

The Helsinki Process (1975) and the Great Backlash of 1979

How the World Truly Changed

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From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

The Parallel Process of European Détente

France under De Gaulle

Diplomatic normalisation
with Beijing

Ostpolitik

"New Eastern Policy" under
the Willy Brandt chancellery

The rest of Europe

Italian, German, French, and
British firms invested in and
exported goods to Communist
countries

The Helsinki Process

Conference on Security and
Cooperation in Europe
(CSCE)

From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

The 1975 Helsinki: A Milestone of Europe's Cold War History



It lasted three years, from **1972** to **1975**



Discussions ultimately produced a **35-nation gathering** in Helsinki in July–August 1975, attended also the US and the USSR



The accord comprised three distinct elements, or "**baskets**"



1) The inviolability of existing European **borders** (the Cod War was certified!);

2) The promotion of economic, technological, scientific, and environmental **co-operation**;

3) The recognition of **basic human rights** within nations (The USSR initially opposed)

From Helsinki
to Afghanistan

1979

The Eventful Year
of the Cold War



The Iranian Revolution



The Sino-Vietnamese War



Deng Xiaoping's Visit to the US



The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty



NATO's Dual-Track Decision



The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

From Helsinki
to Afghanistan

A Conservative Revolution

1978-1979



From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

When the "White Revolution" of the Shah Failed



The autocratic regime of **Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi** and the relationship with the West



Ruhollah **Khomeini** lambasted the Shah. During his time in exile, the ayatollah became a proponent of **political Islam** (Shia Islamist+Left)



The Shah's government collapsed in **December 1978**, as nearly a million marched in Teheran demanding the removal of the monarch and the return of Khomeini



Khomeini returned to Teheran in February 1979 and established the **Islamic Republic**. The Iranian revolution offered an alternative way of opposition to "Western modernity"

From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

The Second Oil Shock, March 1979



Like its predecessor, it was associated with events in the Middle East (**Iran**).



Iranian oil output declined by 4.8 million barrels per day (**7 percent** of world production at the time) by January 1979



Paul Volcker, the FED chairman, was an outspoken proponent of using monetary policy to combat rising inflation and stagnation ("**stagflation**")



The US needed a **shock**: two massive, but brief, recessions, to cut spending and force inflation down

From Helsinki
to Afghanistan

Arms Control:
**Cold War
Winter**
Is Coming



From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

The Arms Race Escalated, 1979-1983



In 1977, USSR deployed a new class of intermediate nuclear systems – the **SS-20** – and Tu-22M bombers in Central-Eastern Europe, targeting chiefly West Germany



After seven years of negotiations, Washington and Moscow signed **SALT II (June 1979)**.

It called for numerical limits on missiles, bans on certain missiles, definitions of systems limited by the agreement, and verification provisions



The US proposed to NATO the "**dual track**" decision: modernisation of long-range nuclear forces in Europe and a simultaneous offer of arms control negotiations with Moscow



In **1983**, West Germany agreed to the stationing of the US's intermediate-range nuclear missiles and cruise missiles (**Euromissiles crisis**)

Carter asked the Senate not to consider SALT II. **Why?**

From Helsinki
to Afghanistan

The Soviet Union's Vietnam

1979-1989



From Helsinki

to Afghanistan

By Winter 1979, Détente Was Already Dead



Mohammed Daoud's regime was in the doldrums, especially his Soviet-supported modernisation campaign



Afghan **Islamists** emerged as a movement in opposition to Daoud's reforms in 1973



The **Saur Revolution** occurred in April 1978: Moscow withdrew support to Daoud. As a result, there was a row between the two main factions of the People's Democratic Party (Communist)



The split in Afghan Communism and the **civil war**, 1979

In response, the Soviets set a military intervention to get rid of Amin's faction.

"**Limited**" sovereignty in Central Asia