



As the Americans were in the process of withdrawing from Vietnam, President Richard Nixon set to work to improve relations with the major Communist nations. After completing a trip to Communist China in February of 1972, Nixon then visited the Soviet Union later that same year. The Soviets welcomed the improved relations and while in the Soviet capital of Moscow, President Nixon agreed to sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). This treaty restricted the amount of nuclear weapons a country could produce. For their part, the Soviets were hoping to prevent a Chinese-American alliance but also wished to buy U.S. scientific tools and medical technology. Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev remarked, "There must be room in this world for two great nations with different systems to live together and work together."

1. What is the name for the period of improving relations between the Communist nations and America?
2. What are Soviet leader Brezhnev and American President Nixon holding behind their back?
3. What is the symbolism of the little guy pulling on Nixon's coat?
4. What were two reasons the Soviets so eager to welcome Richard Nixon and sign a treaty with him?
5. What did the SALT Treaty accomplish?
6. How does President Nixon's improving relationship with Communist China in the 1970's affect us today?

Warm-Up

9.13