

An Age of Limits

President Nixon reaches out to Communist nations, but leaves office disgraced by the Watergate scandal. His successors face a sluggish economy, environmental concerns, and a revolution in Iran.

An Age of Limits

SECTION 1 The Nixon Administration

SECTION 2 Watergate: Nixon's Downfall

SECTION 3 The Ford and Carter Years

SECTION 4 Environmental Activism

Section 1

The Nixon Administration

President Richard M. Nixon tries to steer the country in a conservative direction and away from federal control.

SECTION

1

The Nixon Administration

Nixon's New Conservatism

New Federalism

- **Richard M. Nixon**: decrease size and influence of federal government
- **New Federalism**—give part of federal power to state, local government
- Nixon proposes **revenue sharing**, which becomes law in 1972:
 - state, local governments now decide how to spend federal money

Welfare Reform

- **Family Assistance Plan** gives family of four a base income
- Senate liberals, conservatives defeat bill

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued **Nixon's New Conservatism****New Federalism Wears Two Faces**

- Nixon backs some social spending increases to win Democratic support
- Tries to dismantle some programs, impounds funds for others
 - courts order release of impounded funds

Law and Order Politics

- Nixon moves aggressively to end war, mend divisiveness in country
- Begins law and order policies to end riots, demonstrations
 - sometimes uses illegal tactics

SECTION

1

Nixon's Southern Strategy

A New South

- Southern Democrats help segregationist George Wallace win 5 states
- Nixon: win over Southern Democrats for votes, majority in Congress
 - **Southern strategy**—appeal to dislike of desegregation, Supreme Court

Nixon Slows Integration

- To attract white voters in South, Nixon slows desegregation
- Supreme Court orders Nixon to comply with *Brown* ruling
- Nixon opposes extension of Voting Rights Act but Congress extends it

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued **Nixon's Southern Strategy****Controversy over Busing**

- Supreme Court rules school districts may bus to end segregation
- Students, parents in some cities protest angrily
- Nixon goes on national tv to urge Congress to halt busing

A Battle over the Supreme Court

- 1969, Nixon appoints Warren Burger as chief justice
- Also appoints 3 associate justices; makes Court more conservative
- Court does not always vote conservative

SECTION

1

Confronting a Stagnant Economy

The Causes of Stagflation

- **Stagflation**—combination of high inflation, high unemployment
- Inflation result of LBJ's deficit spending on war, social programs
- Unemployment from more international trade, new workers
- Rising oil prices, U.S. dependence on foreign oil add to inflation
- **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** controls prices

Nixon Battles Stagflation

- Nixon tries different strategies; none have much success



SECTION

1

Nixon's Foreign Policy Triumphs

Kissinger and Realpolitik

- Henry Kissinger—national security adviser, later secretary of state
- **Realpolitik**—foreign policy based on power issues, not ideals, morals
- Realpolitik calls for U.S. to confront powerful nations, ignore weak
- Nixon, Kissinger follow policy of **détente**—easing Cold War tensions

Continued . . .



SECTION

1

continued **Nixon's Foreign Policy Triumphs****Nixon Visits China**

- 1971, Nixon's visit to China a huge success; U.S., China agree to:
 - - cooperate over disputes, have scientific, cultural exchange
- Takes advantage of rift between China, Soviet Union

Nixon Travels to Moscow

- 1972, Nixon visits Moscow; he, Brezhnev sign **SALT I Treaty**:
 - - Strategic Arms Limitation Talks limit missiles to 1972 levels
- Foreign policy triumphs, expected Vietnam peace help win reelection

Section 2

Watergate: Nixon's Downfall

President Richard Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal forces him to resign from office.

SECTION

2 Watergate: Nixon's Downfall

President Nixon and His White House

An Imperial Presidency

- Depression, WW II, Cold War make executive most powerful branch
- Nixon expands presidential powers, ignores Congress

The President's Men

- Nixon has small, loyal group of advisers; like him, desire secrecy
 - **H. R. Haldeman**, White House chief of staff
 - **John Ehrlichman**, chief domestic adviser
 - **John Mitchell**, Nixon's former attorney general

SECTION

2

The Drive Toward Reelection

A Bungled Burglary

- **Committee to Reelect the President** break into Democratic headquarters
- **Watergate** scandal is administration's attempt to cover up break-in
 - destroy documents, try to stop investigation, buy burglars' silence
- *Washington Post* reporters link administration to break-in
- White House denies allegations; little public interest in charges
- Nixon reelected by landslide over liberal Democrat George McGovern



SECTION

2

The Cover-Up Unravels

The Senate Investigates Watergate

- Judge **John Sirica** presides burglars' trial, thinks did not act alone
- Burglar leader James McCord says lied under oath, advisers involved
- Nixon dismisses White House counsel John Dean; others resign
- Senator Samuel J. Ervin heads investigative committee

Startling Testimony

- Dean declares Nixon involved in cover-up
- Alexander Butterfield says Nixon tapes presidential conversations

Continued . . .



SECTION

2

continued **The Cover-Up Unravels****The Saturday Night Massacre**

- Special prosecutor Archibald Cox subpoenas tapes; Nixon refuses
- Nixon orders Cox fired, attorney general Elliot Richardson refuses
- **Saturday Night Massacre**: Richardson resigns; deputy refuses, fired
- Cox's replacement, Leon Jaworski, also calls for tapes
- Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns, revealed he accepted bribes
- Nixon nominates, Congress confirms Gerald R. Ford as vice-president

SECTION

2

The Fall of a President

Nixon Releases the Tapes

- March 1974, grand jury indicts 7 presidential aides
 - charges: conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury
- Nixon tells TV audience he is releasing edited transcripts
- July, Supreme Court rules unanimously Nixon must surrender tapes

Continued . . .



SECTION

2

continued **The Fall of a President****The President Resigns**

- House Judiciary Committee approves 3 articles of **impeachment**
 - formal accusation of wrongdoing while in office
 - charges: obstruction of justice, abuse of power, contempt of Congress
- Nixon releases tapes; show knows of administration role, cover up
- Before full House votes on impeachment, Nixon resigns

The Effects of Watergate

- 25 members of administration convicted, serve prison terms

Section 3

The Ford and Carter Years

The Ford and Carter administrations attempt to remedy the nation's worst economic crisis in decades.

SECTION

3 The Ford and Carter Years

Ford Travels a Rough Road

“A Ford, Not a Lincoln”

- September 1974, new president **Gerald R. Ford** pardons Nixon
- Tries to move country past Watergate; loses much public support

Ford Tries to “Whip” Inflation

- Unsuccessfully asks public to cut back use of oil, gas, save energy
- Cuts government spending; urges higher interest to restrict credit
- “Tight money” policy triggers recession
- Continually battles Democratic Congress with own economic agenda



SECTION

3

Ford's Foreign Policy

Carrying Out Nixon's Foreign Policies

- Ford continues negotiations with China, Soviet Union
- Signs Helsinki Accords—cooperation between Eastern, Western Europe

Ongoing Turmoil in Southeast Asia

- Vietnam cease-fire breaks down; Ford asks Congress for aid to South
- Congress refuses; South Vietnam surrenders in 1975
- Cambodia seizes U.S. merchant ship *Mayagüez*
- Ford uses big military response; 41 die to rescue 39, is criticized

SECTION

3

Carter Enters the White House

Mr. Carter Goes to Washington

- **Jimmy Carter** promises to restore integrity to presidency
 - defeats Ford by narrow margin
- Has down-to-earth style; holds “fireside chats” on radio, TV
- Does not make deals with Congress; relies on Georgia advisers
- Both parties in Congress join to sink Carter budgets, major reforms

SECTION

3

Carter's Domestic Agenda

Confronting the Energy Crisis

- Carter offers energy proposals; oil-, gas-producing states, auto makers resist
- **National Energy Act**—encourages conservation, U.S. energy sources
- National Energy Act, conservation cut foreign oil dependence

The Economic Crisis Worsens

- Violence in Middle East creates fuel shortage; OPEC raises prices
- Carter tries various methods, none work; gives “malaise” speech
- 1980 inflation 14%, standard of living drops; people lose confidence

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **Carter's Domestic Agenda****A Changing Economy**

- From 1950s automation, foreign competition reduce manufacturing jobs
- Service sector expands, higher paying jobs require education, skills

Carter and Civil Rights

- Carter hires more African Americans, women than previous presidents
- Many civil rights groups disappointed because few laws passed
- 1978 *Bakke* case, Supreme Court strikes affirmative action quotas
 - allows race as one factor in university admissions

SECTION

3

A Human Rights Foreign Policy

Advancing Human Rights

- Carter's foreign policy promotes **human rights**—basic freedoms
- Cuts off aid to some, not all, allies that mistreat own citizens

Yielding the Panama Canal

- Panamanians resent having country split in two by foreign power
- 1977 treaty gives control of canal to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999
- Agreements improve relations between U.S., Latin America

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **A Human Rights Foreign Policy****The Collapse of Détente**

- Carter's insistence on human rights strains relations with U.S.S.R.
- SALT II talks delayed; Carter, Brezhnev finally sign June 1979
- SALT II meets sharp opposition in Senate
- December, Soviets invade Afghanistan; Carter lets SALT II die

SECTION

3

Triumph and Crisis in the Middle East

The Camp David Accords

- 1978 Carter hosts talks between Anwar el-Sadat, Menachem Begin
- **Camp David Accords** forge peace between Israel, Egypt:
 - Israel withdraws from Sinai Peninsula
 - Egypt recognizes Israel's right to exist

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued Triumph and Crisis in the Middle East**The Iran Hostage Crisis**

- **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** leads overthrow of shah
 - establishes Islamic state
- Carter supports shah; allows him entry to U.S. for cancer treatment
- Students seize U.S. embassy, take 52 hostages; demand shah back
- Carter refuses; standoff ensues; intense secret negotiations follow
- Captives released Jan. 1981, shortly after Ronald Reagan sworn in

Section 4

Environmental Activism

During the 1970s, Americans strengthen their efforts to address the nation's environmental problems.

SECTION

4 Environmental Activism

The Roots of Environmentalism

Rachel Carson and Silent Spring

- **Rachel Carson**'s *Silent Spring* warns against use of pesticides
 - argues poisons kill food, harmless animals as well as pests
- Becomes best seller; leads JFK to establish advisory committee
 - chemical companies claim book inaccurate, threaten suits
- Carson starts national focus on environmental issues

SECTION

4

Environmental Concerns in the 1970s

The First Earth Day

- **Earth Day**—celebration highlighting environmental awareness
- First observed 1970 by communities, thousands of schools, colleges

The Government Takes Action

- Nixon not an **environmentalist**—active protector of environment
- Signs Clean Air Act, creates **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - main government arm on environmental issues
- 1970s, Congress passes 35 laws on conservation, clean up

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

4

continued Environmental Concerns in the 1970s**Balancing Progress and Conservation in Alaska**

- Pipeline creates jobs, revenue, worries over wildlife, native people
- Nixon gives millions of acres to native tribes for conservation, use
- Carter sets aside 56 million acres as national monuments
- 1980, Congress adds 104 million acres as protected areas

The Debate over Nuclear Energy

- Many think nuclear power good alternative to foreign oil
- Opponents contend nuclear plants, waste potentially harmful

Continued . . .

NEXT

SECTION

4

continued Environmental Concerns in the 1970s

Three Mile Island

- March 1979, reactor at **Three Mile Island** nuclear plant malfunctions
- Low-level radiation escapes; 100,000 people evacuated from area
- Incident rekindles debate over safety of nuclear power
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission strengthens safety standards
 - also improves inspection procedures

SECTION

4

A Continuing Movement

Environment or Employment?

- 1970s, environment movement gains popular support
- Opponents protest loss of jobs, revenues
- 1980s, 1990s, attempt to balance environment with jobs, progress



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