

Soviets would be primarily if not exclusively interested in opportunities for expanded trade, technological borrowing, and foreign investment posed by a Western desire to seek economic cooperation with the USSR. Soviet commentary on this aspect of Western behaviour is however relatively sparse, possibly because they do not wish to reveal their interests in this area, and possibly because Western interests have been comparatively sparse as well. With regard to the United States, certain regional and family groupings of finance capital (particularly the Morgan, Ford, Chicago-Cleveland, and Rocky Mountain groupings) have long sought expanded commercial relations with the Soviet Union. This trend in American foreign economic policy arises from a larger view that high levels of military spending, including the maintenance of forces in Europe, serve to stimulate inflation, weaken the balance of payments situation, reduce the competitiveness of American goods on the world market, and generally undermine financial and monetary stability.⁵⁰ Throughout the 'sixties these views remained in the background of American policy, even though the West Europeans were reaping considerable advantages from their growing economic relations with socialist countries. By 1973, however, a "more sober approach" had surfaced in American economic relations with the Soviet Union following the Nixon-Brezhnev talks, the agreements on trade, lend-lease, credits, shipping, and the development of negotiations for the purchase