



# The Myth of Nixon's Opening of China

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# Focus Questions

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Was Nixon's visit to China truly a paradigm shift in Cold War diplomacy?

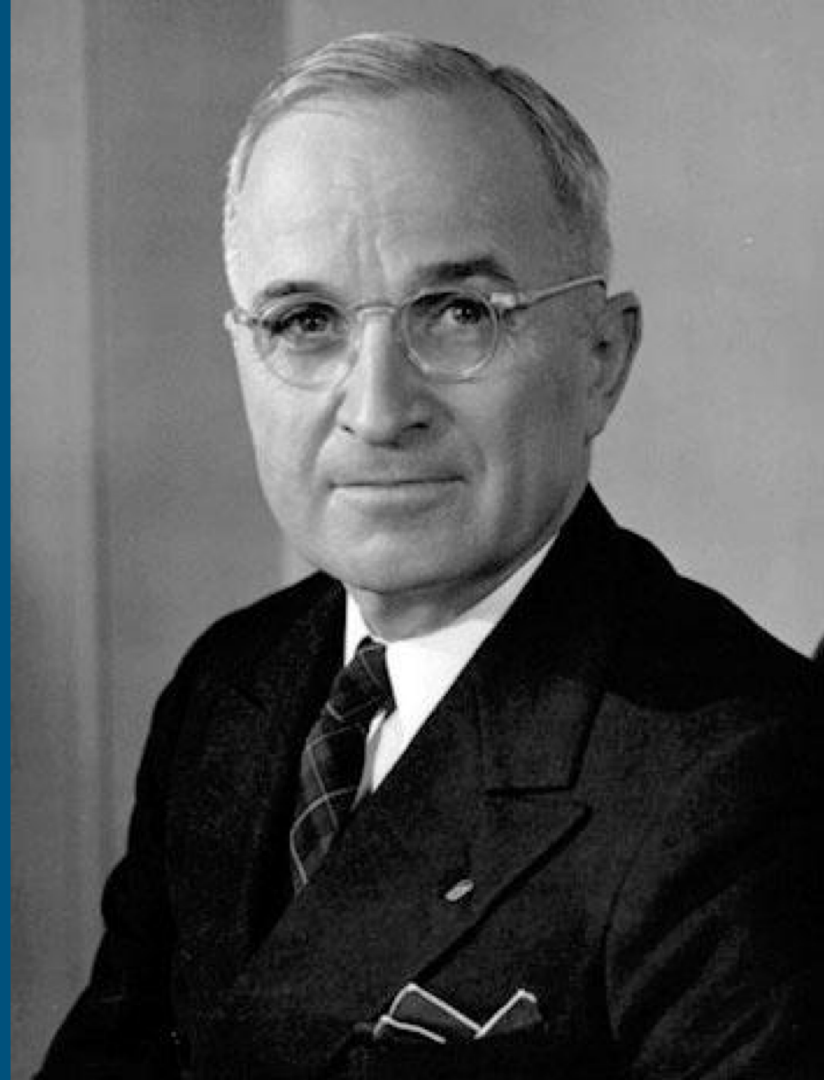
What factors allowed for a visit to China to be tenable during the early 1970s?

How did the backdrop of Cold War international relations during this period affect Nixon's decision to visit China?

# A Changing International Atmosphere

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- Post-war bipolarity
- The Truman Doctrine
- Sources of Soviet Conduct



# A Changing International Atmosphere

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“For twenty years, Wilsonian idealism had enabled American leaders to conduct their global role with missionary vigor. But the America of the late 1960s--stalemated in Indochina and torn by domestic conflict--required a more complex and nuanced definition of its international enterprise...Nixon inherited a society rent by frustration, whose future would depend on its ability to frame attainable long-term goals and to persevere in those goals even in the face of adversity without yielding to self-doubt.”

-Henry Kissinger





# Sino-Soviet Split

Border Clashes in 1969

Implications of the Split

The Myth of Monolithic Communism

Continuation of Containment



# Breakdown of a Myth

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“Taking the long view, we simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations, there to nurture its fantasies, cherish its hates and threaten its neighbors. There is no place on this small planet for a billion of its potentially most able people to live in angry isolation.”

-Richard Nixon, 1967



# Questions?

