The transformation in Sino-US relations in the period 1962-1973, from one of hostility to rapprochement, though in limited areas as of 1973, is one of the major landmarks in the international relations. It is in this period that Chinese foreign policy was also moderated.

We have studied the nature of hostility in early sixties, and the role of various factors that deepened Sino-American hostility. As the process of ending cold war had intensified Sino-American hostility, an attempt has been made to discuss the process and its impact on Sino-American relations. We have discussed how the Sino-Soviet conflict and Soviet-American agreements in early sixties led China and the USA to a hostile course in their relations. The impact of the Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and China's explosion of an atomic device in 1964 have been analysed. However, the most intense phase in Sino-US relations centred on the Vietnam issue, and the nature and degree of hostility, including misperception by each country against another have been covered.

We have discussed how a new phase of relations began with American setbacks in Vietnam. Slowly misperception melted away. The process of rapprochement that started was a long and complex one, and slowly the nature and perspectives of Sino-US relations began to change. We have discussed the various steps in the direction of rapprochement, in particular the impact of the international balance of power on Sino-American relations.

The period 1971-73 saw major developments in Sino-US rapprochement with Nixon's visit to Peking in February 1972 and
with the establishment of liaison offices in 1973. We have discussed the nature and the degree of the Sino-USS rapprochement in this period.

An attempt has been made to take note of the various forces affecting Sino-USS rapprochement; the forces in international balance of power holding the key, while domestic factors in China, including the Cultural Revolution and Lin Piao's fall in September 1971, facilitating the process.

However, in any study of Sino-USS relations, one is constrained by the nature of the Chinese political system and the difficulty of interpreting the processes of decision-making in China, though the problem is somewhat eased by China's actual conduct in foreign affairs.

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