

# **18.5**

## **Part 1**

# **The Two Sides of the Nixon Presidency**



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

- Describe Richard Nixon's leadership in foreign policy.
- Define Nixon's foreign policy toward China and the Soviet Union.

# Nixon's New Approach to Foreign Policy

**During Nixon's presidency, he reshaped the way the U.S. approached the world under the US shared common Cold War ideology**

**Policy was a "US VS THEM" idea & the U.S. held the assumption of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."**

**Henry Kissinger-** Nixon's advisor on national security & international affairs.

**Realpolitik-** German for "real politics." Nixon & Kissinger's policies that goals should be defined by concrete national interests instead of abstract ideologies

**Believed that U.S. should view world with fresh eyes & policies were not black & white, but actually grey**

# Chinese Relations

**Nixon was focused on global politics, hoping that creating a strong foreign policy would cement his legacy**

**Nixon opened up communication with communist China & recognized it as a country. Believed it would open up strong economic trade**

**Strong relations with China would put a wedge between China & the Soviet Union**

**Stronger relations with the Chinese might pressure North Vietnam to negotiate peace to end the Vietnam War.**



# Normalizing Relations with China

**April 1971- China invites an American table-tennis team to play against its athletes, showing they were willing to work with the U.S.**

**Kissinger began working with Premier [Zhou Enlai](#), the leader of China, to organize policy**

**February 1972- Nixon visits China for a tour of the country & began diplomatic relations with China**

**Trade & tourism begin setting up full diplomatic relations by 1979—the high point of Nixon's Presidency.**

# Policy of Detente

**1972- Nixon meets with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, who feared improved U.S.-Chinese relations was a threat to isolate Russia**

**Both leaders agreed to conduct a joint U.S.-Soviet space mission & signed the **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty** or **SALT I****

**Treaty for deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles & placed limits on antiballistic missiles**

**Began policy of **Détente**- a reduction of tensions, began the first steps to the end of the Cold War.**

# **18.5**

## **Part 2**

# **Nixon's Domestic Policies**



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

- Describe Richard Nixon's attitude toward "big" government.
- Analyze Nixon's southern strategy



# Nixon's Domestic Policy

**1972- Nixon is reelected President in a landslide, moving forward with his domestic policy**

**Nixon labeled him the spokesman for Middle-Class Americans or the “**silent majority**.” Those “who gave life to the American dream.”**

**New Federalism-** Nixon's policy to give states money to fund social programs, but the states controlled the operations of these programs

**Nixon would expand the government with new federal agencies & grew Social Security programs, Medicare, & public housing**



# The U.S. Economy Under Nixon

The Vietnam War & foreign competition saw the U.S. economy under a recession & inflation at the same time.

**Stagflation-** The economy was stagnant (didn't move) & inflation grew

**Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)-** Multinational organization that sells oil to other nations & regulates price & supply

**1973-** Raised oil prices by 70% & then placed an embargo on Israel's allies due to the Arab war against Israel

**Oil prices skyrocketed 400% in a single year!**  
**Lasted until 1974**

# Fighting Stagflation

**1971- Nixon ended the Bretton Woods system of monetary management, the U.S. dollar was no longer tied to gold prices**

**He placed a 90-day freeze on all wages & prices, which saw growth of the economy for a short time until it began to tailspin**



# The Southern Strategy

**Nixon wanted to expand his support in the South, who traditionally voted for Democrats, & grow the republican party**

**Nixon froze the court-ordered busing programs, which were created to create greater racial balances in schools**

**Affirmative Action-** Policy that gives special consideration to women & minorities in the fields of education & employment  
*(Philadelphia Plan)*

**1972- Nixon wins 61% of the popular vote & becomes the first Republican president candidate to sweep the Southern vote**



# **18.5**

## **Part 3**

# **The Watergate Scandal**



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

- Describe the effects of the Watergate political scandal.

# \*The Watergate Scandal

**June 1972-** A botched burglary of the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex took place with little attention

Two *Washington Post* journalists, **Bob Woodward & Carl Bernstein**, begin to investigate the burglary

The two journalists were provided tips from a secret government informant nicknamed “Deep Throat” who was later revealed to be a top official of the FBI

The burglars were tried in 1973 & James McCord claimed that Nixon’s administration officials were involved in the break-in

# Nixon Innocent?

**Nixon's aids began to resign after evidence began to mount, but Nixon proclaimed he was innocent, saying, "I am not a crook!"**

**Polls showed that fewer than 1 in 5 Americans believed him.**

**The fall of 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned due to an unrelated corruption scandal.**

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment deals with the presidential succession thus pushing Speaker of the House Gerald Ford as Nixon's new Vice President**



# The Plot Thickens

**Nixon had been secretly recording Oval Office conversations for years & prosecutors demanded them to see if he was involved in Watergate**

**Nixon refused & claimed *executive privilege*, the president has the right to keep certain information confidential**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1974- The Supreme Court disagreed with Nixon & ordered that he turn over the tapes.**

**Upon listening to the tapes, prosecutors found crucial information was erased, Nixon claiming his secretary mistakenly did so**

**The House of Representatives votes to impeach the President for obstructing justice**

# **Impact of Watergate**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1974- Nixon, facing impeachment & trial, resigns from the Presidency**

**Further investigations showed that Nixon had an “enemies list” & used federal agencies to go after those who disagreed with him**

**Americans became disillusioned with the Government believing it to be untruthful**

**However, congress would create an independent council to investigate White House charges & our system of checks & balances checked the power of the President**