

over the Versailles settlement. After World War II, when the United States superseded Britain as the world's most powerful capitalist state, this approach led to a policy of stimulating West European nationalism and exploiting European resentment of America's new global power. What was totally lacking in the traditional view of Soviet diplomacy was any suggestion of either the possibility or utility of long-term Soviet cooperation with its most powerful capitalist adversary.

Khrushchev filled this void. It was argued that in the nuclear age the Soviet Union and the United States, as the world's only two super-powers, had a special joint responsibility to avoid a nuclear holocaust and to regulate conflict anywhere in the world. As Khrushchev stated in a speech delivered in Dnepropetrovsk in July 1959:

Our country and the U.S.A. are the two most powerful states in the world. If other countries come to blows, they can still be separated. But if war starts between America and our country, no one else will be able to stop it. It will be a catastrophe on a tremendous scale.<sup>43</sup>

This view was frequently and fervently espoused by Khrushchev, much to the dismay of the Chinese who feared that their own national interests would suffer if Khrushchev's designs for a super-power duopoly were realized.

Secondly, and more significantly, a new view of foreign policy decision-making within the capitalist countries was developed during the Khrushchev years. Stalinist doctrine had held that the foreign policy of a capitalist state was a direct product of the class interests of the ruling bourgeoisie. Because their privileged economic position was automatically threatened by any Soviet success — domestic or foreign — they could not be anything other than irreconcilably hostile to the Soviet Union. The most powerful capitalist state, having the most at stake, would naturally be the Soviet Union's most implacable and dangerous foe.

---

<sup>43</sup> N. S. Khrushchev, *World without Arms, World without Wars*, Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House, n.d., I, p. 557.