

Ch. 25 Nixon, Ford, Carter

After losing the Presidential campaign of 1960, and losing the campaign to become Governor of California, Nixon came back from these defeats to win the nation's highest office at a time when the country needed strong leadership. President Nixon relied on several close advisors to help him move the country in a new direction.

I. Nixon's Domestic Policy

- A. Richard Nixon seemed willing to say or do anything to defeat his enemies.
- B. Nixon's southern strategy was to ease guidelines for desegregation.
- C. In 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first two people to walk on the moon.
- D. To solve nagging problems with inflation and unemployment Nixon called for deficit spending.

As President, Nixon's greatest achievements came in the field of foreign policy. President Nixon's foreign policy leads to a more positive relationship with China and the Soviet Union.

II. Nixon's Foreign Policy

- A. Henry Kissinger was Nixon's closest advisor. He served the President as the National Security advisor, Secretary of State, and as a skilled diplomat.
- B. President Nixon relied on "realpolitik" as his foundation for dealing with foreign policy.
 - 1. "Realpolitik" means practical politics in German.
 - 2. It means to do what is best for the nation, instead of relying on set or rigid moral principles.
 - 3. Nixon and Kissinger used this approach in their dealings with China and the USSR.
- C. In foreign affairs Nixon greatest accomplishment was bringing about "detente" with China and the USSR. Détente means a relaxation of tensions.
- D. The SALT I treaty proved that the superpowers could reach agreements relating to arms control.

The President's suspicious and secretive nature caused the White House to operate as if it were surrounded by political enemies. The break-in at the Watergate apartment complex started a scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation from the Presidency.

III. The Watergate Scandal

- A. The Plumbers and the Committee to Reelect the President were formed to ensure an overwhelming victory for Nixon in 1972.
- B. The Committee to Reelect the President broke into the Watergate apartments so they could wiretap the Democratic National Committee.
- C. Nixon tries to cover up his knowledge of the break in and thereby breaks the law.
- D. As a result of the Watergate scandal Nixon resigns from the Presidency.

- E. By resigning Nixon is able to avoid the trial of impeachment.
 - 1. Nixon was going to be impeached if he had not resigned.
 - 2. The House Judiciary Committee had already voted for an impeachment, and chances were good that the full house and Senate would have voted for impeachment also.
 - 3. The impeachment hearing would have intensified political divisions in the country and further eroded public moral.

After becoming President Gerald Ford worked to reunite the country. The US was facing dire economic problems at home and challenges abroad.

IV. The Ford Administration

- A. President Ford pardons Richard Nixon because he thought it was the right thing to do.
- B. This action, pardoning Nixon, by Ford was very unpopular/controversial. It did bring the scandal to an end.
- C. The results of free speech and free press.
 - 1. Americans had viewed the marches, demonstrations and rights of the civil rights movement.
 - 2. Americans witnessed the horror of war during Vietnam.
 - 3. Americans learned of government corruption during the Watergate hearings
- D. The economic problems facing the US were high unemployment and inflation.
- E. 1976 was the US Bicentennial after all the drama of Watergate it gave Americans a reason to feel optimistic.

Jimmy Carter's human rights diplomacy brought notable accomplishments in foreign policy. His inability to work with Congress blocked any chance of success in domestic programs.

V. The Carter Administration

- A. Carter won the 1976 election by presenting himself as a Washington outsider.
- B. To stimulate the economy Carter relied on government deficit spending.
- C. Carter was more successful with his peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The Camp David Accords brought peace between the two nations.
- D. Carter's stance on human rights strained the US's relations between with the USSR.
- E. Carter supported dissidents in the USSR, they were protestors inside the USSR that brought attention to and criticized the Communist government of the USSR.