

# The 1970's

Nixon, Ford, and Carter

# Richard Milhous Nixon Bio

- Born in Yorba Linda, CA (1913)
- Whittier College (1934)
- Duke Law (1937)
  - Turned down scholarship to Harvard
- Lt. in US Navy
  - Aviation Ground Officer
  - Great Poker Player, won enough money to finance his 1<sup>st</sup> campaign



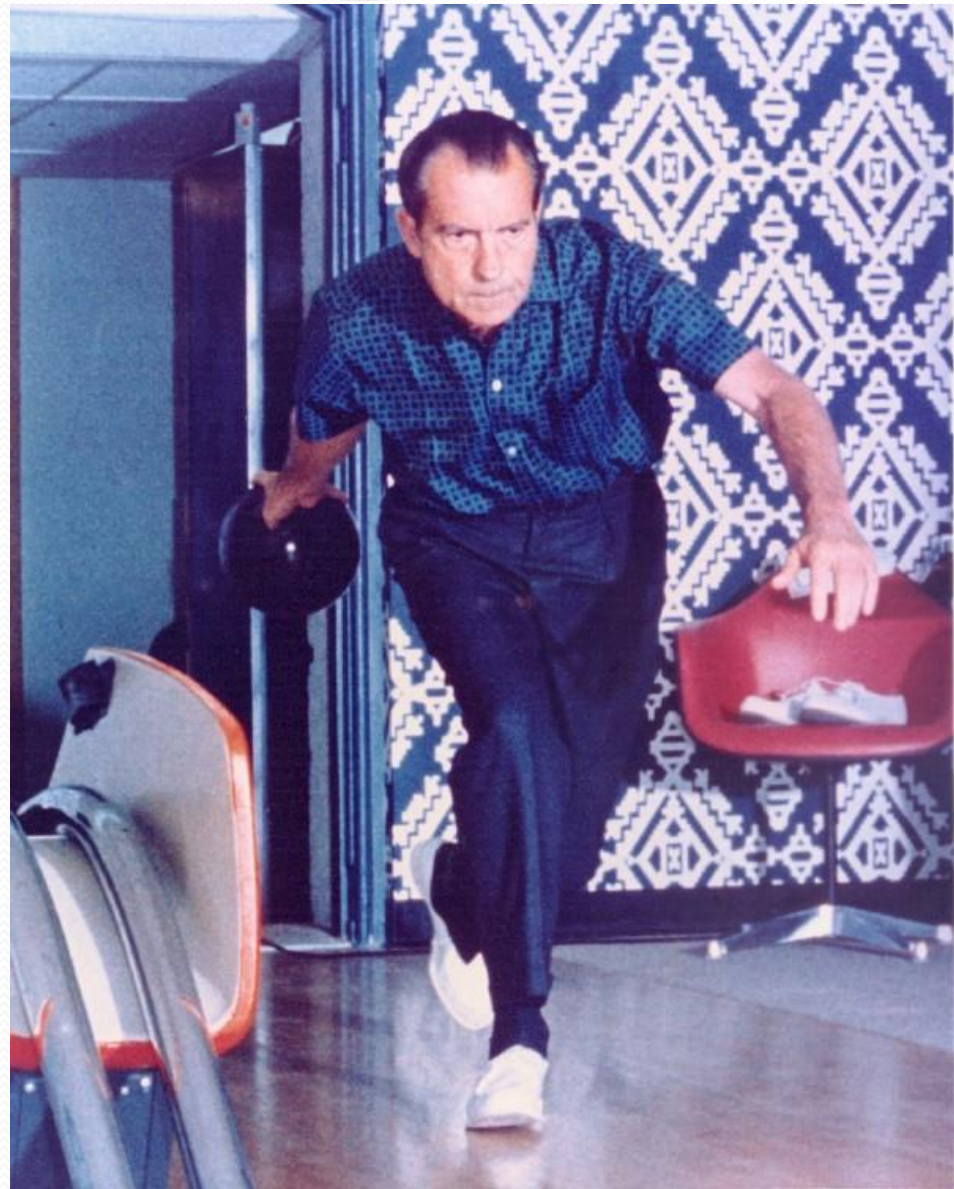
# Machiavellian Approach



- Believed in the “Ends Justifies the Means” Approach
- 1947-Took on Jerry Voorhis for the US House
  - Called him a communist
- 1951-Took on Helen Douglas for US Senate
  - Called her “Pink Down to her Underwear”
- 1953-1961: VP
  - Lost to JFK in 1960
  - Lost Governor of California in 1962 to Pat Brown

# Nixon in 1962

- For 16 years, ever since the Hiss case, you've had a lot of—a lot of fun—that you've had an opportunity to attack me and I think I've given as good as I've taken.....But as I leave you I want you to know—just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference.



# Personal Stories



- Did not trust anyone!  
Extremely paranoid!
  - Asked a teacher (Pat) to marry him on their first date
  - Non-confrontational, did not like to shake hands and dealing w/people
  - “This would be an easy job if you didn’t have to deal with people.”

# Checkers Speech



- Nixon was accused of accepting \$18,000 of illegal donations. (He did!)
  - Only gift that he did receive was a little cocker spaniel dog from Texas
  - “And you know, the kids, like all kids, love that dog, and I just want to say that regardless of what they say about it, we’re going to keep it.
  - Asks people to call the RNC w/ their decision
    - Takes the decision out of Ike’s hands!

# Nixon Foreign Policy-Beliefs

- “Bring us Together Again”
  - End War in Vietnam like Ike did in Korea
  - “Peace w/ Honor”
  - Détente-Relaxation of international tensions w/ communist countries to protect American interests
    - Nixon could pull this off because of his Anti-communist background
    - Sec. of State-Henry Kissinger



# Vietnam

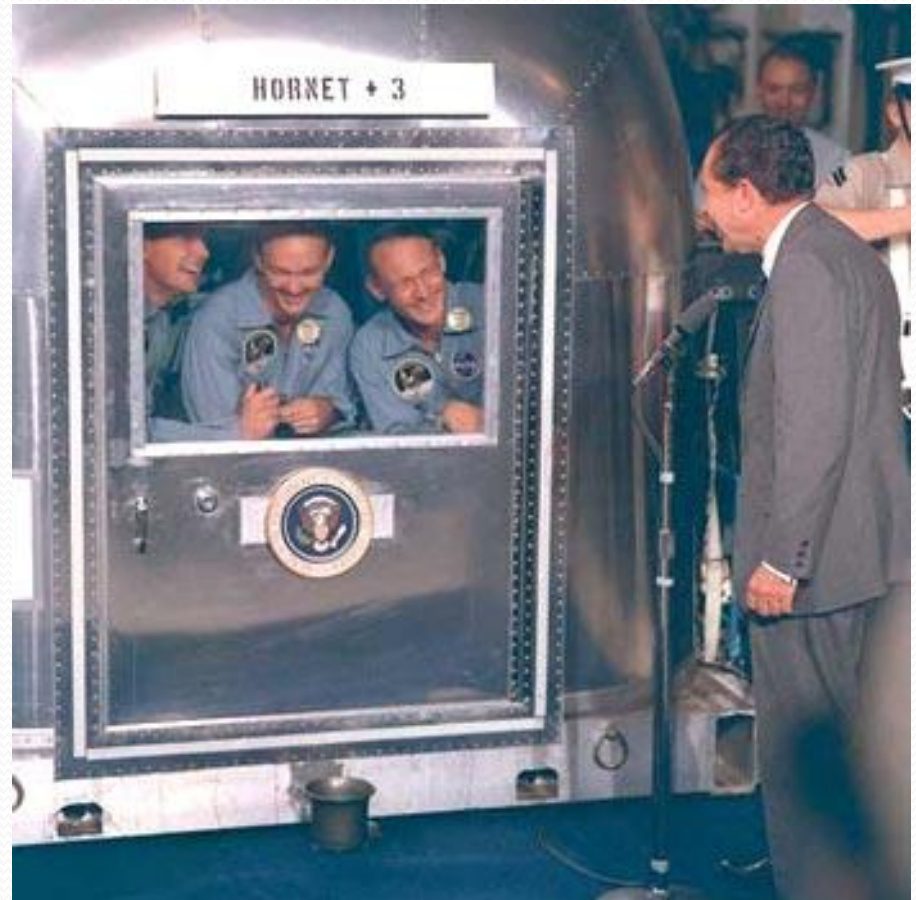


- Vietnamization
- Madman Theory
- Operation Menu
- War Powers Resolution



# Moon Landing- July 16, 1969

- Apollo 11 Spacecraft
  - Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins
  - “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”-Armstrong
  - Placed a 3x5’ flag on the moon and a stainless steel plaque
  - Nixon met the returning astronauts in South Pacific
    - Nixon Popularity



# Nixon's Visit to China-

## Feb. 21, 1972



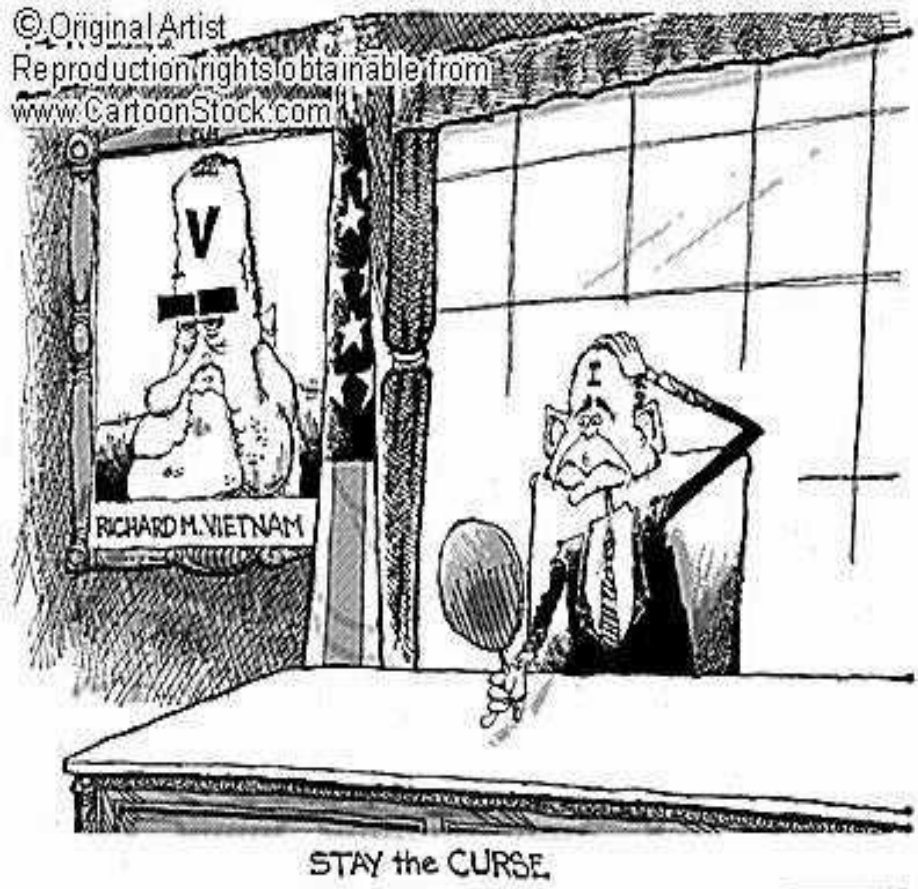
- China gets da bomb in 64!
  - US afraid that USSR might take over China
- Détente- an easing of tensions w/ communist nations
  - Nixon relaxes trade restrictions and pulls 7<sup>th</sup> fleet
  - Reopens trade talks w/ China
  - Nixon lifted restrictions on travel to China
  - April 1971-US sends Ping Pong team
  - UN expels Taiwan & accepts Red China

# Why did Nixon go?

- 1. Markets-Needed to trade with China to help the economy
- 2. Nukes-We wanted China to sign a non-proliferation treaty
- 3. Vietnam-We wanted help in ending the war.
- 4. Political Move-1972 was an election year!
- 5. Play the Soviets and the Chinese off one another. – Triangular Diplomacy

# Triangular Diplomacy

- Playing one side off of another so that in the end the country that benefits the most is the US!



# Nixon's Visit to USSR-

## May 22, 1972



- New Russian Leader
  - Leonid Brezhnev
  - Admitted that USSR economy was struggling, too big of a focus on nukes!
    - US/USSR spending \$50 million a day on Nukes!
  - Brezhnev Doctrine-USSR troops could intervene and put down revolutions where communism already existed

# Why did Nixon go?

- 1. Markets-Needed to trade with USSR to help the economy
- 2. Nukes-USSR were catching up in the number of nuclear weapons. (Containment)
- 3. Vietnam-We wanted help in ending the war.
- 4. Political Move-1972 was an election year!
- 5. Play the Soviets and the Chinese off one another. – Triangular Diplomacy

# SALT Treaty (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty)- May 26, 1972

- I. Nukes
  - Puts limits on Nukes
  - US-1607, USSR-858
  - Subs: US-740, USSR-656
- II. Defensive missile systems
  - No construction of these systems- might make MAD theory irrelevant
- III. USSR renounced Brezhnev Doctrine
- IV. US would increase economic trade for good behavior
  - Grain sales-25% of US wheat to USSR



# The Middle East

Middle East



- Nixon believed that the Middle East had become a “powder keg!”
- Goals since WWII
  - Ensure US oil supply
  - Contain USSR
  - Protect Israel from harm



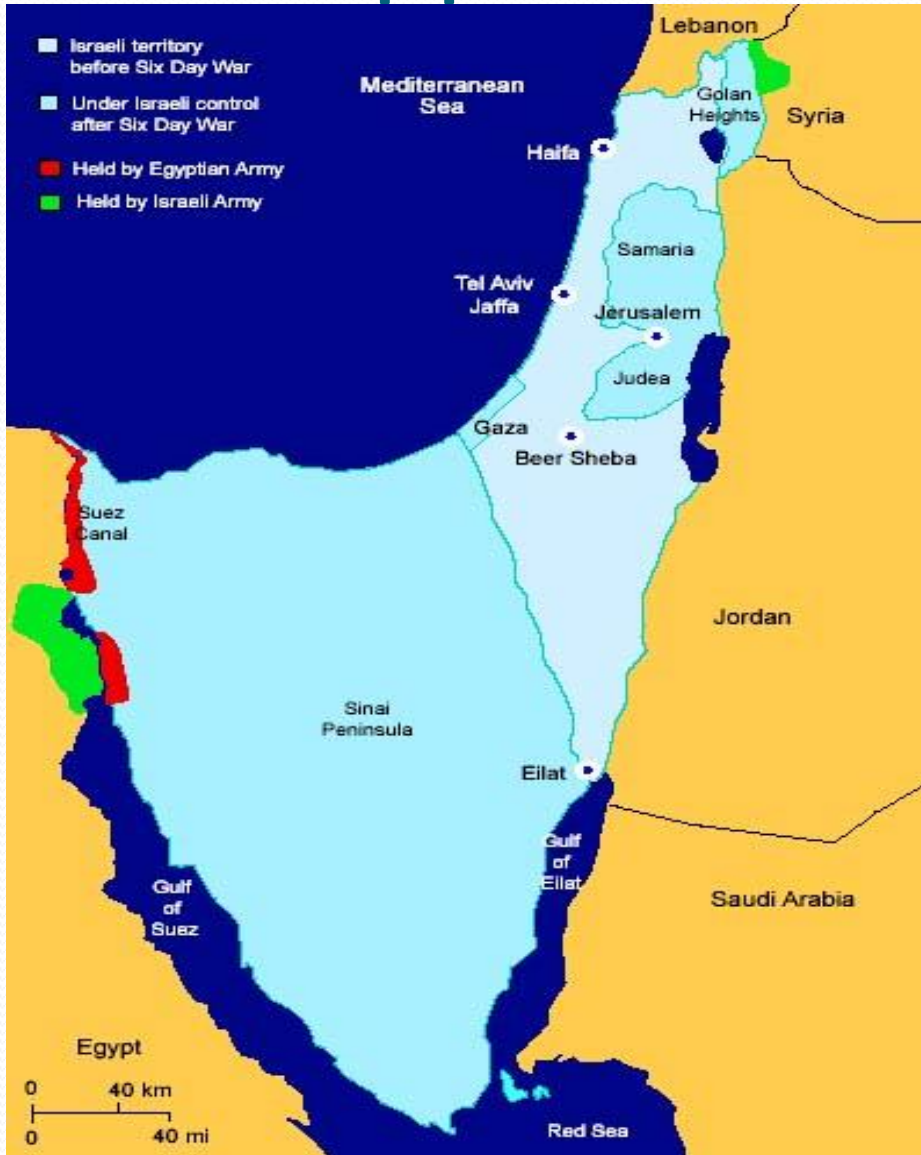
# 6 Day War- June 1967

- Israel attacked Egypt and Syria when Egypt removed UN force from Sinai
  - 1956 Suez Crisis
- Results:
  - Captured West Bank from Jordan,
  - Golan Heights from Syria
  - Gaza Strip & Sinai Peninsula from Egypt
  - In response, US sent 50 F4 fighters to Israel
  - US used the hotline for the first time as well

THE SIX-DAY WAR, 1967



# Yom Kippur War-October 6, 1973



- Holiest day in the Jewish calendar
- Egypt and Syria attack Israel and retake the land lost in the 6 day war within 48 hours
- After 2 weeks, Israelis pushed the Arab countries out and reclaimed their lands
- Nixon rushed \$2 billion to Israel in aid & F4 planes

# Results of Nixon & The Middle East

- 1. PLO formed
  - Led by Yassir Arafat
- Goals of the PLO
  - Eliminate Israel
  - Establish a Palestinian homeland
  - 1970-PLO began hijacking airlines and kidnapping Jews and Americans
  - 1972-PLO attacks Israeli olympic team @ Munich Games



# Results continued

2. OPEC places an embargo on US oil!

1972- \$3/barrel

1973- \$12/barrel

US is importing  
33% of oil from  
the Mid East.

How does this  
affect the US  
economy?

**Oil and war** Crude oil price per barrel in 1996 dollars. Source: WTRG Economics

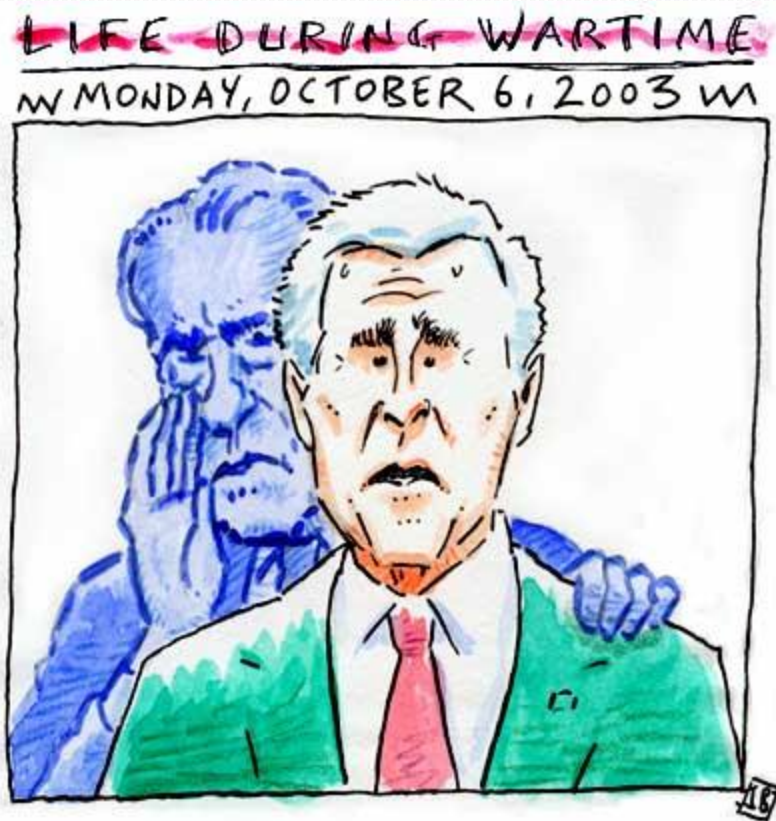


# Chile

- Salvador Allende wins the Presidency
  - Problem: He's a socialist!
  - US supports an overthrow of the government
- General Augusto Pinochet takes over the leadership of Chile
  - Suspended freedoms
  - Jailed political dissenters



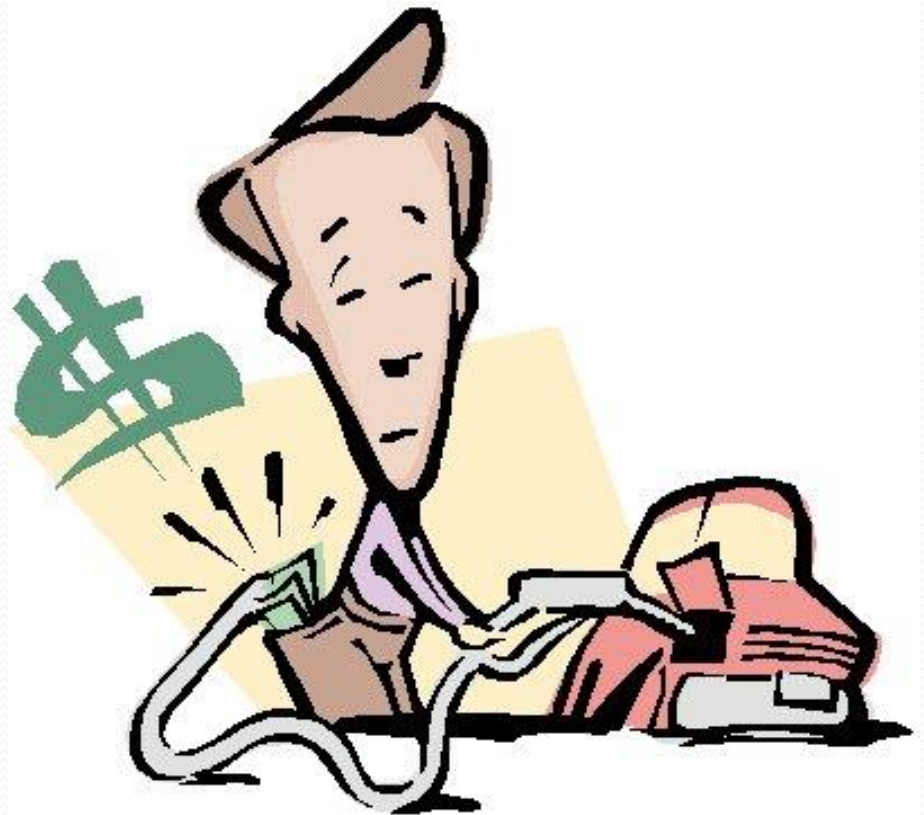
# Nixon Domestic Policy



- “Bring us Together Again”
  - “Law & Order” on our streets
  - New Federalism-take power from Washington D. C. & give it to state & local
  - Not very concerned about Domestic Policy

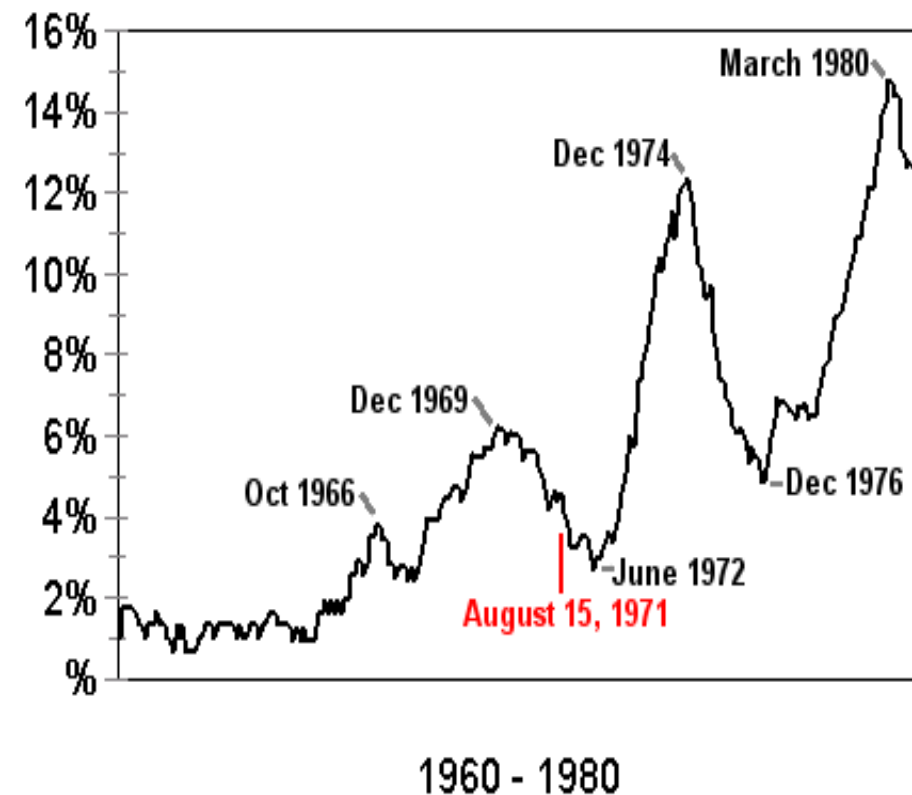
# Reasons for Economic Concern

- Stagflation: An economic concern because inflation and unemployment go up
  - First major inflation since Post WWII era
  - Inflation went up to 8%
  - Unemployment up to 7.5%
- Why does this happen?
  - LBJ's Great Society spending
  - Vietnam Spending
  - Tax Cut (4%)



# Nixon's Reaction to the Economy

CPI Inflation Rate



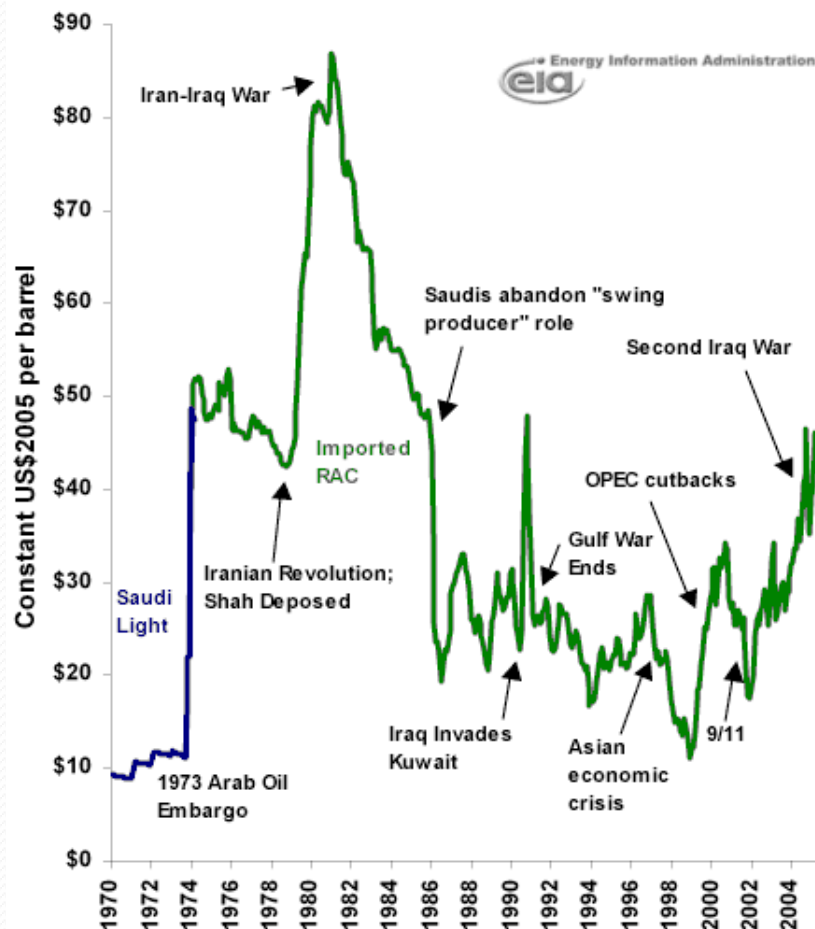
- August 16, 1971-
  - Nixon puts a 90 day freeze on wages and prices



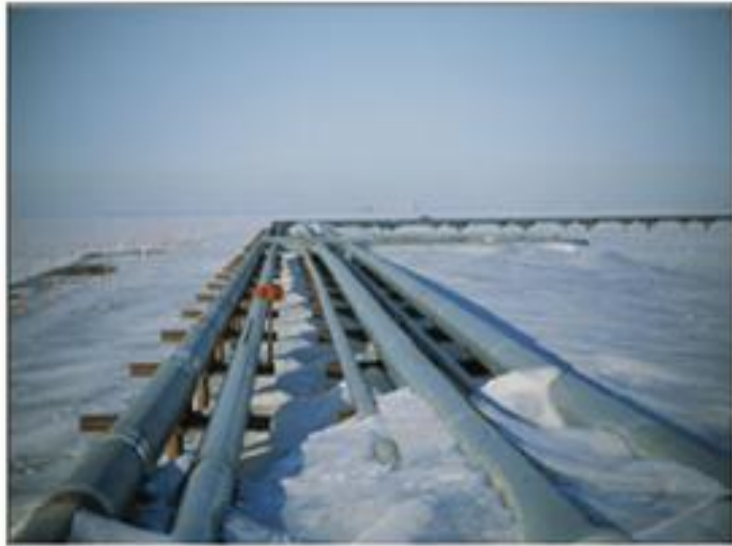
# Energy Crisis

- Yom Kippur War causes embargo on oil to the US
  - Oil imports fall to almost 19,000 barrels a day
  - Costs of gas Climb!
- How does this affect America?

Major Events and Real World Oil Prices, 1970-2005  
(Prices adjusted by CPI for all Urban Consumers, 2005)



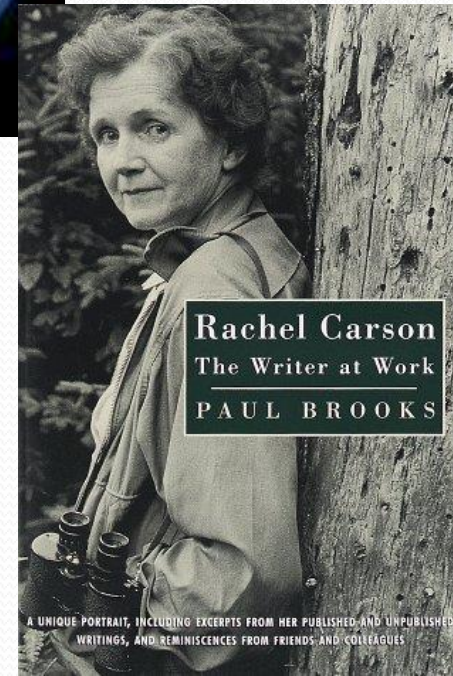
# Nixon's Response to the Energy Crisis



- Emergency Highway Conservation Act
  - Natl. Speed Limit to 55 mph
  - Savings of 200,000 barrels a day
- Trans-Alaskan Pipeline
  - Found oil in Prudhoe Bay in 1968
  - Cost \$8 Billion and brought 1 million barrels into the US
- Billions into researching and developing nuclear power

# Nixon's Role w/ the Environment

- EPA passed
  - Federal agency that began to enforce environmental laws
- Clean Air Act of 1970
  - Focused on car emissions restrictions
- Rachel Carson
  - Wrote Silent Spring, a book that looked at the effects of DDT on the environment



# Other Domestic Achievements

- 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment-Voting age is now 18, down from 21
- Roe v. Wade (1973)- woman and her doctor, not the state govt, have the right to control what happens to her body (Privacy)



# Watergate



- Plumbers-former CIA/FBI agents created to stop leaks and carry out illegal actions for national security
  - Sept. 3, 1971-broke into Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrists office (Pentagon Papers)

# Watergate cont.

- CREEP-Committee to RE-Elect the President
  - Got \$\$ to carry out activities
- June 17, 1972-5 men arrested at 2:30am trying to break into the Democratic Natl. HQ
  - Put tape over the door in order to keep it open
  - Plant listening devices in order to spy on the Democrats
  - Why?? Figure out how to beat George McGovern in 1972



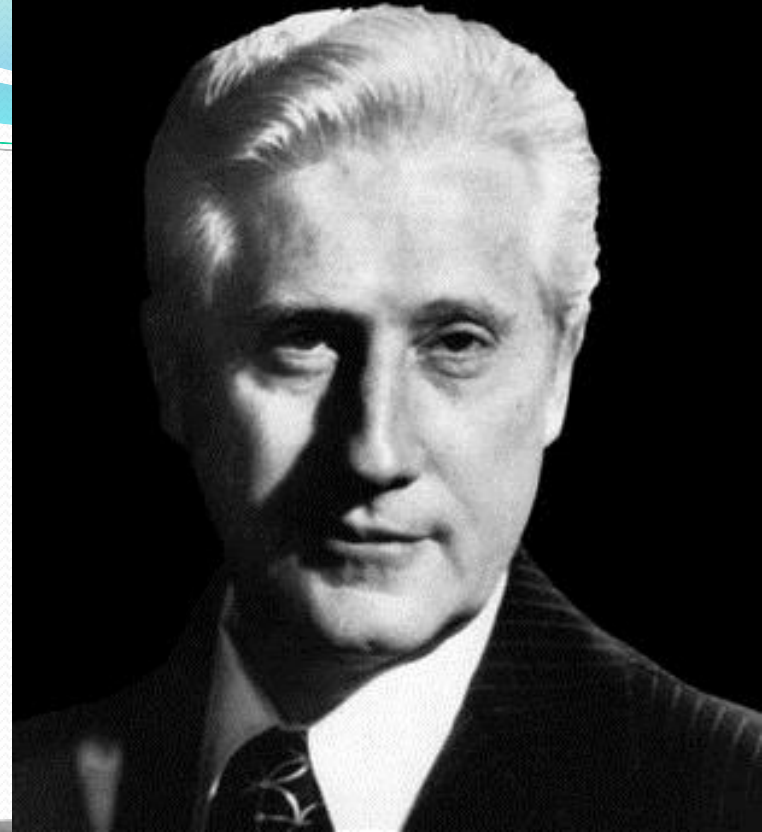
# Watergate cont.



- June 23, 1972
  - Nixon orders CIA to block FBI investigation
  - Tie it to the Cubans
- August 1, 1972
  - A \$25,000 cashier's check ends up in the bank account of a Nixon burglar. It is from a campaign donor (CREEP)

# Watergate cont.

- Case is given to two young Washington Post Reporters
  - Bob Woodward
  - Carl Bernstein
  - Find a source within the White House-W. Mark Felt (Deepthroat)
- April 30, 1973
  - H. R. Haldeman & John Erlichman resign & attorney general is fired





# Watergate cont.



- July 13, 1973
  - Alexander Butterfield reveals that Nixon recorded all conversations in the White House-Tapes???
  - Nixon says that he has “Executive Privilege”
    - Never found in the Constitution
- October 10, 1973
  - VP Spiro Agnew resigns, income tax evasion
  - Gerald Ford is new VP

# Watergate cont.

- Saturday Night Massacre
  - Nixon orders Archibald Cox, the Special Prosecutor, to be fired
  - the AG and the Deputy AG resign
- November 17, 1973
  - Nixon declared that “I am not a crook”
- Nixon v. US -must turn over tapes
  - 18 ½ minutes deleted!!



# The End

- August 9, 1974
  - Nixon resigns the Presidency
    - Charged w/ Defying Congressional Subpoenas
    - Misuse of Pres. Power
    - Obstruction of Justice
  - Gerald Ford takes over
  - Why does he do it?
    - Pension
    - Secret Service for Life
    - Insurance/Health Benefits
    - Use of Air Force One, Camp David, etc.



# Gerald Ford Bio

- Born Leslie Lynch King
  - Moved to Grand Rapids, MI at age 2
  - 5 sport athlete in HS
  - 1933 Natl. Champ @ Michigan
    - Yale Law Degree
  - WWII Hero
  - House 1949-1973
  - VP 1973



# Ford Personal Stories

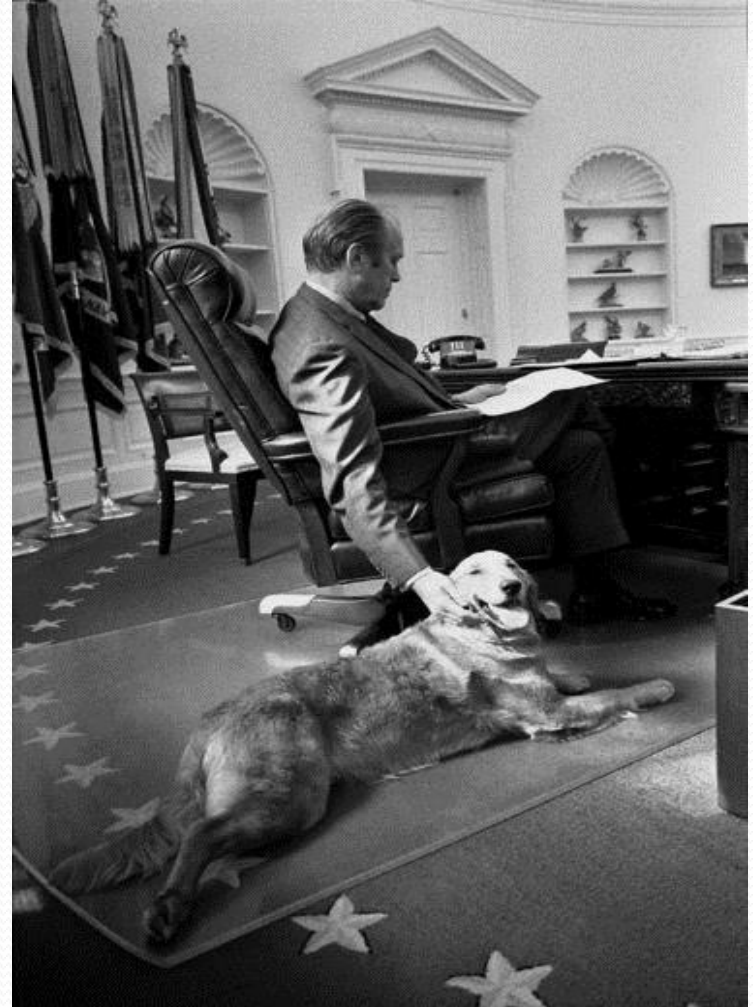
- Had an issue w/falling
  - Down Steps of Air Force One
  - Up Steps of Air Force One
  - Vail, Colorado-Skiing
  - Hit head on helicopter @ White House
- LBJ said- “He’s a nice fellow but he spent too much time playing football without a helmet.”



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# Ford Domestic Policy

- Pardoned Nixon-full, free, and absolute pardon for all offenses against the US
  - Help the Nation Heal
  - Popularity 72% to 49%
- Pardon Vietnam Draft Dodgers
  - Say Pledge of Allegiance
  - 2 Years of Community Service



# Economic Policies



COURTESY: GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

- Whip Inflation Now
  - Cut Federal Spending by 15%
  - Encourage personal savings
  - Spending on American Goods
  - Did not work, Inflation went to 11%
  - Gas Prices continued to climb

# Domestic Policy

- Tax Reduction Act of 1975
  - Gave everyone a tax credit of \$30 (\$120 today)
- Education for all Handicapped Act
  - Guaranteed that any school that receives federal funding would have to grant equal access to children with physical or mental disabilities



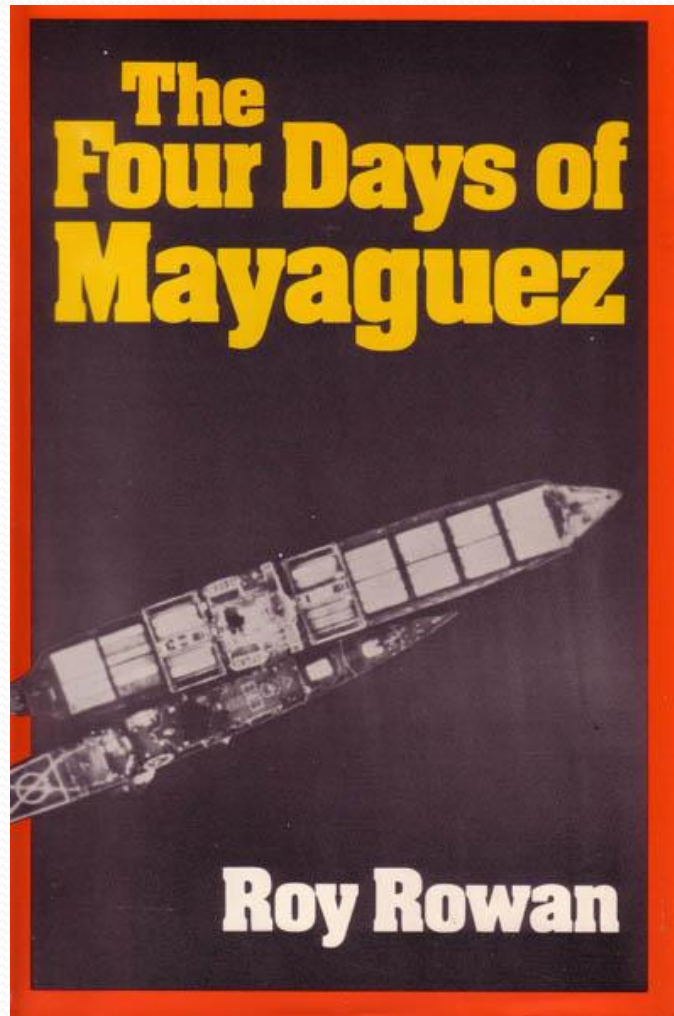


# Foreign Policy

- Make the world respect the US again-Especially in the Pacific
- Ford Doctrine-US will defend any country that is threatened by Cuban influence anywhere in the Western Hemisphere
- April 30, 1975
  - Saigon falls to NV
  - Vietnam is finally over!



# FoPo continued



- USS Mayaguez
  - Captured by Cambodians May 13, 1975
  - 41 US Marines killed, 50 wounded trying to save 39 sailors
  - Marines went to wrong island while sailors were being released

# USSR

- SALT II did not pass the Senate
  - Soviets have not solved Jewish emigration problem - \$25,000
- Helsinki Agreements signed in 1975
  - Finally settled WWII borders
  - USSR had to improve human rights



# End of FoPo



- Kissinger negotiated the end of the Yom Kippur War- Sept. 1, 1975
  - Israel withdraws from Sinai
  - Egypt recognizes Israel's right to exist
- Cuba invades Angola
  - Ford asks for \$25 million
  - Congress-No More Vietnams

# Jimmy Carter Bio

- Born- Plains, Georgia in 1924
- Went to Naval Academy
  - Spent 11 Years in Navy working on nuclear subs
  - Peanut Farmer
- 1963-67 GA State Senator
- 1971-75 Governor of GA
- 1976-Won the Presidency
- 1980-Lost in the worst election for an incumbent since Hoover

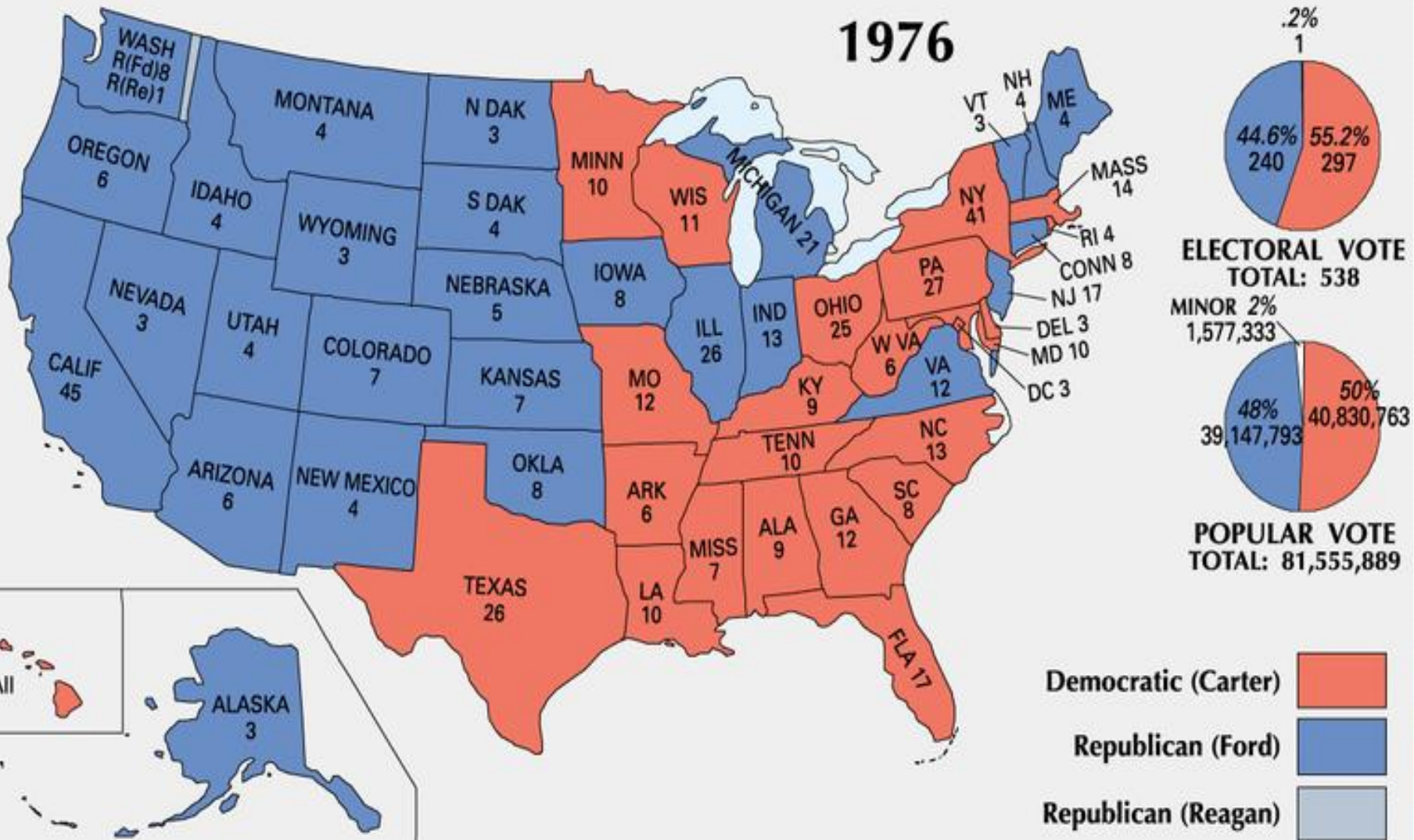


# Carter Presidency



- Promised to give the Presidency back to the people
  - Promised never to lie to the American people
  - Had call in talk shows to address the nation's problems
  - Sold Presidential extravagances like the Yacht
  - Did not have a parade up Pennsylvania Avenue

# Election of 1976



# Domestic Policy

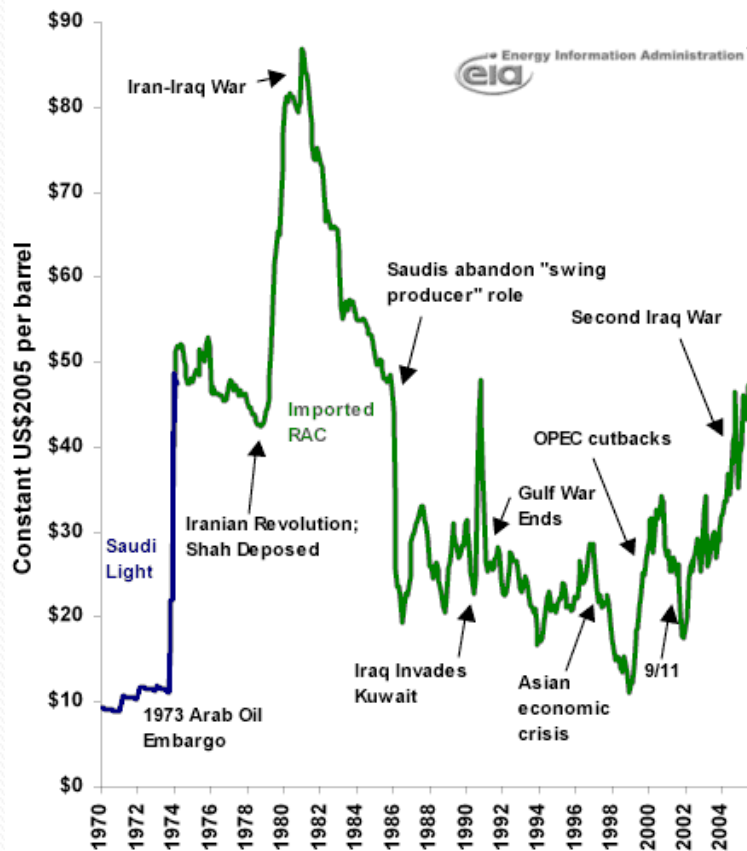
- Pardoned 10,000 Draft Dodgers on his first day
  - Bill Clinton
- Carter greatly increased the payroll tax on social security
- Tried to wipe out “pork barrel” spending projects in order to save the economy





# Economic Policies

Major Events and Real World Oil Prices, 1970-2005  
(Prices adjusted by CPI for all Urban Consumers, 2005)



- Economy slowly emerging from Ford Recession when he took office
  - Inflation
    - 1976-4.8%, 1980-13.3%
  - Unemployment
    - 8% & rising in industrial states
  - Deficit
    - \$59 Billion in 1980
  - July 1980-Presidential Approval rating of 21%

# Energy Crisis

- US imports now 9 million barrels of oil/day
  - 1977-50% is imported
  - Revolution in Iran caused prices to jump
  - Created Dept. of Energy
    - To Look at and assess what can be done to save energy
  - Looked more into nuclear power
    - 3 Mile Island scared the US



# Education

- Created Department of Education
  - Gave more control to local school districts by cutting unnecessary federal regulations
  - Increased college grants by 25% & tripled the amount of loans available to students



# Foreign Policy

- Focus on the Defense/Expansion of Human Rights
  - No more Chiles/Vietnams
  - Preventative Foreign Policy
  - Assist Sandanistas in Nicaragua & not back Somoza
    - Expand Human Rights
    - Bring Home US Troops
    - Reduce Defense Spending
    - Mediate in 3<sup>rd</sup> World
    - Peace in the Middle East



# Panama Canal Treaties

- US owned the Canal since 1903
  - Panama would fully control the canal after 2000
  - US could defend the neutrality of the canal
- Why give it up?
  - Guerilla warfare
  - Value diminished-aircraft carriers couldn't fit
  - Less than 10% of US trade used it
  - This helped relations w/ 3<sup>rd</sup> world
  - Reagan called this gunboat diplomacy, "Appeasement"



# China



- Formal Recognition-Jan. 1, 1979
  - Containment-wanted to use China to contain USSR
  - Trade-replaced USSR as largest trading partner
  - Taiwan-severed defense pact & withdrew all forces
  - Other allies feared a retreat from Israel, Japan, and the Philippines

# Camp David Accords

- March 26, 1979
  - Israel-Menachem Begin
  - Egypt-Anwar Sadat
    - Carter offered huge amounts of aid if they worked together
  - 1. Phased withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai
  - 2. US forces stationed along the border
  - 3. Full Economic & Diplomatic Relations
  - 4. Openings of negotiations on Palestinian rights in West Bank & Gaza
  - Ended over 30 years of War!



# SALT II



- Attempt to get the USSR to cut their ICBMs
- Limited Delivery Vehicles to 2400
  - USSR cut by 250-350
  - US built 250 more!
- Brezhnev allowed more than 50,000 Jews to leave
- Afghanistan killed SALT II



# Afghanistan

- December 25, 1979
- 80,000 USSR troops invade
- Carter said this was the “greatest threat to peace”
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1948 that USSR moved beyond their borders
  - Afghanistan did not want to become like E. Europe
  - US supported Islamic Rebels (Mujhadeen)
  - \$40 billion to train Rebels
    - Osama Bin Laden & Taliban

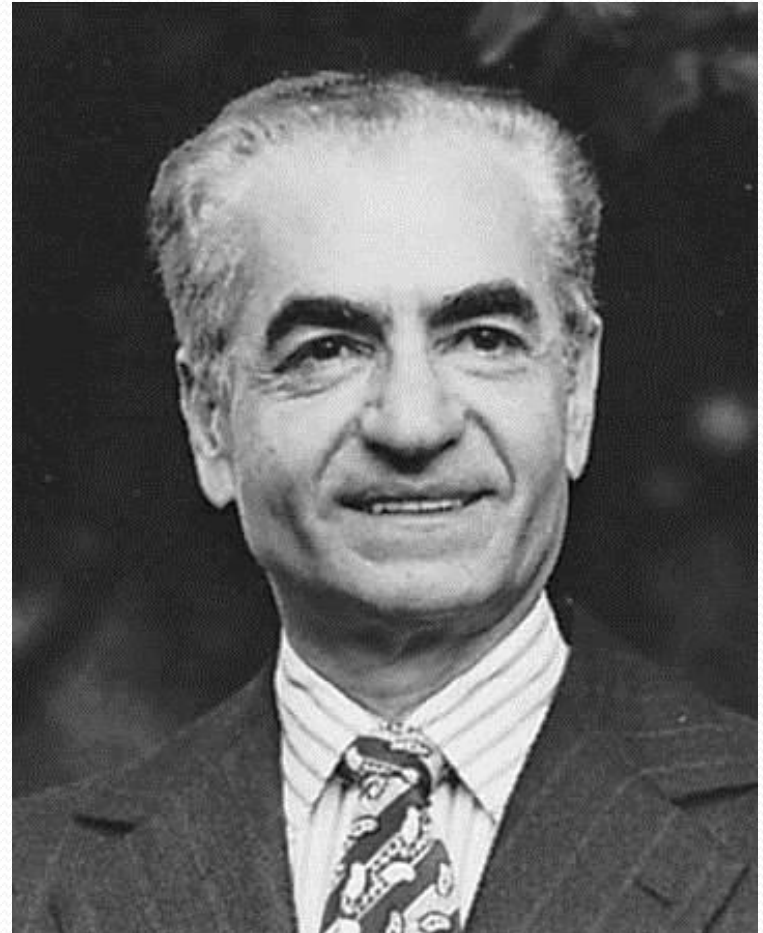


# Carter's Reaction

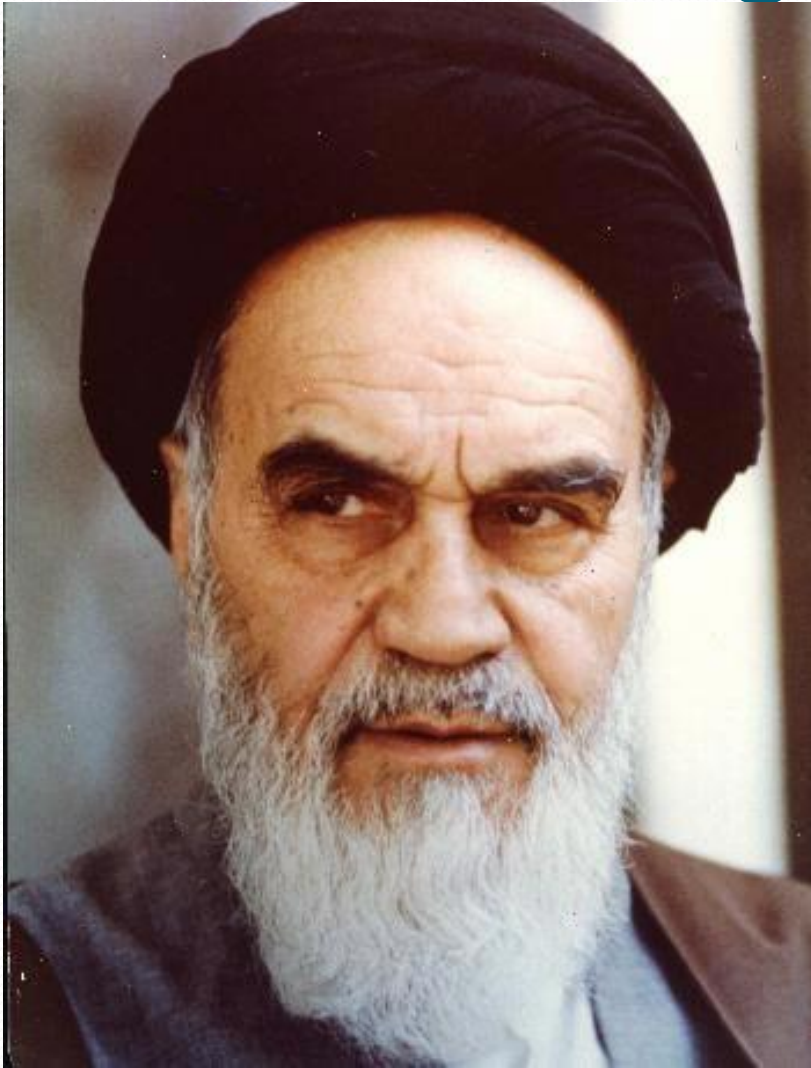
- 1. Hotline-Carter used it to warn Brezhnev not to attack Persian Gulf
- 2. Withdrew from SALT II from Senate
- 3. Stopped tech & grain shipments
- 4. Pulled Olympic Team from 1980 Moscow Games
- 5. Rapid Deployment Force-ordered the draft to begin again
- 6. More aid to Afghanistan (\$30 Billion)
- 7. Carter Doctrine-an attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the US-We will repel by any means necessary.

# Iranian Hostage Crisis

- Shah Reza Pahlavi-  
installed by the US since  
1954
  - Removed Mossadeq from  
power (Operation Ajax)
  - 1977-Shah was dying from  
cancer
  - 1978-Riots began in Iran
  - 1979-Shah forced to leave  
the country, no one would  
give him asylum
    - Allowed into US to treat  
malignant lymphoma



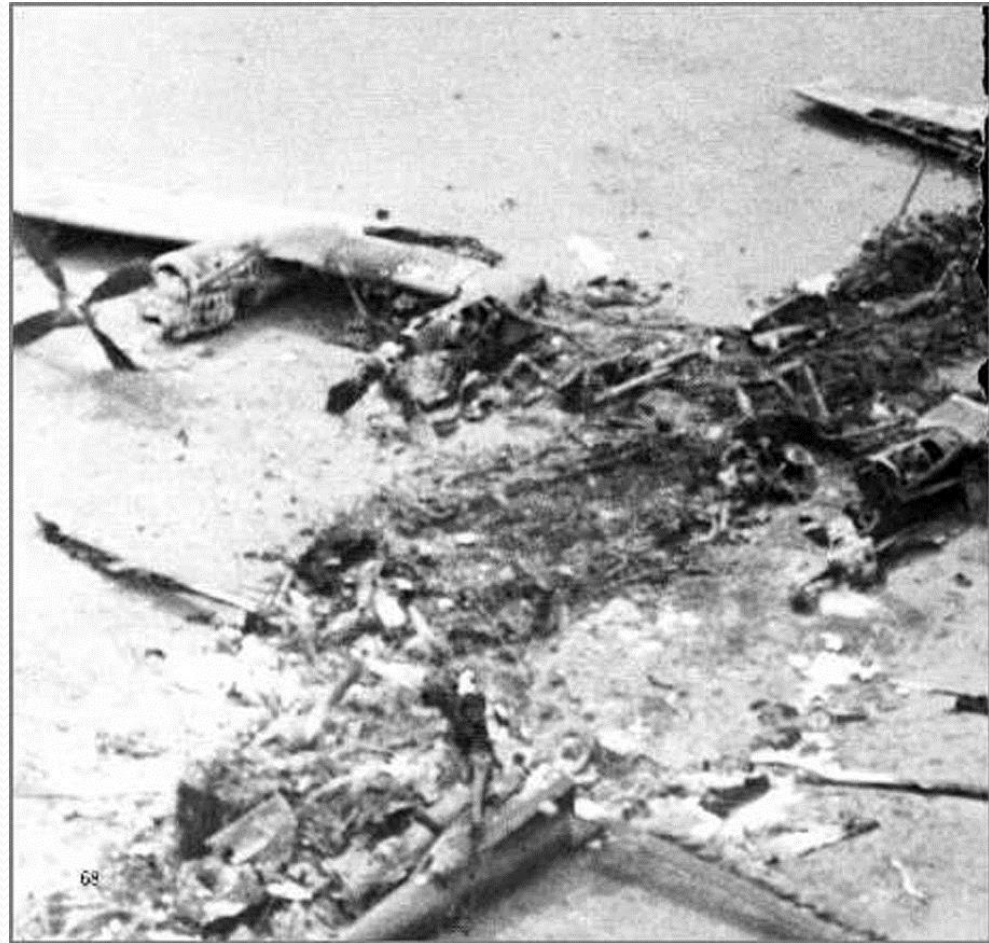
# Iranian Hostage Crisis cont



- November 4-violence outside the US embassy  
“Death to the Shah, Carter, America”
  - Ayatollah Khomeini branded the embassy “a nest of spies”
  - 66 Americans captured and would be returned for the Shah
    - 14 released because they were black or women
    - 52 would be held for 444 days

# Carter's Reaction to Iran

- Carter froze \$8 Billion in Iranian assets
- April 24, 1980-Operation Eagle Claw
  - The Plan-8 helicopters & 6 C-130 transports meet in the desert
  - A helicopter crashed into a transport and killed 8
  - Carter aborted the mission
    - He asked for JFK's Bay of Pigs speech
    - Sec. of State-Cyrus Vance resigned



# Conclusions

- 1. Empire Shock-For the first time, the US doubted our strength
  - Many Americans believed that our world influence fell!
    - No longer the world's sheriff, banker, policeman
  - Pax Americana that shaped the world after WWII was over
    - Decline was probably inevitable in an international world.
- 2. Carter's Personality
  - He didn't have it, whatever it was...
    - FDR's charm, JFK's TV Presence, LBJ's ability to handle Congress, and Nixon's ability to handle the spectacular
- 3. Americans are going to want a strong leader
  - Politicians learned their lessons and will not act that way again.
  - See Reagan and Bush!!!