

**APUSH**  
**1968-1980**

**That 70s DECADE**

**REVIEWED!**

**American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 39**

**American History (Brinkley) Chapter 30-31**

**America's History (Henretta) Chapter 28-30**

37.

Richard M. Nixon 1969-1974



38.



39.



# Election of 1968: Nixon Returns

- **1968 was a political mess:** 1) Tet offensive, 2) LBJ is out, 3) MLK killed, 4) RFK killed, 5) riots spread
- **Democratic convention in Chicago (1968) were plagued by riots**
  - **VP Hubert Humphrey gets the nomination**
- **George Wallace runs as the American independent party candidate**
  - **Opposed to federal desegregation, antiwar protests, and Great Society. Conservative candidate**
- **Republicans nominated Richard Nixon**
- **Nixon wins the Presidency in 1968 as many Americans turned away from New Deal liberalism in favor of conservative candidates**



# Nixon & Vietnam.



Nixon & Henry Kissinger had promised to end the war in Vietnam: **“Peace with Honor”**

- Appeals to the **“Silent Majority”** (claim majority of Americans supported the war)
- Since the Tet Offensive in 1968 the debate over the Vietnam War intensified
- News of the **My Lai Massacre (1968)** surfaces in 1970.
  - U.S. troops killed women and children
- **Nixon Doctrine:** U.S. would continue to honor its commitments, but countries in Asia would not be able to always rely on U.S. ground troops

## 1st Photos of Viet Mass Slaying

WEATHER Saw berries and colder today. High in the upper 30s. Details on Page 5-C.

THE PLAIN DEALER

FINAL Stocks & Races Dow-Jones off 5.21

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1969 96 PAGES 10 CENTS



A clump of bodies on a road in South Vietnam.

### Exclusive

This photograph will shock Americans as it shocked the editors and the staff of The Plain Dealer. It was taken by a young Cleveland area man while serving as a photographer with the U.S. Army in South Vietnam.

It was taken during the attack by American soldiers on the South Vietnamese village My Lai, an attack which has made world headlines in recent days with disclosures of mass killings allegedly at the hands of American soldiers.

This photograph and others on two special pages are the first to be published anywhere of the killings.

This particular picture shows a clump of bodies of South Vietnamese civilians which includes women and children. Why they were killed raises one of the most momentous questions of the war in Vietnam.

### Cameraman Saw GIs Slay 100 Villagers

By JOSEPH ESZTERHAS (c) 1969, The Plain Dealer

# Vietnam War: Ending & Escalating

- Nixon's policy of "**Vietnamization**" called for the U.S. **to gradually withdraw U.S. troops** from Vietnam (Nixon Doctrine)
  - The South Vietnamese would **slowly take over the fighting** & the challenge of defending South Vietnam
- Nixon also began **secret bombing of neutral Cambodia** and in April 1970 U.S. troops **invaded** in an effort to destroy Vietnamese communist bases in Cambodia
- In response to the bombing of Cambodia **protests** erupted across the country on **college campuses**
  - 4 students killed **at Kent State** in Ohio
  - 2 students killed at **Jackson State** in Miss.
- Henry Kissinger held **secret negotiations with North Vietnam**
- 1972 Nixon orders **massive bombing of North Vietnam** when negotiations stalled



Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green  
killed at Jackson State  
May 14, 1970

# Distrust in the Government Grows

- Tet Offensive, My Lai Massacre, bombing of Cambodia, etc. led to further **distrust of the government**
- **Pentagon Papers** revealed that the U.S. government from JFK onward deliberately **deceived the American** people about the Vietnam War
  - **Daniel Ellsberg** “leaked” the information
- **War Powers Act** passed by Congress that sought to **reduce war powers** of the president
  - President must tell Congress within 48 hours of sending troops into conflict
  - Congress would have to approve any military mission that lasted longer than 60 days



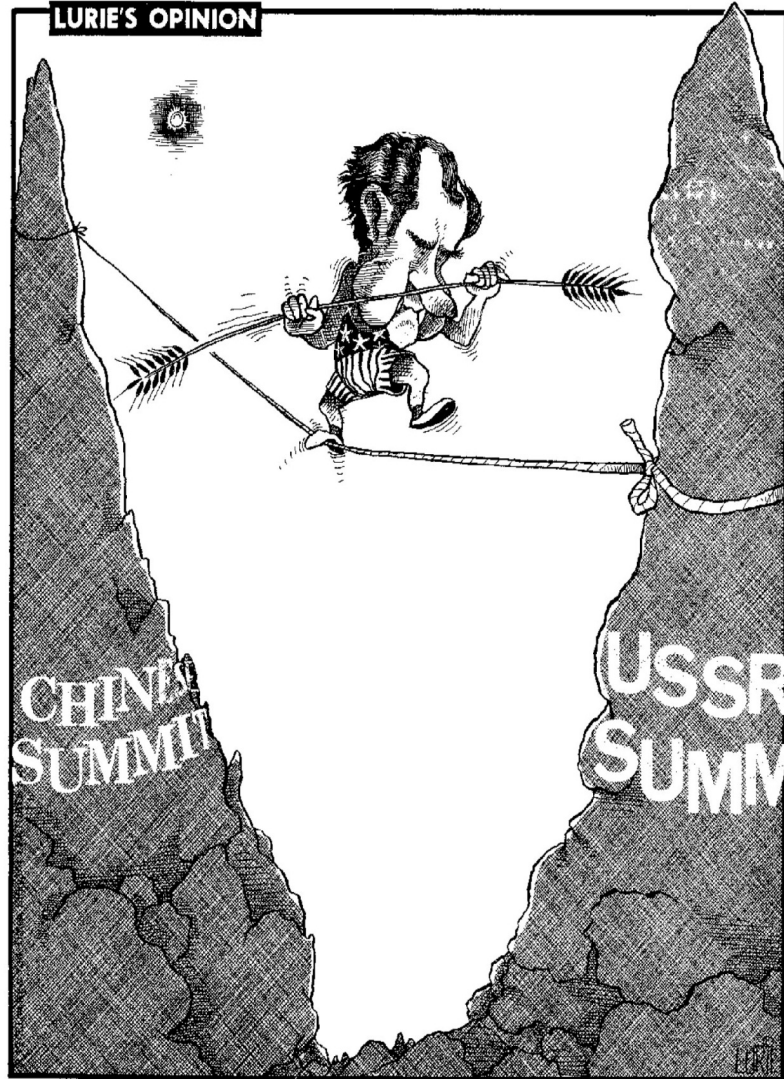
# The War in Vietnam Ends

- Nixon's strategy of 1) Vietnamization 2) Widening the war 3) Secret negotiations between Kissinger/Le Duc Tho
- **Paris Accords**: cease fire signed Jan. 1973
  - U.S. troops withdrawn
  - Free elections were suppose to take place
- Cease fire did not permanently end the fighting between North and South Vietnam
- April 1975 the U.S. supported government of South Vietnam fell to Communist rule- **Vietnam became a united communist country**



# Nixon & Détente: relaxing of tensions during the Cold War

LURIE'S OPINION

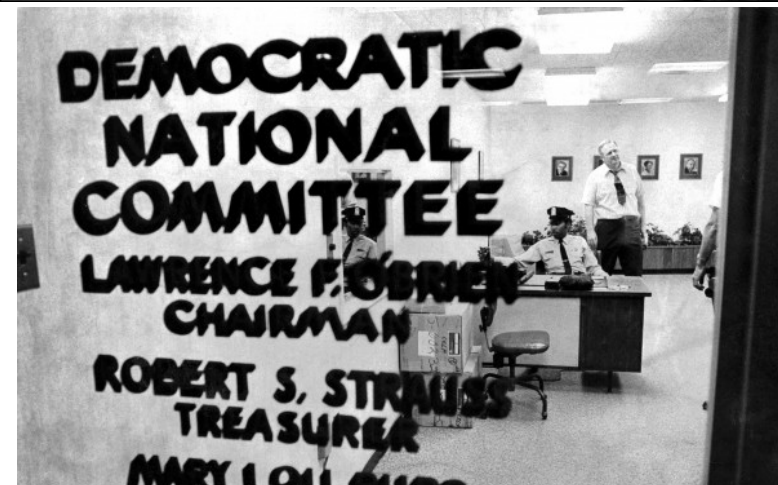


- Nixon & Kissinger sought to take advantage of the **distrust & rivalry** between China and the Soviet Union (**Sino-Soviet** split)
- Nixon with a reputation as a anti-communist figure could negotiate without being accused of being “soft on communism”
- **Nixon visits China** February 1972 to met with Mao
  - Formal diplomatic relations 1979
- Relationship with China put pressure on the Soviets
- Treaty signed between the U.S. & Soviets **limiting antiballistic missiles (ABMs)**
- **Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT)** limited nuclear weapons
- Nixon was able to reduce the arms race and Cold War tensions (**détente**)



# The Downfall of Nixon

- Nixon administration had a group called **Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP)**
- June 1972 group of men working for Nixon's reelection were caught breaking into **Democratic HQ in Watergate**
- Even before this, Nixon's people had:
  - ordered **wiretaps** on govt employees & reporters to stop "**leaks**"
  - "**plumbers**" were created to stop leaks and discredit opponents
  - Government agencies such as the IRS were used to investigate opponents of Nixon &/or the Vietnam War
- No absolute proof that Nixon ordered these illegal activities



# Watergate Investigation: Impeachment

- Investigation revealed that Nixon did participate in a **cover-up of these illegal activities**
- It was discovered that Nixon had **secretly recorded conversations** in the Oval Office
- Investigators wanted access to the tapes to prove that Nixon was involved in a cover-up
  - Nixon claimed “**executive privilege**”, but eventually the Supreme Court ruled he must turn over tapes in 1974
- Prior to this in Oct. 1973 **Nixon fired the special prosecutor** in charge of investigating the case against Nixon
  - Attorney General and deputy AG resign
  - Known as “**Saturday Night Massacre**”
- **Impeachment charges** 1) obstruction of justice 2) abuse of power 3) contempt of Congress
- **Nixon resigns** on August 1974 & **Gerald Ford becomes 1<sup>st</sup> unelected President** in U.S. History
- Watergate demonstrated once again the increasing **loss of faith in the federal government**



# Politics of the 1970s



- Nixon wanted to limit the size of the federal government
- 1970s saw a combination of economic slowdown (**stagnation**) and **high inflation** = **stagflation**
- Gerald Ford **pardons Nixon** in 1974
- Election of **1976 Democrat Jimmy Carter** is elected President
  - Foreign Policy:
  - Carter sought to pursue a **humanitarian foreign policy**
  - **Soviets invaded Afghanistan** in 1979 (hurt improving U.S.-Soviet relations)
  - U.S. boycotted the Olympic games that were held in Moscow

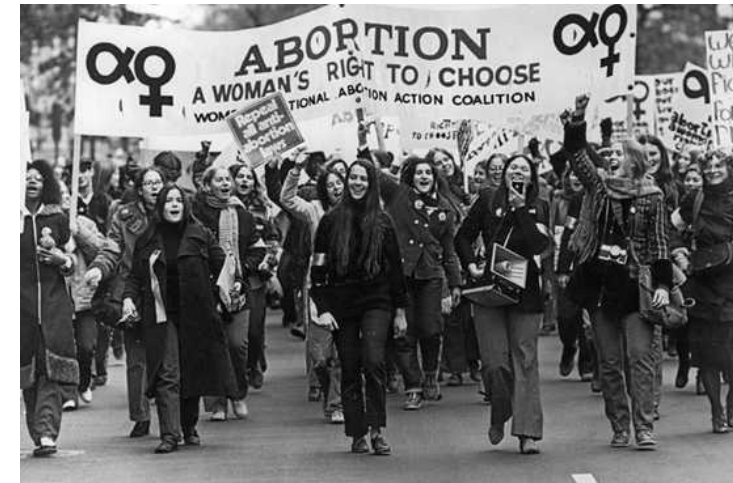
# Middle East Drama

- During **Yom Kippur War** Syria and Egypt suddenly **attacked Israel** (1973)
  - The U.S. provides their ally Israel with economic and military aid.
  - Israel successfully defended itself
- **Oil Embargo** is imposed upon the United States by the oil rich **Arab nations in OPEC**
- In 1978 **President Carter** helps negotiate the **Camp David Accords**
  - **Israel** and **Egypt** sign a peace agreement with one another
- U.S. supported **Shah of Iran** was overthrown by **Islamic fundamentalist** in **Iranian Revolution** of 1979
  - Another oil shortage and price increases
- Situation gets worse when in 1979 more than 50 people are taken **hostage** at the **American embassy in Tehran**

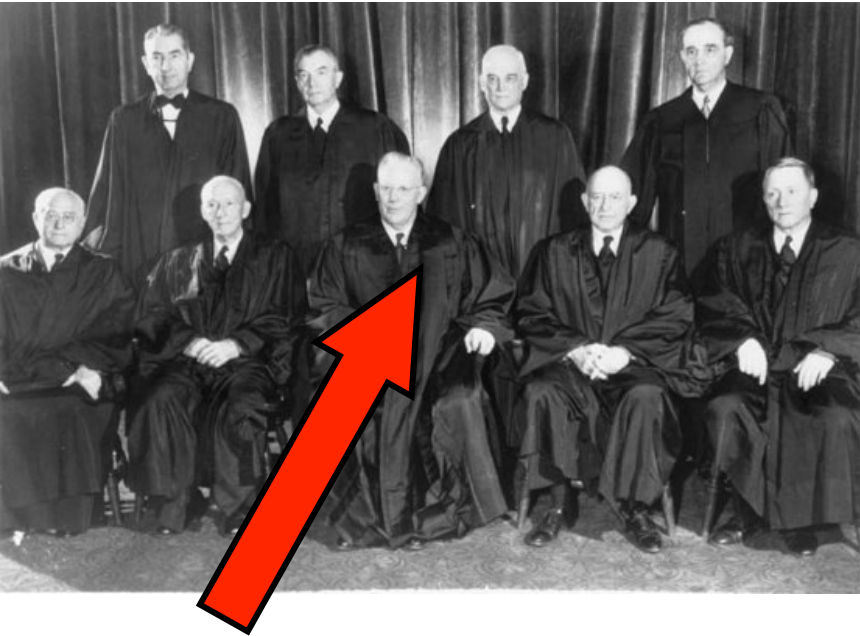


# What's up with Civil Rights?

- In 1972 Congress passed **Title IX** which sought to **end sex discrimination in schools**
  - For example- schools must provide girls with equal athletic opportunities
- **Roe v. Wade (1973)** struck down laws prohibiting abortion on the grounds that they were a violation of a women's right to privacy. (**legalized abortion**)
- **Equal Rights Amendment** was passed by Congress, but fell short of ratification by 3 states
  - **Phyllis Schlafly** led the opposition to the ERA
- **American Indian Movement** formed in 1968 sought to address past injustices and demand social and economic equality.
- **University of California v. Bakke (1978)** upheld affirmative action. Race could be one of several factors in admission



# WARREN COURT: 1953-1969



- **Liberal ideals** such as expanding democracy and individual freedoms were realized in the decisions of the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren
- **Yates v. U.S. (1957):** 1<sup>st</sup> amendment protects radical / revolutionary speech
- **Mapp v. Ohio (1961):** Illegally seized evidence cant be used in court
- **Engel v. Vitale (1962):** cant require prayer in public schools (violated 1<sup>st</sup> amendment)
- **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965):** citizen has right to privacy, thus birth control cannot be prohibited
- **Miranda v. Arizona (1966):** right to remain silent & speak with attorney
- **Critics:** Many conservatives did not like these decisions and favored a “strict” interpretation of the Constitution

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