was not the first time that the Soviets had fallen out with their allies:
Yugoslavia in 1948
- Three levels of the rift: economic, military, political
- Maoism was anti-imperialist > against USA and USSR
- The USSR and PRC were great powers with divergent **national interests** (Amur-Ussuri clash and Xinjiang). Marxism had nothing to do with the rift



Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Started

- Which **categories** of nuclear weapons the two Superpowers should have negotiated?
- Long-range (ICBMs) or medium-range (MIRVs) missiles? They were both located in Europe
- Talks turned into a treaty: **SALT I Agreements**, 26 May 1972
- **Outcome:**
Frozen the existing number of ICBMs possessed by each signatory, granting the Soviets **a 3-to-2 lead** in the former and a slight edge in the latter.

The US, however, maintained a marked **superiority** in total MIRVs as well as technology

