The Awakening of the Sleeping Giant: How Sino-American Rapprochement Triggered China’s Meteoric Rise and What It Means Today

Bobby Aiyer
Junior Division
Individual Documentary
Process Paper Words: 500
Process Paper

Selection

For this year’s NHD, I chose a topic that I strongly connected with. Having lived in both China and the United States for extended periods of time, I chose to focus on the foundations of the Sino-American relationship. I wanted to place an emphasis on the Shanghai Communiqué and what that meant for the Sino-American relationship. However, after in-depth research, I realized that the Shanghai Communiqué was just the beginning of a series of exchanges, called rapprochement. I decided to widen the spectrum of my topic, explain the history behind normalization, and analyze the present-day impact of Nixon’s encounters.

Research

After finalizing my topic, I read Henry Kissinger’s book “On China” and learned about the details and motivations that led both the U.S. and China to re-establish relations. Then, I used history websites to understand the economic and political scenarios for both during the late 1960s, researched today’s Sino-American relationship, drew conclusions, and created a cause-and-effect timeline. After the State competition, I worked to address the negative aspects of the Sino-American relationship, balancing my documentary. I also contacted numerous experts specializing in the present-day status of Sino-American relations, including Prof. David Lampton of Johns Hopkins University. I conducted a vital interview with him that centered on the “today” of Sino-American encounters and exchanges. I also directly contacted Max Frankel, a journalist on Nixon’s 1972 trip. His comments highlighted the magnitude of Nixon’s Trip to me. My biggest challenge was coordinating an interview with Ms. Elizabeth Knup, a non-profit leader in China. Despite agreeing to conduct an interview, the interview did not occur because we were
not able to find a suitable time. A primary source collection I found valuable was George Washington University’s National Security Archive. There, I discovered declassified internal communications between Kissinger and Nixon during the initial encounters, allowing me to understand and analyze their behind-closed-doors thought process.

**Construction**

Once I could formulate my research into an argument, I started creating an outline for my documentary. Then, I established my storyline, filled it out with detail and converted it into a script. I created a documentary because I believe that I can express my message most powerfully through strong imagery, enhanced by narration. I used Britannica ImageQuest, TED, and many other sources to find multimedia that suited my work. I used Adobe applications to create my documentary.

**Theme**

The Sino-American relationship defines the world we live in today, and its magnitude is astounding. Nixon and Kissinger’s encounters and exchanges with the Chinese, which lead to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China, are the foundation of this monumental relationship. These actions enabled exchanges to be made across a vast ideological chasm. They also proved to unlock China’s tremendous potential and allowed it to emerge out of its politically-turbulent situation to become an integral part of the world economy and world order. What has also emerged from these encounters and exchanges is an interdependent and mutually beneficial Sino-American relationship, unimaginable before Nixon’s crucial actions.
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources


Primary source. On Paul Richards' YouTube channel, I found a video compilation of anti-Vietnam war. I used these clips in my documentary to enhance the visualization of the civil unrest that was created as a result of the lengthy and costly American involvement in the Vietnam War, which was a cause of the re-establishment of Sino-American relations, also known as rapprochement.


Primary source. Five songs from the collection "*Battlecry*" of Thomas Bergersen - *Never Back Down*, *Victory*, *Flight of the Silverbird*, *Star Sky*, and *Rise Above*, released on YouTube under the brand Two Steps From Hell, are used in my documentary as background music. I chose their music because of the intense emotional reactions that it generates, which adds another layer to my presentation, helps me convey the message of my project, and enables viewers to create a riveting emotional connection with my documentary throughout.

---

Primary source. The song Empire of Angels, by Thomas Bergersen, is used in my documentary. I used this song due to its concentrated drama, which helped me make my project’s message more powerful and made my presentation much better-rounded.


Primary source. This is a message from the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai to Henry Kissinger in response to a message conveyed to Pakistani President Yahya Khan in early January. This statement affirms that the Chinese were willing to arrange an encounter between top American and Chinese officials, for the purpose of discussing important matters. The message also highlights the relatively important role that Pakistan, headed by Khan, played in the early stages of the normalization of relations between China and the U.S.; each side would send Pakistan information, and Pakistan would relay that information to their intended recipients. I also used this brief and concise message to obtain a detailed sense of the chronology of Sino-American exchanges before Kissinger's crucial undercover visit to Beijing in July of 1971.

Primary source. This is a scanned copy of a memorandum that Henry Kissinger sent Richard Nixon after Kissinger had completed his secret two day trip to Beijing. I found this source from the National Security Archive of George Washington University, which contains extremely detailed information on numerous American foreign policy maneuvers throughout history. The memorandum contains an in-depth itinerary of Kissinger's trip in the summer of 1971, the topics that the Chinese leadership and him exchanges ideas about, which included key issues such as Taiwan, the Vietnam War, and the United Nations, and how the Chinese behaved and reacted. I used this source frequently when formulating a deeper understanding about the importance of this set of encounters and exchanges, how these encounters were conducted, what was specifically discussed in these exchanges. This source was also extremely critical when I was formulating an understanding of China’s pre-rapprochement position in world affairs, which then allowed me to appreciate the magnitude of Nixon’s diplomacy.


Primary source. *On China*, a book written by diplomat Henry Kissinger, explains the modern-day dynamics of China’s relationship with the rest of the world. The book also does a tremendous job I used this book to gain information about the motivations of China and the U.S. to seek rapprochement, told from the perspective of the diplomat who was the pillar behind the diplomacy: Henry Kissinger. This book was the foundation of my research; I used this book to gain an entry-level understanding of the encounters and exchanges that led up to rapprochement. I have classified this source as a primary source, as this book offered me a historical insight into Kissinger’s China trip told from a first-
person perspective, which was eye-opening and guided me to the next area of my research: Nixon’s China trip.


Primary source. The Joint Communiqué of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China was the first of three communiqués to be issued between the two countries on their road to normalization of diplomatic relations. It was released at the end of Nixon’s China trip in 1972. The document is the culmination of the encounters and exchanges that Chinese and American diplomats were involved in during rapprochement. It is also one of the focal points of my research, and the English version of the document was vital for my understanding of the history of Sino-American relations. I used the document to locate meaningful quotations, draw adequate conclusions as to the meaning of Nixon’s 1972 trip to China, and understand the points of view of the United States after Nixon’s China trip.


Primary source. The Joint Communiqué of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China was the first of three communiqués to be issued between the two countries on their road to normalization of diplomatic relations. It was released at the end of Nixon’s China trip in 1972. The document is the culmination of the encounters and exchanges that Chinese and American diplomats were involved in during rapprochement.
It is also one of the focal points of my research, and the Chinese version of the document was vital for my understanding of the history of Sino-American relations. I used the document to locate meaningful quotations, draw adequate conclusions as to the meaning of Nixon’s 1972 trip to China, and understand the points of view of the People’s Republic of China after Nixon’s China trip. I used both the English and the Chinese versions of the Communiqué to use my bilingual capabilities to my benefit, as I analyzed the Chinese version to prevent any meaning within the Communiqué from being lost in translation.


Primary source. In an interview with NPR in 2007, Ted Koppel recollects his experience during his travels with President Nixon as a member of the press to China during the momentous 1972 trip. I used an excerpt from this interview to quote Mr. Koppel; when he was describing the enormity of Nixon’s China trip, he said “It was like visiting the dark side of the moon.” I felt that this quote perfectly captures the atmosphere of Nixon’s China trip: China was a hermit kingdom, isolated from the Western world with its own problems and challenges. Yet America, led by staunch anti-Communist Nixon, leaped over the boundaries of the Cold War and created a series of encounters between Chinese and American leaders, allowing China to grow into the global superpower it is today.

Primary source. From this YouTube video, I found the song "We Walk On the Great Road", is a song prevalent in China during the Cultural Revolution. I used the music as background music in my documentary. I chose to use music that dates back to the Cultural Revolution period in Chinese history because I felt that this genre of music captured the essence of Chinese society in the 1970s in a unique way, and the inclusion of this type of music would enable me to grab the attention of my audience when I am covering China’s motivations to seek rapprochement in my documentary.

1960s China Cultural Revolution Propaganda Film, Red Guard Destroy Bourgeois Signs.


Primary source. The Kino Library is an online archive of numerous primary source films. From their YouTube channel, I downloaded two primary source Chinese propaganda films dating back to the Cultural Revolution, to illustrate the Cultural Revolution from a unique perspective – inside China – that wasn’t always featured in my research. This source was used to catch the eye of my viewers and allow the ungainly videos from inside the Cultural Revolution to be understood in my documentary.


Primary source. "Asia after Viet Nam" was an essay composed by Richard Nixon in the October of 1967 on the state of American involvement in foreign affairs in Asia after the Vietnam War. In it, there is a quote which I used in my documentary to further emphasize the intentions of Nixon when it came to China. "We simply cannot afford to leave China
forever outside the family of nations, there to nurture its fantasies, cherish its hates and threaten its neighbors. There is no place on this small planet for a billion of its potentially most able people to live in angry isolation. The world is not safe until China changes."

This helped me understand Nixon's strong standpoint to include China within the world’s family of nations, and allowed me to become familiar with Nixon’s background and motivation that led him to seek rapprochement-initiating encounters with the Chinese.

---


Primary source. This is a copy of the first inaugural address of the 37th President of the United States, Richard Nixon. In it there is a quote which I used to explain the diplomatic aims of Nixon during his presidency: "We seek an open world...a world in which no people, great or small, will live in angry isolation." This quote subtly reaffirms Nixon's stance to include the People's Republic of China in the world economy and reinforces Nixon’s intentions to seek rapprochement, as demonstrated by his remarks in his essay in the Foreign Affairs magazine.


Primary source. This file, published onto issuu.com by the Nixon Foundation, is a primary source copy of the Shanghai Communiqué, also known as the Joint Communiqué of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China. I used a screenshot
of this image in my documentary. The importance of the Shanghai Communiqué in my research is explained on pages 4 and 5.


Primary source. This is a black-and-white picture of the 1973 United States Liaison Office to China that was able to find in Marine Embassy Guard Association's database. This picture was used in my documentary.


Primary source. This footage of President Nixon's toast to Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai at the end of Nixon’s first trip to China, uploaded to YouTube by the Richard Nixon Foundation, was used in my documentary. In this toast, Nixon proclaims that “What we do here can change the world.” I chose to show this footage to demonstrate Nixon's wholehearted intent and investment, working toward the normalization of Sino-American affairs, through his encounters and exchanges with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.

Primary source. In this recollection piece written by Edgar Snow in early 1965, the famed journalist recalls his rare interview with the chairman of the People's Republic of China, Mao Zedong. Mao's opinions on China’s military involvement in the Vietnam War were intriguing, and through this article I was able to learn about China’s position and struggles in the Vietnam War. These struggles eventually led to China seeking rapprochement with the United States.


Primary source. The Congressional Research Service is a branch of the Library of Congress with provides members of Congress with nonpartisan research. This report was released regarding the foreign states that the United States are debtors too. I used the numbers from this source to prove that China, as of May 2015, is the United States' No. 1 debtor. This information is important in my conclusion, as it is one of the critical pieces that is able to prove the interdependence of the Sino-American relationship.


Primary source. Not only does the United States Census Bureau conduct decadal censuses, it also compiles data and information about the United States of America. I found the *Trade in Goods with China* report on the Census Bureau's website. It contained monetary data regarding Sino-American trade, which I found useful to include in my research.
Primary source. This video clip, uploaded to YouTube by the USC U.S.-China Institute, is primary source footage of President Nixon's dramatic announcement to the rest of the world on live TV that he would be travelling to China, to seek an encounter with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. This crucial announcement symbolizes a turning point in the world's attitude towards China, and it is a turning point in the normalization of Sino-American relations. Without this announcement, the encounters and exchanges leading up to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States would not have been possible, and this critical announcement was a must-include in my documentary.

Primary source. The World Bank's economic development data is renowned to be reliable and up-to-date. The foreign direct investment data I pulled up was used to prove America's foreign involvement, and therefore dependence, with the Chinese economy, stressing their economic interdependence, and proving the magnitude of their relationship.
Primary source. From the World Trade Organization's Trade Profile Database, I was able to locate the leading trade partners of China, and more importantly find information about the countries which have China as their leading trade partner. I was able to use the wide variety of countries which fall under that profile to prove my point about China being a global trade giant, a global status that would not be possible without Nixon’s rapprochement policies.

Secondary Sources


Secondary source. In this in-depth article published by the Brookings Institution, the potential pitfalls of the Sino-American relationship are introduced. I used the information in this article to further my knowledge of the relationship and make my documentary more balanced through portraying both the positive and negative sides of the relationship thoroughly, as it is important to note that the Sino-American relationship of today is far from perfect.


Secondary source. This article/dissertation/analysis provided me with a detailed look into the anti-Vietnam War movement. While not needing such specifics, this article did allow me to develop a much more thorough understanding of the anti-War movement, and
through it I concluded that it was a factor in the U.S.'s desire to seek rapprochement with China.


Secondary source. Britannica ImageQuest, an online database image collection, was used by me to source the vast majority of the pictures for my documentary. This image collection was critical in sourcing pictures for my documentary, as the variety of the picture selection allowed me to choose the pictures that I felt best suited my documentary and were the most powerful in conveying my message.


Secondary source. Britannica Images is an large online collection of images. I found and used images from this source in my documentary to complement the photographs that I was able to find in Britannica ImageQuest


Secondary source. The National Security Archive is an archive run by George Washington University that specializes in international affairs, as has been previously mentioned. This particular section in the archive that I found talked about US-China
relations during the early 1970s and provided an array primary sources for me, which I will cite individually.


Secondary source. In this lengthy and detailed web page, Daniel J. Castellano, M.D., describes the causes of the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. I used this source to clarify whether or not a connection between the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Sino-U.S. rapprochement could be made. Through my research with this source, I came to the conclusion that while the reestablishment of Sino-American ties impacted the Soviets, it did not lead to the downfall of the republic, which was largely caused by internal economic issues.


Secondary source. In an installment of the *Assignment: China* series, produced by the USC U.S.-China Institute, there is a lot of useful information about Nixon's trip to China, as well as an assortment of interviews conducted by the USC U.S.-China Institute. I used information from this source in my documentary, and it was a very reliable and well-put-together background information source that was informative and useful during my research.

Secondary source. In this prompt-and-answer blog post by the Asia Society Policy Institute, many different journalists that went to China with Nixon recalled their experiences and assessed the importance of Nixon's actions 40 years. These expert opinions allowed me to compare my conclusions in my research to others researching in the same field as I am.


Secondary source. The CIA World Factbook is an online reference source which has detailed information on all the countries and territories in the world, from an overview of the history to population and economical facts. I used the World Factbook to find data on national economies, like the GDPs of China and the United States, to analyze the interdependence and magnitude of the Sino-American relationship.


Secondary source. This webpage details the cultural causes and effects of the Cultural Revolution on the Chinese people. I used this source to provide me with more knowledge on the Cultural Revolution, in order for me to be able to concisely explain the causes and effects of the Cultural Revolution in my presentation.

Secondary source. This article from the Economist magazine focuses on the economic impacts of the Cultural Revolution. I used this article to gain knowledge about the economic impacts of the Cultural Revolution, and I also used statistics and charts from the article in my documentary. This article was particularly informative, as it provided detailed analysis of the impacts of Nixon’s encounters and exchanges with China as well.


Secondary source. Getting balanced yet factual information on my subject was important to my research. This account of the history of Sino-American relations by the embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America enabled me to look at the history of the two nations' relations from a different, non-'Western' perspective.


Secondary source. This excerpt from The Presidents of the United States of America gives me a very concise overview of President Richard Nixon and was republished on the official website of the White House. I used this source to further direct the next stages of
my research and to check for gaps in my research, as well as to fact check my existing information to ensure its accuracy and quality.


Secondary source. In this article on a website run by retired Army sergeant Herbert A. Friedman, Sgm. Friedman lays out the different sides of the Vietnam War, and also provides death tolls of the War. This information was important for me to understand, as the content describing the Vietnam War enabled me to back up my point, that the Vietnam War was a crucial cause for the United States to seek rapprochement with China in the 1970s.


Secondary source. In an analysis piece penned by Chinese research professor Fu Mengzi, the global influence of China is outlined. This article gave me perspective on how China views its own influence on the global stage, giving me balance in my research and allowing me to consider the impacts of Nixon’s encounters and exchanges with China from a different point-of-view.

Secondary source. This article in the Emerging Markets news website analyzes the large of influence the Chinese economy has on the global economy in today's world in-depth. I used statistics and content from the article to emphasize the Chinese influence on our world today, as a part of my conclusion.


Secondary source, This article, produced by CNN, talks about the rapid growth of China over time. It contains many valid arguments. The presence of an article reaffirming my points provides me with another referencing point to back up my argument and gives me depth in my argument.


Secondary source. The Encyclopædia Britannica is a widely known and used reference source. It is a comprehensive encyclopædia which has concise information that is easy to understand. I used the source to gain more knowledge about Henry Kissinger, an important diplomat that was extremely involved in the encounters and exchanges that led to the re-establishment of Sino-American relations.

Secondary source. T History.com is a well-known and trusted online history reference website that contains quick-to-read explanations of a wide variety of history topics. This History.com entry provided me with background knowledge as to how the Cultural Revolution unfolded, Mao Zedong's motivations behind it, and its lasting impact, even up until today. Through the information provided to me in this article, I was able to understand the Cultural Revolution and realize how China’s dire situation would prompt its leaders to seek rapprochement with the United States.


Secondary source. This article explained the "détente" form of diplomacy and how it was implemented between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. It also highlights what kind of a role the strategy of easing tensions had in terms of triangular diplomacy between the aforementioned countries and China. I used it to understand détente and deem whether or not triangular diplomacy was a topic that was worth including in my documentary.


Secondary source. This particular article was on the Watergate scandal, a sequence of events that eventually led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974. Since the Watergate scandal was a huge moment in Nixon's presidency and Nixon's foreign policy is a heavily-featured part of my research, I used this source to get a quick background check on the Watergate scandal.
Secondary source. On the Wikimedia Commons I found a world map with the country borders of 1970. The Wikimedia Commons is an online repository of free-use images, sound, and other media files, as opposed to Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit. I edited this map to become a visual component in my documentary, and did not rely on this map for historical accuracy.


Secondary source. From this article in the Huffington Post, I found valuable pictures from Nixon's 1972 visit to China that I was unable to find anywhere else. Unfortunately, I was unable to find the original source of the aforementioned photographs. These pictures, combined with the rest of my pictures, provided a fitting visual complement to my narration.


Secondary source. In this article in The Globalist, the author uses statistical information and logical deduction to hypothesize about where China would potentially be without the encounters and exchanges between China and the United States that led to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two. The author stresses that Nixon's
trip was made under special circumstances, that his trip's importance was accentuated by the fact that he is the only American president that was in a position to make such a trip, and then highlight's China's economic growth post-Nixon to prove his point convincingly. I gained statistical information from this source, as well as ideas that contributed toward my argument from this source.


Secondary source. This article on the website Voice of America talks about the future of the Sino-American relationship from an American government perspective. I used it to gain information on the points of friction between China and the United States. I am fully aware of the fact that Voice of America is an American government-controlled news outlet, and factored that in when considering the source's information.


Secondary source. Diplomacy by Henry A. Kissinger is arguably one of the most important publications on foreign affairs of all time. Penned by the former Secretary of State himself, the title provides me with background information critical for me to understand what happened in the build up to the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué. It is a secondary source because it contains analysis looking back at the events that occurred that was extremely beneficial to my research.

Secondary source. I conducted a telephone interview with Prof. David M. Lampton of the China Studies Institute at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. A recording of this interview is used to reinforce key ideas in my documentary. This interview also provided guidance related to the interdependence of the Sino-American relationship in my research.


Secondary source. This article in CNN talks about the exchanges between China and the United States regarding the South China Sea. I also used a screenshot of this article's headline in my documentary, to accentuate my point that the Sino-American relationship is far from harmonious.


Secondary source. In this article in Forbes magazine, the author discusses China's aggressive weakening of its currency and addresses potential implications that China's actions might hold. I also used a screenshot of its title as a picture in my documentary, to visually demonstrate in my presentation that the Sino-American relationship is extremely volatile.

Secondary source. This article in the Telegraph focuses on issues that threaten Sino-American peace. As well as using content from the article, I used a screenshot of this article's headline in my documentary to prove that the Sino-American relationship of today, created by Nixon’s encounters and exchanges with China, is far from peaceful.


Secondary source. This video, created by the Richard Nixon Foundation, creates a very brief summary of Pres. Richard Nixon's trip to China in February of 1972. The video, found on YouTube, also contains many primary source video clips containing an array of momentous quotes. Those will be cited separately, as none of the video clips in my final presentation will be retrieved from this source.


Primary source. In this article created by Joseph Nordqvist, the National Power Index is outlined, highlighting and ranking the most powerful nations on Earth. I used the information from this article to back up my argument that today, China is one of the most
powerful countries in the world, and accentuate the point that all of this progress was unachievable before Nixon.


Secondary source. On the government’s official Office of the Historian site, writers give a relatively detailed account of the process of Sino-U.S. rapprochement process. The government does well to outline the motivations for Nixon and Kissinger, but struggle with explaining anything in-depth about the Chinese. I used this resource as a basis for my research, fact-checking it with other sources. I am fully aware of the potential biases present within this article created by the government.


Secondary source. In this article in the Financial Times, I gained ideas about the defining ideas that make the Sino-American relationship imperfect. These ideas were used in my documentary to show the other, less mutually beneficial side of the Sino-American relationship, which added balance to my documentary, which is important to recognize, as the Sino-American relationship of today is far from perfect.

Secondary source. "Richard M. Nixon - the China Card" outlined the successes and, more importantly, the failures of Nixon's diplomatic dialogue with China. While providing myself with another timeline to cross-examine, the final paragraph provided some intriguing insight into the failures of Nixon's diplomatic dialogue, providing me with a vital and vastly different perspective that I considered when composing my documentary.


Secondary source. In this talk given by Kevin Rudd at TED2015 at Vancouver, British Columbia, the former Australian Prime Minister talks about the United States' and China's views on each other, and how they can be resolved. Towards the beginning of his talk, he mentions his reaction when the People's Republic of China was admitted onto the United Nations Security Council, calling it a “huge change”, which prompted me to add that segment into my documentary.


Secondary source. This is an article detailing the impact that the economic slowdown of China in the 4th quarter of 2015 had on the world economy. This article demonstrated to me just how important China is in today’s interconnected and interdependent world as a global player.

Secondary source. On this webpage, Bob Seals talks about the amount of Chinese involvement in the Vietnam War, as well as featuring some interesting quotes of Chinese and American leaders at the time about their views. It is very intriguing and thought-provoking, and provides me with useful knowledge as to how the dynamics of the Chinese-North Vietnamese relationship worked. This article provided me with information that I used to illustrate China involvement in the Vietnam War.


Secondary source. This is a PBS article that describes the Shanghai Communiqué clearly and concisely. It contains valuable details about the negotiations between China and the United States and also explains the role that Taiwan played as a stumbling block in the negotiations. I used this source to gain knowledge about the encounters and exchanges that occurred at the negotiation table between Chinese and American leaders during Nixon’s China trip.


Secondary source. This webpage in The History Learning Site talks about the motivations, happenings, and impact of the Cultural Revolution simply. I used it as a
second double-checking source to be sure in my understanding of the Cultural Revolution and to ensure the historical accuracy of my presentation.


Secondary source. This is a very simple, to-the-point timeline of the major diplomatic exchanges between China and the United States from 1776 to the present day. It provided me with some more overall information about the relationship and provided me with other subtopics to look into, like the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the U.S. Liaison Office in Beijing.


Secondary source. In this article, the links between the Chinese National Ping Pong team’s invitation to the American team during a 1971 competition and the commencement of rapprochement between China and the United States is explored, providing me with one side of the argument on how the visit by the American ping-pong team was a successful PR cover for secret exchanges between the two nations, like Kissinger’s secret trip to Beijing in the summer of 1971.
Secondary source. This article, published by PBS, a renowned educational cooperation, in the Richard Nixon section of their series *American Experience*, provides an in-depth overview of the foreign affairs agenda of Richard Nixon, and how he carried about with those affairs, with particular emphasis being put on Nixon's hardline public anti-communist attitude going against the rapprochement he sought with the Soviet Union and China. I used this article to further create a clear outline of what Nixon's goals were when seeking rapprochement with China in particular, and the importance and lasting impacts of Nixon’s actions.