

Golikov's statement was quickly picked up and echoed by other Soviet commentators:

Recently in the examination of the problem of peaceful coexistence in various books and pamphlets not infrequently there have been permitted inaccuracies connected with a pacifist treatment of the principle of peaceful coexistence and also with the fact that the entire policy of the U.S.S.R. in the international arena was reduced to only this one principle.⁶²

A Soviet ideologist, V. Egorev, was sharply critical of the tendency of some prominent Soviet scholars in the field of international law to exaggerate and misinterpret the role of peaceful coexistence.⁶³ In a passage which can be read as a broad critique of Khrushchev's emphasis on improved relations with the capitalist world, he stated:

The socialist states strive for a situation where the capitalist countries will have a positive perception of the policy of peaceful coexistence, but they never convert this policy into an end in itself. This would conflict with the principles of proletarian internationalism and would undermine the development of the international working class and National Liberation movement and would weaken the unity of the socialist countries.⁶⁴

Khrushchev and Brezhnev both believed that the United States was entering a period of relative decline compared to the Soviet Union. They were convinced that the Soviet Union's power and international standing were on the rise and that Moscow was on the verge of making major international advances. However, whereas Khrushchev tended to see the growing economic strength of the Soviet Union as being the decisive factor promoting this development, Brezhnev relied on the Soviet Union's military might. An article written by a Soviet military officer which was published in

⁶² V. I. Popov, in a review contained in *Voprosy istorii*, 1966, No. 10, p. 157. Also see *Voprosy istorii KPSS*, 1967, No. 7, pp. 28-29.

⁶³ Egorev, *Mirnoe soshchestvovanie i revoliutsionnyi protsess*, pp. 161-162.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 165.