

**18.6**

# **Ford & Carter Struggle**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Evaluate the presidency of Gerald Ford.
- Evaluate Ford's foreign policies.
- Assess the domestic policies of Jimmy Carter.
- Discuss changing U.S. foreign policy in the developing world.
- Analyze how American society changed in the 1970s.

# Ford Governs Through Difficult Times

**Gerald Ford** became President after Nixon resigned from the White House

Ford had to face an economic crisis & public distrust of the Government when he took control

He selected **Nelson Rockefeller** as his Vice President & vowed to continue Nixon's foreign policy programs

However, he pardoned, officially forgave, **Richard Nixon** of any crimes he committed as president

He hoped this would heal the nation's wound, but it did the opposite & dramatically dropped his popularity

# Ford Continues Policy

**Ford promoted a voluntary plan for the economy called WIN, which caused the economy to fall.**

**Ford met with Soviet leader Brezhnev to endorse the Helsinki Accords, which put the nations of Europe on record for supporting human rights.**

**Human Rights-** Basic rights that every human being is entitled to have.

**Ford worked with the Soviet Union on SALT II which the two nations pledged to limit nuclear arms (U.S. Senate never ratified)**



# **Southeast Asia Troubles**

**Between 1975-1979, The Khmer Rouge government of Cambodia began a genocide that killed 1.5 million people, the U.S. refused to intervene**

**South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam & thousands of Vietnamese who supported the U.S. tried to escape**

**Boat People-** Refugees who set across the seas in rickety, unseaworthy boats to find refuge abroad.

**These events would challenge President Fords popularity in the next election**

# President Carter

1976- President **Jimmy Carter** is elected by a slim majority, showcasing himself as a “Washington outsider” & not a professional politician

Carter won the support of **Christian fundamentalists**, people who believe in a strict, literal interpretation of the Bible.

Carter tried to portray himself as “a citizen’s President” & appeal to the masses, had little experience with Congress

Carter granted **Amnesty**, political pardons, to Americans who dodged the draft during the Vietnam War. (VERY controversial)

# Economic Issues

**The U.S. struggled with inflation & energy seeing more jobs go overseas, better foreign goods coming into the states, & expensive oil**

**Carter tried to pass bills, but few retained his ideas after they went through Congress, which many saw as Carter being a poor leader**

**The Federal Reserve raised interest rates to bring an end to inflation**

**The Community Reinvestment Act-** a Law that required banks to make loans in the same neighborhoods where they took deposits. Allowed people to purchase houses



# Carter's Foreign Policy

Carter believed U.S. foreign relations should focus on human rights & end political repression around the world

1979- The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan & Carter placed **sanctions**, penalties on the Soviet Union. This included a U.S. boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics & grain sales to the USSR

Carter believed we needed to determine foreign relations on how we treated citizens. This was to protect the **developing world**, less developed nations compared to the U.S.

Carter would begin pulling support from countries that had a dictator in charge



# Latin American Policy

**Fidel Castro of Cuba allowed Cubans to leave for the United States, but also insisted the U.S. had to take Cuban prisoners**

**Less than 20% of immigrants were criminals, & most of those were political prisoners, but the U.S. looked down on this policy**

**Carter wrote a treaty that would return the Panama Canal to Panama by 1999, Americans became worried that this would threaten trade & security**

# **Carter & The Middle East**

**Carter invited Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat & Israeli Prime Minister to his Presidential retreat at Camp David to negotiate peace between the countries.**

**The Camp David Accords had Egypt recognize Israel & Israel removed troops from the Sinai Peninsula**

**Since the 1950s, the U.S. supported the anticommunist rule of the Shah in Iran**

**By the 1970s, Opposition began to grow in Iran & anger was directed towards the United States**

# The Iran Hostage Crisis

The Shah, dying of cancer, fled to the United States in 1979, allowing Islamic Fundamentalist led by **Ayatollah Khomeini** to take over

Radical Iranian students then invaded the U.S. Embassy & took 66 Americans hostage. Carter was not able to negotiate for their release

This caused American's to view Carter as “weak” & would destroy his Presidency

Americans began to fear not just the Soviet Union, but also the conflicts of the Middle East



# Changing Values

**Americans began to move into the Sunbelt & the south in search of better climate & job opportunities. Political power of the Sunbelt began to grow**

**The growth of Mexican & Latino voters began to shape U.S. policy**

**The 1970s saw a doubled divorce rate, 2x the children born out of wedlock. Americans were seen to be more worried about improving themselves than the country**

**The “Me Decade” saw a rise in European religious ideas, an interest in fitness & health, & self-improvement**

# Conservative Values

**The 1970s saw another “Great Awakening” as Americans became more involved in Christian Fundamentalist beliefs**

**Religious conservatives became involved in politics & fought against laws that they saw as destroying the country, such as abortion & restricted prayer in school.**

***Wisconsin V. Yoder-*** Supreme Court ruling that upheld religious freedom saying that Amish children could not be forced to attend school beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Televangelists**, preachers of Christian fundamentalism on the TV, rose in prominence & preached about the ills of social change

**Soon, this political majority would change the Republican party & allowed for the future election of Ronald Reagan**