Policy of Containment

Although the United States and the Soviet Union had been fighting as allies for years agianst the invasion of Nazi Germany. However, after the victory of the World War II, because of the intrinsic difference between the doctrines they hold, the alliance eventually broke down and the only two remaining superpowers started to regard each other as antagonist and the enmity was quickly established among nations from East Asia to West Europe.

Under such a circumstance, the United States' think tanks and diplomats tried their best figuring if there was any strategy they could use to stop the surging communism autocracies, and the policy of containment formulated by George Kennan is one of the most important ones.

In his famous publication *The Sources of Soviet Conduct*, Kennan elaborately analyzed the situation Soviet Union was in. As he stated, there was lots of flaws within the Soviet political system. First of all is that, although the communists managed to get the power by revolution, there's actually no general agreement on how this new regime should run the country. What they know is just to nationalization of industry and the expropriation of large private capital holdings.

The conflicts were always hard to reconciliate within the party, as a result, an autocratic system is needed to unify the party and suppress the opponents. In order to justify the deprivation of freedom and necessity of suppression, Russians were always told that remnants of capitalism at home were always preparing the overthrew the regime, claiming that the hostile capitalism nations were dangerous threat agianst communism ideal.

The process of political consolidation has never been completed and the men in the Kremlin have continued to be predominantly absorbed with the struggle to secure and make absolute the power. So the nation is seriouslt rely on the mechanism of mutual promotion of infallibility of the party and its disciplines. Thus, the whole Soviet governmental machine would head to one direction unstoppably once the direction was decided. And when the power needed to be transferred from one leader to another, the process was unstable according to the history, because of which the unity could be fragile, and government paralyzed. When that happens, the strongest empire would collapse in a hurry.

Since, as Kennan said, "soviet power, unlike that of Hitlerite Germany, is neither schematic nor adventuristic. It does not work by fixed plans. It does not take unnecessary risks. Impervious to logic of reason, and it is highly sensitive to logic of force. For this reason it can easily withdraw—and usually does when strong resistance is encountered at any point.", Kennan suggested the Containment Policy. Since the Soviet Union was too strong and too risky to be defeated with military operations, what may be effective to penetrate its flaws is to apply a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies. It's not been done with with threats or blustering or superfluous gestures of outward "toughness", but "rather a question of the degree to which the United States can create among the peoples of the world generally the impression of a country which knows what it wants, which is coping successfully with the problem of its internal life and with the responsibilities of a World Power, and which has a spiritual vitality capable of holding its own among the major ideological currents of the time." And as Kennan predicted, " the aims of Russian Communism must appear sterile and quixotic, the hopes and enthusiasm of Moscow's supporters must wane, and added strain must be imposed on the Kremlin's foreign policies."

Parallel to the Cold War, the Human Right Movement initiated since 1960s is a very important event that restructed the edifice of the society. On the one hand, though the Afraican Americans in the South got there freedom after General Lee surrundered to General Grant in the Civil War, systematic discrimination still existed, any further efforts for equality, as Martin Luther King stated in his letter, would be accused fot stirring up riots. On the other hand, Betty Friedan thought that the well-being of women in the United States is worth concerned, but is not actually paid enough attention to. What's even worse is that, since many women in other nations were still struggling in poverty, they cannot understand the problems American wemen was facing at that time, they cannot feel the void and even envy their life in family.

In both cases, people were facing problems that cannot be directly confronted and solved easily. Just as what was presented above, the whole society is going to create thwart in some extent, and if one wants to violently reach his purpose, even more obstacle, even punishment will be waiting ahead. That's exactly why the strategies of containment would be effective here. For example, for the Afraican Americans who are fighting for equality, they should avoid using violence and riots. Instead, more peaceful methods like giving speeches and organizing parade in order to propagate their ideal, draw more supporters and, of course, behave like model citizens that have the ability to promote the progress of the nation. As time goes by, more and more people will be convinced that their proposal is rational and as a result feel sympathetic to there status quo and make it more easier to pursue equality.

The same is true for the women's well-being. What will lead to the ameliorating of the situation is absolutely not aggressive and hostile confrontation to the whole rest of the whole, or all the latent allies that can help with promoting the process will be driven away. What's important is to communicate, which is the only way that leads to mutual understanding. By containing the growth of prejudice and opponents, these problems can finally been seen, understood and, finally, solved.