

Peaceful Coexistence

Dwight D. Eisenhower



OVERVIEW

The Cold War continued. At a press conference on June 30, 1954, a reporter questioned President Dwight D. Eisenhower about the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Communist and non-Communist nations. Here is part of the president's reply.

GUIDED READING As you read, consider the following questions:

- Does President Eisenhower answer the reporter's question?
 - What does Eisenhower say are the obstacles to peaceful coexistence?
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Question: Mr. President . . . What are the possibilities for peaceful co-existence between Soviet Russia and Communist China, on the one hand, and the non-communist nations on the other?

Eisenhower: Well, of course, that almost called for a very long explanation, and he would try to limit his comments to a very few.

For a long, long time, everybody in the United States had urged that we attempt to reach a proper basis for peaceful co-existence.

We had found, though, an aggressive attitude on the part of the other side that had made such an accomplishment or consummation not easy to reach. In other words, there had to be good faith on both sides.

Moreover, we had to make certain that peaceful co-existence did not mean appeasement in the sense that we were willing to see any nation in the world, against its will, subordinated to an outside nation. . . .

So that he would say that within the limits he had just so briefly alluded to, why, he said the hope of the world would be that kind of an existence, because, certainly, we didn't expect to be eliminated, and certainly, he thought, it would be silly to say you could eliminate the other instantly. We have got to find ways of living together.

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