

Abstract

United States in the 1970's are often seen mainly in connection with the Vietnam War, the normalization of the USSR relationship and the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. At the time, American foreign policy was primarily concerned about the possible spread of the influence of the USSR and the possible emergence of the "second Cuba".

H. Kissinger, R. Nixon, and G. Ford were well aware of the weakening position of US power abroad and the deteriorating domestic economic and political situation. It was part of the constantly prolonging war in Vietnam, the home scene was shaken by Watergate, which led to the resignation of R. Nixon in 1974. The US could not afford to start another military conflict. Their policy therefore took the form of indirect, hidden interventions (with the help of the CIA) and economic support of their allies. They also supplied weapons and provided training to soldiers of those countries whom they considered to be allies.

Support for the Latin-American right-wing regimes was the result of the pragmatic approach of the American politicians I mentioned previously. It was a way to prevent the military intervention in the region, which was increasingly profiled by the anti-American way of thinking. It was based on the belief that the US security interests would be best protected by this support.

This way we can summarize the overall US approach to the region. Looking closer at the political development of the countries surveyed here (Chile and Argentina), it can be seen that the extent and manner of intervention of the US in its further direction differed.

In the case of Chile, the political turn to the left was absolutely distinct. Moreover, his socialist president, Salvador Allende, did not hesitate to show his admiration for F. Castro. This situation had to automatically call the US reaction. In addition, the Chilean President has undeniably disrupted the economic interests of large mining American companies by expropriating copper mines without compensation. From the US point of view he has disturbed its economic and security interests. Salvador Allende was perceived as a great threat. The attempt to overthrow him politically did not work so the Americans decided to support his violent overthrow.

In Argentina, Juan Perón, the charismatic politician, again came to the power in 1973. As a experienced politician he realized he needs to be in good terms with US. In spite of the fact that the trade unions were on his side, he was always more right-wing than the left-wing populist.

If he did not die in Argentina in 1974, the history of Argentina could go a different way. The dictatorship of J.Videal, which came to power in 1976, emerged from the chaotic political situation in Argentina after the death of J.Peron. In this case, the Americans contributed to the coup by contributing to the modernization of the Argentine Army in the 1960s.