

## NIXON

### Foreign Policy:

#### 1. Vietnam: (1956 - 1975) <http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/exhibition/flash.html>

- a. Goals: Reduce US involvement
- b. “peace with honor” – avoid the appearance of conceding defeat
- c. Vietnamization: gradual withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam, provide South Vietnam money, guns, training to take over conflict without the US
- i. US troop reduction: 1968: 540,000 1972: 30,000
- d. Nixon Doctrine: US would disengage from conflict in Asia, support without US troops in the future

Anti-War protests decrease, then rise again in 1970 with bombing of Cambodia, discovery of 1968 My Lai, and Pentagon papers released

- e. Vietnam Anti-war protests escalate 1970: Kent State (4 die) Jackson State (2 die) student demonstrations

**Kent State Ohio:** anti-war protesters were shot at during a demonstration, killing 4 students

Background Video (3:36) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ocbz\\_7RXLRI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ocbz_7RXLRI)

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Ohio Song (3:08) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68g76j9VBvM>

- i. Invade Cambodia secretly to destroy Vietnamese Communists
- ii. 1968 My Lai massacre – women and children massacred by US troops
- iii. Pentagon Papers – NYT publish leaks by government officials of misconduct and mistakes that took place within government dealing with Vietnam
- f. Paris Peace Accords – Jan. 1973
  - i. 1972 Kissinger held secret meetings with North Vietnam, Le Duc Tho but peace was not in reach, so Nixon authorized massive bombing of North Vietnam (B-52's, heaviest bombing)
  - ii. 1973 Armistice – cease- fire and free elections agreed to but did not result
  - iii. US left war zone – 58,000 American casualties \$118 billion – hurt economy

#### 2. Détente - period of cooperation or reduction of Cold War tensions between US and China/Soviets

- a. China: Kissinger held secret meetings, then Nixon visited China in Feb. 1972 to meet with “Red” China, Mao Zedong. 1979, US recognizes Communist government
- b. Soviet Union: SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks) – limiting antiballistic missiles (ABMs) and freeze arms race

#### 3. Oil Embargo (1973) – US support of Israel (\$2 billion in arms) after Syria and Egypt attacked Israel resulted in consequences via OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)

OPEC: [http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/index.htm](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/index.htm)

Images of Embargo's impact:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2013/10/15/234771573/the-1973-arab-oil-embargo-the-old-rules-no-longer-apply>

Video: OPEC Oil Embargo 1973 (5:55) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCLRIVxOH-Q>

## Domestic Policy:

1. **New Federalism:** empower states to manage issues
  - a. **Federal power and money would flow to the states** so that states would be responsible for their affairs and decision [federalism is the sharing and division of power between the Federal and State governments)
  - b. **Block Grants:** money given to states to spend as they wish (no specific plan had to be approved by the federal government), develop their communities as states saw fit
  - c. **Family Assistance Plan:** would replace AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and provide a guaranteed income (\$1,600/year) to needy families - FAILED to replace AFDC (welfare - it expanded to include a growing number of single moms)
  
2. **Philadelphia Plan** - Nixon expanded affirmative action (policies where an institution or organization actively engages in efforts to improve opportunities for historically excluded groups in American society; often focuses on employment and education)  
LBJ required that groups receiving federal money had to establish more diversity in hiring in order to assist in equal opportunity in employment.  
**Regents of the University of California v Bakke:** 1978, Justices determined that fixed affirmative action quotas were unconstitutional

**Economic Policies:** a mix of policies were used, by 1972 the recession was over

1. **Recession of 1970:** stagflation (high inflation & economic slowdown)
2. **Cut Federal Spending:** failed to help, made recession worse (increase unemployment and inflation)
3. **Keynesian Economics:** government spending used to energize economy
  - a. 90-day wage/price freeze:
  - b. Dollar off gold standard
  - c. Tariffs

## Congress & Supreme Court:

1. **Social Security** – automatic increases approved to meet rising costs of standard of living
2. **Title IX (1972)** – title 9 was created to end sex discrimination in schools, girls should have equal opportunity in athletics
3. **War Powers Act (1973)** – to limit the Commander-in-Chief (President), Congress established rules to limit his military power; after the secret bombings of Cambodia
  - a. **48 hours to inform Congress of military action**
  - b. **Approval by Congress if military action lasts for more than 60 days**
  
4. **Burger Court** – Nixon appointed Chief Justice Warren Burger to the **Supreme Court**; he was less conservative in his rulings than Nixon expected

### Supreme Court Decisions:

- a. 1971 order School Busing to create racial balance in schools  
**Swann v Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education:** 1971, justices unanimously supported requirements to enforce school integration through busing; many white parents previously avoided integration by moving to suburbs, busing led to protests in some communities  
**Example:** South Boston was riddled with violent demonstrations in opposition  
**Video of Boston Desegregation (3:34)**  
<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/iml04.soc.ush.civil.boston/boston-desegregation/#.W0qLn1XyuM8>
- b. 1972 Death Penalty regulated by federal government
- c. 1973 Abortion – Roe V Wade: support reproduction rights of woman, legalize abortions
- d. 1974 Watergate Tapes – Nixon is denied executive privilege and has to turn over the Watergate tapes

### 1972 Election: Nixon's Campaign

1. **Silent Majority** – Nixon appeals to conservatives (those opposed to anti-war demonstrators, liberalism / activists, desegregation with busing, youth counterculture)
2. **Southern Strategy** - attack liberal left wing to attract conservative voters
3. **Candidates:** Republican Nixon, Democrat George McGovern, American Independent Party George Wallace (supported segregation as Governor of Alabama)
  - a. Nixon won 61% popular vote

**Watergate Scandal** 1972, Nixon sent "Plumbers" or agents to the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel, hoping to find documents and wiretap telephones in order to assist him in the 1972 Presidential election. The "Plumbers" were caught and the burglary was eventually connected to Nixon, who was forced to resign. He was pardoned by Pres Ford in 1974.

1. **Watergate Video** (5:51): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHnmriyXYeg>
  - Church Committee - Senate hearings by Frank Church of Idaho post Watergate, investigations reflected widespread abuse of power in government (FBI spied on millions of Americans), (CIA secret operations)
  - Freedom of Information Act - Americans can request access to millions of pages of records of federal agencies

### Gilder Lehrman Nixon Notes :

[https://www.gilderlehrman.org/cards/postwar\\_1945\\_1980#slider10](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/cards/postwar_1945_1980#slider10)