

At one time, the thesis was in circulation that the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems "is the general line of our country's foreign policy." This was connected with a voluntaristic interpretation of the basic principles of the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. Such an interpretation of these principles contradicted the theoretical foundation and practice of the foreign policy of a socialist state.<sup>59</sup>

Soviet commentators downgraded peaceful coexistence and instead stressed the fundamental importance of the principle of "proletarian internationalism."<sup>60</sup> This principle obligated the Soviet Union to make a determined effort to strengthen the unity of the socialist camp and to render effective support to the forces of Third World revolution.

Under Khrushchev, peaceful coexistence was protected from any and all criticism. Having been repeatedly sanctified by Khrushchev, it was immune to any public questioning, no matter how minor. But this also changed when Brezhnev came to power. The previous line was criticized and Soviet analysts were explicitly warned against overestimating the importance of the principle of peaceful coexistence.

One of Brezhnev's advisers, V. Golikov, published an article in *Kommunist* in December 1965 in which he criticized those Soviet commentators who had suggested that:

... the entire essence and content of politics in the international arena is defined and exhausted by the principle of peaceful coexistence, that by now a single fight for coexistence makes it possible to abolish war and establish eternal peace on earth.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> V. Egorov, *Mirmoe sosushchestvovanie i revoliutsionnyi protsess*, Moscow: Mezhdunarodnye Otnosheniia, 1971, p. 160.

<sup>60</sup> V. Trukhanovskii, *Leninskim vneshnepoliticheskim kursom*, Moscow: Mezhdunarodnye Otnosheniia, 1971, p. 29.

<sup>61</sup> V. Golikov, "Vazhnyi printsip leninskoii vneshnei politiki," *Kommunist*, 1965, No. 18, pp. 98-99; Franklyn Griffiths, *Genoa plus 51: Changing Soviet Objectives in Europe*, Toronto: Canadian Institute of International Affairs, 1973, pp. 63-64.