

Nixon's "China Initiative" (2)

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This article is the second and final segment of this title: a sequel to the previous article that depicted Washington's turnaround in China Policy, leading up to the July 15, 1971 announcement of President Nixon's visit to China in the early part of the following year.

Again, utilizing the "Nixon Presidential Materials" deposited at the National Archives II at College Park, Maryland (and in the process of being transferred to the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace at Yorba Linda, California), the article attempts to reconstruct the process up to Nixon's China trip in February 1972.

Special attention is paid to the "Japan card" both the US and Chinese sides tried to make use of and Japan's position in the overall US policy during the first term of the Nixon presidency.

Once in China, both sides wrangled over the wording of the joint communiqué to be issued at the end of the schedule, which was going to be known as the "Shanghai Communiqué" of February 29, 1972.

The article concludes that the United States' rapprochement with Communist China and "détente" with the Soviet Union was a continuation of the Cold War with the Soviet Union in disguise, and at the same time an attempt to restore US hegemony, which had been badly shaken by the Vietnam War and the relative decline of the US economy vis-à-vis Germany and Japan.

One of Nixon's hidden purposes of his visits to China and the Soviet Union was to take advantage of his diplomatic exploits to win re-election with a big margin in the presidential election that fall.