

ideas into the East. This influence was due mainly to its leadership position in the nonalignment movement.

The beginning of *détente*, however, heralded the end of the influence and efficacy of nonalignment, which was mainly a movement in opposition to the Cold War. As the *détente* process grew, the nonaligned countries found that their notion of themselves as intermediaries in the Cold War struggle — a role that had enhanced the prestige of the nonalignment movement — had been negated by the super-powers. The nonaligned countries were still insisting on the need to abolish blocs even at the time when the two blocs were negotiating over their differences rather than threatening the independence of the nonaligned countries.

The *détente* era signaled the possible end of bloc conflicts over various non-committed areas or countries. Confrontation politics were to be replaced by the politics of negotiation as the super-powers instituted diplomacy by conference. But since the *détente* process was monopolized from the beginning by the super-powers, there was a tendency for them to try to solve all international problems without necessarily communicating with other involved countries. Yugoslavia discovered that the status of smaller countries like itself could be used as part of an agreement rather than as an object of conflict as it had been during the Cold War. The outcome for a small country in such a case, however, could conceivably be the same — domination by a super-power — though by a different method. Furthermore, there were none of the perquisites for the small country that wooing during the Cold War period had provided. Nor was there the influence the country in question might have garnered by keeping both super-powers at arm's length.

The *détente* process thus raised in nonaligned Yugoslavia fears of its position under *détente* conditions. Its leaders became more wary in their pronouncements about *détente*. The Yugoslavs also had very real misgivings about their future if the United States and the Soviet Union should agree on Yugoslavia's position and then consider it a closed subject. On the other hand, Yugoslavia, as a leader of the nonalignment movement and one of the major agitators for Soviet-American negotiations to reduce conflict, could not oppose *détente* as such. Its name was very closely linked to efforts by the nonaligned countries to promote *détente*. Like other small countries, therefore, Yugoslavia began to oppose *détente* as a manifestation of "great-power domination".

*Détente process
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by superpowers*