

1970's Notes

I. Election of 1972

- A. Democrats – Senator George McGovern – South Dakota
Senator Thomas Eagleton – Vice President
It was revealed that Eagleton had received psychological problems - he was replaced with Sargent Shriver as McGovern's running mate.
- B. American Independent Party – George Wallace
Campaigning at a Maryland shopping center, May 15, 1972, he fell victim to an assassination attempt.
Arthur Bremer, 21, was sentenced to 63 years for shooting Wallace and three others.
- C. Republican – Richard M. Nixon – California
Spiro T. Agnew – Vice President
 - 1. Southern Strategy
 - a. Goal was to appeal to the millions of voters who had become disaffected by antiwar protests, black militants, school busing to achieve racial balance and the excesses of the youth counterculture or as Nixon referred to the as "silent majority". Many of them were Democrats, such as southern whites, Catholic ethnics, blue-collar workers and recent suburbanite dismayed by the liberal drift of their party.
 - b. To win the South, the president asked the federal courts in the that region to delay integration plans and busing orders.
 - c. He nominated two southern conservatives to the Supreme court. The Senate refused to confirm them and the courts rejected his request for the delayed integration.
 - d. His strategy played well with southern white voters.
 - e. He authorized Vice President Spiro Agnew to make verbal assaults against both was protesters and the liberal press.
- D. Outcome –
Nixon won by a landslide – 521 electoral votes to McGovern's 17 electoral votes.

II. Economy

- A. Democratic Control of Congress and Nixon and the Republicans were forced to make concessions through moderation and compromise.
- B. Nixon begins to lay the foundation for a shift in conservatism and the Republicans to gains that would challenge and overthrow the Democratic control of Congress in the 1980's and 1990's.
- C. Nixon's Fight with Congress
 - 1. Nixon tried to slow down the growth of Johnson's Great Society programs
 - a. Family Assistance Plan – a reform of the welfare system but it was easily defeated by the Democratic Congress.

The plan was a national standard for welfare designed to reduce the number of recipients and bureaucrats over time. The government would guarantee a minimum annual income to the poor, beginning at \$1,600 for a family of four, and additional funding for food stamps. The individual states would subsidize this income, and able bodied parents were required to seek employment or job training.

- b. Nixon was successful in shifting some of the responsibility for social programs from the federal to the state and local levels.
 - c. This shift was called revenue sharing or New Federalism.
 - d. Congress gave local governments \$30 billion in block grants over a five years to address local needs as they saw fit (instead of specific uses of federal money being controlled by Washington.)
 - e. Goal was to check the federal government and return responsibility to the states where it had rested before the New Deal.
 - f. The attempt to bypass Congress by impounding (not spending) funds appropriated for social programs.
 - g. Democrats protested that such action was an abuse of the executive powers but the courts disagreed. Although he met with much opposition from the National Welfare Rights Organization.
 - 1. They resisted the work requirement for women with school aged children, while community leaders and social workers worried about the elimination of vital services (and perhaps their jobs.
2. Cost of Living Increases
- a. Nixon supported the Democrats in a measure to increase food stamp expenditures, insure better medical care for low income families and provide an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA's) for Social Security recipients to help them keep up with inflation.
 - b. Nixon became the first president since FDR to propose a federal budget with more spending for social services than for national defense.
3. Philadelphia Plan 1969
- a. required construction-trade unions working on federal contracts in Philadelphia to establish "goals and timetables" for hiring of black apprentices.
 - b. This plan was soon extended to all f required thousands of employers to meet hiring quotas or to establish "set asides" for minority sub-contractors.
 - c. The actions of Nixon and the Court opened a broad employment and educational opportunities for minorities and women.
- D. Recession of 1970
- 1. Combating Inflation and Economic slowdown – referred to as stagflation
 - a. Nixon at first tried to cut federal spending – This led to a recession and unemployment.
 - b. He then tried to adopt Kenesian Economic policy of deficit spending in order not to alienated the middle-class and blue collar Americans.
 - c. August 1971 he surprised the nation by imposing a 90 day wage and price freeze.
 - d. He took the dollar off the gold standard, which helped to devalue it relative to foreign currencies.

- e. This in conjunction with a 10% surtax on all imports, improved the U.S. balance of trade with foreign competitors.
- f. 1972 Nixon was also helped by Congress by the approval of automatic increases for Social Security benefits based on the annual rise in the cost of living. This protected Seniors, the poor and the disabled from the worst effects of inflation but also contributed to the budget problems in the future.

E. Nixon at Home on Civil Rights

- 1. Nixon administration fought to block the renewal of the Voting Rights Act.
- 2. Nixon also tried to delay the implementation of court-ordered school desegregation in Mississippi.
- 3. Supreme Court ordered busing of students in 1971 to achieve school desegregation.
- 4. The Nixon administration proposed an anti-busing bill which was blocked in Congress.

III. Nixon and Foreign Policy

A. China and the Soviet Union

- 1. Nixon and Kissinger strengthened the U.S. position in the world by taking advantage of the rivalry between the two Communist giants, China and the Soviet Union.
- 2. The diplomacy was praised for bringing about *Détente* (relaxed tension) – a deliberate reduction of Cold War tension.

B. China

- 1. Nixon took advantage of the fact that he was such an outspoken critic on communism and took the step to improve relations with "Red" China and not be labeled "soft" on Communism.
 - a. After a series of secret negotiations with Chinese leader, Mao Zedong, Nixon astonished the world in February 1972.
 - 1. January and February 1970, American and Chinese ambassadors met in Warsaw, Poland.
 - 2. October 1970, in a first for an American President, Nixon referred to China by its official title, the People's Republic of China.
 - 3. March 1971, the United States government lifted restrictions on travel to China.
 - 4. April 1971, the American table-tennis team accepted a Chinese invitation to visit the mainland, beginning what was called "ping-pong diplomacy."
 - 5. June 1971, the United States ended its 21-year embargo on trade with the People's Republic of China.
 - 6. July 1971, Kissinger and Nixon announced that he planned to visit China the following year. He would be the first United States President ever to travel to that country.
 - b. Nixon traveled to Beijing to meet with Mao.
 - c. These visits initiated diplomatic exchanges that ultimately led to U.S. recognition of the Communist government in 1979.
 - d. The United States agreed to support China's admission to the United Nations.
 - e. It also led to economic and cultural exchanges.

C. Soviet Union

1. Nixon used his new relations with China to put pressure on the Soviets to agree to a treaty limiting anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs). This new technology would have expanded the arms race. Nixon viewed arms control as a vital part of his foreign policy program.
 2. This made way for the first round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I). U. S. diplomats secured Soviet consent to a freeze on the number of ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads to 200 for each power for five years .
 - a. This agreement did not end the arms race, it was a significant step toward reducing Cold War tensions and bringing about *Détente*.
 - b. Improvements in relations with the Soviet Union resulted in the Great Grain Deal of 1972.
 1. a three year arrangement by which the food rich United States agreed to sell the Soviet at least \$750 million worth of wheat, corn and other cereal.
 - c. Nixon's détente diplomacy did de-ice the Cold War.
 - d. By checkmating and co-opting the two great communist powers the president had cleverly set the stage for America's exit from Vietnam.
 3. U. S. still forged ahead with the development of "MIRV's" (Multiple Independently – targeted Re-entry Vehicles)
 - a. designed to overcome any defense by "saturating" it with large numbers of warheads, several to a rocket.
 - b. Soviets proceeded to "MIRV" their own missiles.
 - c. This ratcheted up to a still more perilous plateau.
- D. Middle East
1. October 6, 1973 in the Middle East on Yom Kippur.
 - a. The Syrians and Egyptians launched a surprise attack on Israel in an attempt to recover the lands lost in the Six-Day War of 1967.
 - b. President Nixon ordered the U. S. nuclear forces on alert and airlifted almost \$2 billion in arms to Israel to stem their retreat.
 - c. The tide of the battle quickly shifted in favor of the Israelis, and the war was soon over.
 2. Consequences of U. S. support of Israel
 - a. The Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) placed an embargo on oil sold to Israel's supporters.
 - b. The embargo on oil caused a worldwide oil shortage and long lines at the gas stations in the United States.
 - c. The U. S. economy was now suffering from runaway inflation, the loss of manufacturing jobs, and lower standard of living for blue-collar workers.
 - d. Consumers switched from big American – made cars to smaller, more fuel – efficient Japanese cars, which cost U. S. automobile workers over 225,000 jobs.
 - e. The Oil Embargo finally ended in 1974 after the price of crude oil had quadrupled.
 - f. The U. S. took the lead in forming the International Energy Agency in 1974 to counterweight OPEC and various sectors of the economy.
 1. This was designed to slow and adjust to the growing dependency on energy.

- g. This crisis placed the Middle East on the map larger than ever before of America's strategic interests in the future.
3. Congress response to the Crisis
- a. Enacted a 55 – mile- per – hour speed limit to save gasoline.
 - b. They approved an oil pipeline to be built in Alaska to tap American oil reserves.
 - c. These attempts to bolster the sluggish economy or stem high inflation rates were unsuccessful this trend continued to the end of the decade.

IV. Nixon and the Environment

- A. First Earth Day April 22, 1970 its purpose was to educate people about the ecological problems afflicting the modern world.
 - 1. On earth day Nixon approved an 800 mile Alaskan Pipeline project but later he considered the environment to be a powerful force because it cut across class, racial and political lines.
 - 2. He then began to support environmental issues,
- B. He Banned DDT in the U.S. but not the sale to foreign countries.
- C. Stopped the production of chemical and biological weapons but not plant defoliants or napalm.
- D. Created The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA) both designed to oversee environmental issues.
- E. Passed the Clear Air Act in 1970 which set up strict national guidelines for the reduction of automobile and factory emissions with fines and jail sentences for polluters.
- F. Passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 to protect rare plants and animals from extinction.
- G. Over the president's veto, congress passed the Water pollution Control Act in 1972 mandating \$25 billion for the clean up of America's neglected lakes and rivers. It proved to be effective in bringing back polluted waters back to life.

V. Burger Court.

- A. Earl Warren steps down as Chief Justice - Labeled as "too soft" of Crime
 - 1. Nixon takes opportunity to replace liberal court with more conservative justices.
 - 2. Court proved to be more independent than most people including Nixon ever believed.
 - a. Upheld publications of the Pentagon Papers New York Times V. United States, 1971 –Noted the government must prove that publication would harm the nation's national security. The decision limited "prior restraint" of the press.
 - b. Struck down capricious laws (laws characterized by or subjected to a whim) imposing the death penalty for rape and murder. Therefor halting the death penalty for almost two decades.
 - c. Ruled against the President when he claimed executive privilege in the Watergate scandals.

- d. *Furman v. Georgia* 1972 – halted the death penalty for capricious laws in rape and murder cases.
- e. *Roe v. Wade* 1973 – held that state laws prohibiting abortion were unconstitutional because they violated a woman’s “right to privacy” under the fourteenth Amendment.
- f. *Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education* 1971 – forced busing could be used as legal remedies to achieve racial balance.
- f. *Griggs v. Duke Power Company* 1971 – prohibited intelligence tests or other devices that had excluding minorities or women from certain jobs.
- g. *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, 1978 – (14th Amendment and affirmative Action program in medical school at U. C. Davis- The court ruled narrowly, requiring Bakke’s admission but not overturning affirmative action preferring to review such questions on a case-by case basis.
- h. *United States v. Nixon*, 1974 – The case was regarding Nixon’s claim to Executive Privilege of the release of the White House tapes. The Court overruled Nixon and ordered him to surrender the tapes. Limiting executive privilege, it ruled that the President’s “generalized interest in confidentiality” was subordinate to the “fundamental demands of due process of the law in the fair administration of criminal justice.” The tapes implicated Nixon in the cover-up and led to his resignation.

VI. Watergate Scandal

- A. Burglary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC)
 - 1. Proposed by G. Gordon Liddy and set up by Nixon and John Erlichman a Nixon aide.
 - 2. Plan was funded by vast pool of campaign money pouring into Nixon’s re-election campaign.
 - 3. It was set up to discredit and destroy many of Nixon’s political opponents.
 - 4. Liddy’s plan included the disruption of the 1972 Democratic convention, entrap delegates with prostitutes, spy on Democratic candidates, and the bugging of Democratic campaign communication.
 - 5. The plan was originally rejected by Attorney General John Mitchell. Mitchell later became Nixon’s 1972 campaign manager.
 - 6. Mitchell later approved a toned down plan to bug the DNC and Democratic candidate George McGovern’s campaign headquarters.
 - 7. Liddy was not arrested because several of “the Plumbers observed the burglary from a nearby hotel room.
 - a. 5 arrested the night of the break – in. James W. McCord Jr. the director of security of the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP), and 4 anti-Castro Cuban with CIA connections who were recruited for the job, Bernard Barker, Virgilio Gonzales, the group of locksmiths; Frank Sturgis and Eugenio R. Martinez.
- B. Letters on White House Stationery addressed to the editors of the Washington Post, “Lay off or else!” The purpose was to intimidate the Post so they would not pursue the Watergate story.
 - 1. September 15, 1972 came the indictments of Liddy, Howard Hunt (another Plumber) and the 5 burglars.

- a. The President and his advisers were relieved that no one else was charged and now they were off the hook as long as no one pressed the investigation
2. Nixon's Fatal Act of Revenge
 - a. The night before the jury indictment Nixon and his advisor Charles Colson discussed plans to retaliate against the Washington Post because they believed the Post was responsible for the scandal.
3. Shortly after Howard Hunt's arrest, to save himself, he blackmailed CREEP officials by telling them he could produce information that could impeach the president.
 - a. He wanted money and a promise of Presidential Clemency.
 - b. Colson assured him on both counts.
 - c. Hunt agreed to plead guilty - he would "take the fall" for Nixon. He would tell the press he knew of no involvement of the higher ups.
4. Nonetheless, within a month after Hunt and Liddy were indicted the Post reported that the burglary was part of a massive campaign of political spying and sabotage. It was directed by official of the White House and members of CREEP.
 - a. White House called the reports a pack of senseless lies.
 - b. Two months later a plane crash killed Mrs. E. Howard Hunt and 29 others.
 - c. Investigation found \$10,000 in Mrs. Hunts purse that was later confirmed to be "hush money".

- C. Fall of 1972 – all hopes of the scandal disappearing from public view faded away
1. Senate received unanimous backing for a resolution to select a committee to conduct televised hearings on Watergate.
 2. March 23, 1973 – before the hearings began, Judge John Sirica received a confessional letter from burglar James McCord – in the letter claimed he was pressured to maintain his silence.
 3. After Sirica sentenced Liddy, Hunt, and the Cuban Burglars he made it clear, stiff sentences were provisional and that men could reduce prison time if they helped identify others involved in the crime.
 4. March 26, 1973 – response to McCord Letter
 - a. Grand jury that indicted the burglars, met again to hear new charges.
 - b. 2 Days later McCord revealed that John Mitchell, John Dean, Charles Colson and Jeb Magruder (Mitchell's top aide) knew about the break-in before it happened.
 - c. Patrick Gray, the acting director of the FBI resigned after admitting he destroyed the Watergate evidence.
 5. March 1973 – When John Dean was sure the cover-up was falling apart
 - a. He decided to hire a criminal lawyer and testify to the Senate Watergate Committee revealing Nixon's role in the Watergate cover-up.

D. White House Tapes

1. Nixon States his innocence – Late 1973 – asserts on TV "I am not a crook"
 - a. Gaps, erasures and the material heard on the tape suggests otherwise.
 - b. Presidents language was vulgar and there were ethnic insults.

- c. Erasure account left the nation still wondering what happened in the missing tape.
 2. Alexander Haig replaced H. R. Haldeman as Nixon's Chief of Staff blamed the tape erasures on a "sinister force" at work in the White House.
 3. Ron Jaworski and others suspected that Nixon was responsible but the President denied it and no one has ever admitted to the erasures.
- E. The Smoking Gun
1. The tapes reveal in a conversation between Nixon and H. R. Haldeman on June 23, 1972, 6 days after the break-in about getting the CIA to slow down the FBI's investigation of the break-in.
 - a. This disproves his claim he knew nothing about his aides plan to cover up re-election committees involvement in Watergate until March 1973. This was when Dean explained everything.
 2. Tape also revealed that Nixon had been trying to interfere in the FBI's investigation of Watergate.
 3. Nixon claimed he wanted the CIA to intervene to protect National Security.
 - a. The tapes actually revealed he was really trying to keep secret his aides involvement in the break-in.
- F. After the Election of 1972
1. Nixon's hardball politics saw opponents or detractors as enemies.
 2. Despite his accomplishments of his first term and overwhelming victory in 1972, Nixon and his advisors became increasingly paranoid about his political opponents.
 3. Because of the growing dissent over continued U.S. involvement in Vietnam, Nixon became particularly disturbed about government leaks to the press. Especially on the Pentagon Papers.
 4. End result was Nixon and his advisors set out to punish the President's long list of real and imagined political enemies.
- G. Nixon is forced to resign over Watergate
1. April 1974, Nixon released edited transcripts of the White House tapes, the contents led to further calls for his resignation.
 2. Jaworski subpoenaed 64 additional tapes, which Nixon refuses to turn over based on "Executive Privilege".
 3. Failing to obey the committee's subpoenas and the case went to the Supreme Court.
 4. Meanwhile the House Judiciary Committee televised its debate over impeachment adopting three articles of impeachment.
 5. It charged the president with obstructing justice, misusing presidential powers, and failing to obey the committee's subpoenas (Contempt of Congress).
 6. Before the House began to debate impeachment, the Supreme Court ordered the president to release the subpoenaed tapes to the special prosecutor.
 7. June 23, 1972, pressure from his advisors, made the tapes public.
 8. Further discrediting the president was the news that he had authorized 3,500 secret bombing raids in Cambodia, a neutral country.
 - a. Congress used the public uproar over this information to attempt to limit the president's power over the military.
 - b. November 1973 Congress passed the War Powers Act over Nixon's veto.
 1. The President can send troops but must notify Congress within 48 hours.

2. Troops may not stay overseas more than 60 days without congressional approval.
3. Congress can demand that the President bring troops home by passing a concurrent resolution.
9. August 8, 1973, Nixon announces his resignation and Gerald Ford, who was appointed Vice President after Spiro T. Agnew was forced to resign for taking bribes when he was governor of Maryland became president. he becomes the first unelected president in U. S. history.
10. Congress responds by enacting legislation to limit the amounts of contributions and expenditures in presidential campaigns.
11. It strengthened the 1966 Freedom of Information Act by requiring the government to act promptly when asked for information and to prove its case for classification when attempting to withhold information on ground of national security.
12. September 1974, Gerald Ford offered a pardon to Nixon. Nixon accepts the offer although he admitted no wrongdoing and had not yet been charged with a crime.
 - a. Many Americans wanting revenge charged Ford with carrying out a "buddy deal" that had been cooked up when Nixon nominated him for the Vice Presidency.
 - b. Ford explained that he only wanted to end Nixon's private agony, heal the festering wounds in the body politic, and let the country get on with its business undistracted by a possibly sensational trial.

V. Gerald Ford and Foreign Policy

- A. Genocide in Cambodia
 1. 1975 the U. S. supported government in Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge, a radical Communist faction that conducted genocide against over a million of its own people.
 2. To compensate for the failure of U. S. policy in Southeast Asia, President Ford ordered an attack on a Cambodian Naval base that had captured the U. S. merchant ship *Mayaguez*.
The action helped free 39 crewmen but 38 marines died in the assault.
- B. Future of Southeast Asia
 1. The fall of Cambodia seemed to fulfill Eisenhower's domino theory.
 - a. The rest of Southeast Asia did not fall to communism.
 - b. Some nations like Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia emerged as the "little tigers" of growing Asian economy.
 - c. Some argue that U. S. support of South East Asia and Southeast Asia to develop and better resist communism.
- C. Helsinki Accords
 1. 1975 Summit meeting in Finland. The United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, and about 30 European countries pledged to cooperate economically, respect existing boundaries, and promote human rights.
 2. Agreed to officially end WWII by legitimizing the Soviet dictated boundaries of Poland and other Eastern European countries.
 3. In return the Soviets signed a "third basket" of agreements, guaranteeing more liberal exchanges of people and information between East and West and protecting certain "human rights."
 4. Ford also continued Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) with the Soviet Union, holding out hope for further limits on nuclear weapons.
- D. Results of the Helsinki Accords
 1. Western Europeans cheered the Helsinki conference as a milestone of *détente*.

2. Critics in the U. S. charged that *détente* was proving to be a one-way street.
 - a. American grain technology flowed across the Atlantic to the USSR, and little of comparable importance flowed back.
 - b. The Soviets continued to haul great of arm and military technicians to procommunist forces around the globe.

VI. Fords Domestic Policy

- A. Ford proved Less accommodating and more conservative than Nixon.
 1. Congress and the President disagreed about the best medicine for the economic slump.
 - a. Ford believed in a balanced budget to curve inflation. In order to accomplish this goal he would propose cutting government programs.
 - b. The Democratic Congress believed that increasing government spending would spur economic growth and lower unemployment by creating new jobs.
 2. Chief concern was bringing down inflation
 - a. He urged voluntary measures on the part of business and consumers, including the wearing of the WIN button (Whip Inflation Now).
 3. Ford vetoed more than 60 bills during his brief tenure in office. Congress overrode the president.
 - a. Democrats increased Social Security benefits, funded public works projects, and raised the minimum wage.
 4. Not only did inflation continue, but the economy also sank deeper into recession, with the unemployment rate reaching over 9%.
 5. Ford finally agreed to a Democratic package to stimulate the economy but he vetoed 39 other Democratic Bills.

VII. Election Of 1976 – Bi-Centennial Year

- A. Water gate still cast its gloom over the Republican party in the 1976 election.
 1. President Ford was Challenged for the Republican Party's nomination by Ronald Reagan.
 - a. Reagan portrayed Ford as a weak president, unable to tame a Democratic Congress or confront the Russians at Helsinki.
 - b. Reagan blasted for opening negotiations with the aimed at reducing American control of the Panama Canal.
 - c. State primaries were close between Ford and Reagan but Ford won a narrow victor at the Republican National Convention by agreeing to support a party platform sympathetic to the Reagan forces.
 1. The platform condemned both the Helsinki agreement and the Panama Canal negotiations, but endorsed a constitutional amendment to legalize school prayer and prohibit abortion.
 2. Senator Bob Dole of Kansas was seated as his vice presidential candidate. Dole was seen as a tough campaigner and conservative.
 2. The Democratic party saw the Republicans a vulnerable in 1976 so the race attracted a very large field.
 - a. Among the candidates was a little know governor from Georgia, James Earl (Jimmy) Carter.
 - b. With the shadow of Watergate still present, Carter was able to run as a Washington outsider.
 - c. Cater was nominated at the Democratic convention with Walter Mondale of Minnesota for vice president.

1. The Keynote speech was given by Representative Barbara Jordan of Texas. She was both the first woman and first African American to address a national convention.

3. Although the race was close
 - A. Carter won 40.8 million popular votes – 278 electoral votes - Ford received 39.1 million popular votes – 241 electoral votes.
 - a. Carter won the entire South except Virginia and the key industrial states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.
 - b. Ford did well in the West carrying every state except Texas.
 - c. Carter won 97% of the African American vote and a large percentage of class whites who had rejected McGovern in 1972.
 - d. The New Deal coalition held firm. And in light of Watergate, the Democrats also won a strong majority in both houses of Congress.

VIII. Carter at Home

- A. As President and his informal style, he signaled an end to the imperial presidency.
- B. He appeared to be a strong supporter of social programs and political activism.
 1. He demanded an “end to discrimination because of race or sex”.
 - a. He gave special attention to the plight of minorities in the inner city. The momentum of racial change had shifted from the executive branch to the courts and he wanted to return it to the executive branch.
 2. He challenged the established political and economic elite” and suggested new welfare and health care programs.
 3. He appointed more women and minorities to his staff than previous administrations.
 4. He created the Department of Energy and Education – Expanding the Federal Government.
 - a. Place the civil service on a merit basis.
 5. He proposed tax reform and tax reduction.
 - a. Congress eventually obliged him by allowing a \$18 billion in tax cuts in 1978.
 6. He kept true to his campaign promise of granting pardons to tens of thousands draft evaders of the Vietnam War era.
 7. He created a “superfund” for cleanup of chemical waste dumps, established controls over strip mining and protected 100 million acres of Alaskan wilderness for development.
 8. March 1979 and equipment problem at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, overheated the radioactive core and threatened a meltdown.
 - a. the Four two weeks technicians worked to contain the reactor as thousands of residents fled their homes.
 - b. The Three Mile Island incident turned public opinion even further against nuclear power, which provided 10% of the nation’s electrical energy.
- C. Economically Carter moved away from Democratic Stands.
 1. He supported spending cuts, which were meant to reduce inflation but which hit social programs.
 - a. As a result support from his own party began to dwindle.

- b. The narrow margin of his win led Democrats to believe they owed him less than if he had a sweeping victory.
 - 2. The press became more critical as the Carter presidency lost momentum.
 - D. Economic Blues
 - 1. Carter's program to stimulate the economy on a mixture of tax cuts, public works, and employment programs – a kind of “pump priming”.
 - a. Democratic congress responded by funding large public works projects, reducing taxes by \$30 billion, and raising the minimum wage from \$2.30 to \$3.35 over a five year span.
 - b. The good news was that unemployment dropped to 6% in 1978 and the bad news was that inflation rose to 10% and kept climbing.
 - 2. Carter shifted gears by placing inflation as the priority over jobs.
 - a. Rather than implementing price and wage controls, Carter tried to attack inflation by tightening the money supply through higher interest rates and by controlling the federal deficit.
 - b. Carter's new policies appeared to increase unemployment without curbing inflation.
 - 1. Not all Carter's fault because American productivity continued to decline, foreign competition grew, and the high price of imported oil continued to surge.
 - 2. Carter passed in 1978 The National Energy Act to reduce America's energy consumption. Yet it had little effect on U. S. reliance on foreign oil. Nor did his appeal for the “moral equivalent of war” on the crisis due to unseasonably cold winter and incentives to increase domestic energy production through tax breaks for alternative sources like solar, nuclear, coal and the deregulation of natural gas.

IX. Carter and Foreign Policy

- A. The key to Carter's view on Foreign Policy was “human rights.”
 - 1. Carter appointed Andrew Young, an African American, to serve as U. S. ambassador to the United Nations.
 - a. Young championed the cause of human rights by denouncing the oppression of the black majority in Africa and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
 - b. In Latin America human rights violations by the military governments of Argentina and Chile caused Carter to cut off U. S. aid to those countries.
 - 2. The Carter administration attempted to correct inequities in the original Panama Canal Treaty of 1903.
 - a. He negotiated a new treaty in 1978 that gradually transferred operation and control of the Panama Canal from the United States to the Panamanians by the 2000.
 - b. The Senate ratified the treaty after long heated debate.
 - c. Opponents would remember Carter's “give away” of the canal in the 1980 election.
 - 3. Camp David Accords (1978)
 - a. Carter was successful at arranging a peace settlement between Egypt and Israel.
 - b. Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, prime minister of Israel met in Camp David Maryland, for two weeks in September 1978.
 - c. Carter sought to end the state of war that existed between the two countries by serving as an intermediary.

- d. Israel promised to withdrawal its troops from the Sinai Peninsula and return occupied land in the Sinai to Egypt in exchange for Egyptian recognition of the state of Israel.
 - 1. The Sinai territory was land taken from Egypt in the Six – Day War of 1967.
 - 2. The treaty was opposed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and most of the Arab world.
 - 3. It proved the first step in the long road to a negotiated peace in the Middle East.
 - e. This process was finalized in 1982n agreement to negotiate the Palestinian refugee problem proved ineffective.
4. The Iranian Hostage Situation
- a. 1979 Islamic fundamentalists in Iran, led by the Ayatollah Khomeini, overthrew the Shah's dictatorial government.
 - 1. The Shah kept the oil flowing for the West during the 1970'senated a large part of the Iranian population.
 - 2. The United States had supported the shah with arms and money, the revolutionaries were strongly anti-American, calling the U.S. the "Great Satan".
 - 3. With the ayatollah and fundamentalists in power, Iranian oil production ground to a halt, causing the second worldwide oil shortage of the decade and another round of price increases.
 - 4. President Carter allowed the exiled shah to come to the United States for medical treatment in October 1979.
 - b. U. S. impotence in dealing with the crisis became more evident in November of 1979.
 - 1. 400 militant Iranians broke into the American embassy in Teheran on November 4 taking the occupants hostage and holding them for 444 days. (50 members of the American staff)
 - 2. They demanded that the shah be returned to Iran for trial and that his wealth be confiscated and given to Iran.
 - 3. Carter rejected these demands and instead froze Iranian assets in the United States and established a trade embargo against Iran.
 - 4. He also appealed to the United Nations and the World Court.
 - 5. The Iranians eventually freed the African American and women hostages, but kept 52 others for 444 days.
 - 6. A highly trained command team penetrated deep into Iran's sandy interior.
 - a. Their plan required exact timing to succeed and when equipment failures prevented some members of the team from reaching their destination, the mission had to scrapped.
 - b. As the commandos withdrew in the dark desert night, two of their aircraft collided, killing eight of the would be rescuers.
 - 7. For many American, Carter's unsuccessful attempts to free the hostages became a symbol of a failed presidency.
5. Cold War and President Carter
- a. Carter attempted to continue the Nixon-Ford policy of détente with China and the Soviet Union.
 - b. In 1979, the United States ended its official recognition of the Nationalist Chinese government of Taiwan and completed the first exchange of ambassadors with the People" Republic of

China. In essence ended the U. S. recognition of Taiwan and the recognition of the Peoples Republic of China.

c. At first détente also move ahead with the Soviet Union and the signing in 1979 of SALT II treaty.

1. Provided for limiting the size of each superpower's by setting a ceiling of 2,250 nuclear bombing and missiles for each side.
2. Set limits on warheads and new weapons system.
3. Carter's political opponents in the Senate killed the treaty before it reach the Senate floor for debate.

d. U.S. and Afghanistan

1. December 27, 1979 Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan, and aggressive action that ended a decade of improving U. S. Soviet relations.
2. The United States feared that the invasion might lead to a Soviet move to control the oil-rich Persian Gulf.
3. Carter reacted by
 - a. Placing an embargo on grain exports and the sale of high technology to the Soviet Union.
 - b. Boycotting the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.
 - c. He proposed the creation of a "Rapid Deployment Force" to respond to the rapidly developing crises in faraway places .
 - d. Requested that young people (including women) be made to register for a possible military draft.
 - e. The president proclaimed through the "Carter Doctrine" that he U. S. would "use any means necessary, including force," to protect the Persian Gulf against Soviet incursion.
 - f. He admitted that had misjudged the Soviets, and the SALTII treaty became a dead letter in the Senate and he withdrew the offer.
 - g. Carter requested a major increase in defense spending with \$50 billion set aside for new weapons systems .
 - h. The Soviet army met unexpectedly stiff resistance in Afghanistan and was bogged down in a nasty, decade-long guerrilla war that came to be called "Russia's Vietnam."

X. Carter Losses Popularity

1. Intelligence, effort and integrity were not enough to get Jimmy Carter through the Iranian hostage crisis and economic crisis.
 - a. Carter blamed the problems of the United State on a "moral and spiritual crisis" of the American people.
 - b. The America president from weak and indecisive leadership.
 - c. By the election of 1980 his approval rating had fallen to only 23%.
 - d. In seeking a second term, the unpopular president was clearly vulnerable to political challenges from both Democrats and Republicans.