The Nixon Years
Chapter 21 Section 1

Nixon

• Before he lost to Kennedy, he was known for **conservatism and anti-communism**.
• He now proposed “New Federalism”: Money collected by the Federal government would be **given to states and local government**. They would do a better job of spending tax dollars.
• Nixon supported civil rights early in his career.
• **Southern Strategy**: Nixon tried to get **Southern Democrats to vote for him** by opposing bussing, Civil Rights laws, and forced desegregation.

Nixon’s Presidency

• He took a firm stance against drugs
• When the Liberal Warren Court retired, he named conservative Supreme Court Justices
• He did go for some **liberal laws** like **Food Stamps** and increases in Social Security.
• 1970 saw the first Earth Day.
• Nixon’s Administration passed the **Clean Air Act, and the EPA** (Environmental Protection Agency) to pass laws on the environment.
• **OSHA**: Set standards for safety in the workplace.
• Early in his Presidency he made sure **Affirmative Action was in place** by setting standards for companies hiring African Americans in certain industries.
Essential Questions
1. What was Nixon known for early on in his career?
2. What was the Southern Strategy?
3. What do you think the Southern Strategy will lead to?
4. How did Nixon help improve the environment?

Nixon’s Foreign Policy
- **Henry Kissinger**, was Nixon’s National security advisor and later named Secretary of State
- Believed in **Realpolitik**: basing foreign policy on reality and what is best for the country rather than ideals like “fighting communism”
- This marked a strong shift in American foreign policy dealing with communism.
- **Influenced by Kissinger**, Nixon would start a period known as **Détente**: a period of eased tensions with the communist block.
- **Shuttle Diplomacy**: Kissinger making frequent trips to the Middle East.

Détente
- **SALT** talks: Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Nixon went to the Soviet Union and helped come to these agreements.
- Soviet leader **Brezhnev and Nixon** agreed to put restrictions on **ABM missiles** and cut down on **nuclear missile buildups** for 5 years.
- 1972: One year after the American Ping Pong team visited China, **Nixon made a historic visit to China**
- Nixon recognized the government of China.
- This visit put a lot of **pressure on the Soviets** since they were not friends with the Chinese.
Essential Questions
1. How was “Realpolitik” different from the United State’s stance on Communism in the past?
2. What is Détente?
3. How did Nixon achieve Détente with the Chinese?
4. How did Nixon exploit Chinese/Soviet relations?

Problems in the Middle East
• In 1973 Egypt and Syria attacked Israel.
• Since the Soviets agreed to provide support to Egypt and Syria, Americans offered support to Israel.
• This threatened to become a superpower confrontation.
• Another problem is that this caused an oil embargo by Arab countries on the US for their helping Israel.
• OPEC led this embargo: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Mostly arab countries and Venezuela.

The Oil Embargo
• Ever since WWII America had become hooked on oil.
  In 1970 we imported 1/5 our oil, by 1973 we imported 1/3
  This embargo created an energy shortage.
  Long gas lines became the norm
  This not only affected drivers, but factories used gas to power machines; farmers to run tractors, shippers to ship products.
  Thus the gas shortage caused all the prices of things to rise.
  This caused tragic results in the US economy
Events at Home

- 1960 NASA established: Little by little they produced gains
- Then in 1969: Apollo 11 landed on the moon.
- Americans watched from home as “The Eagle” landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon.
- This was set into motion many years before by Kennedy.

Inflation

- Inflation and unemployment were high in the 1970’s
- Inflation is when prices rise quickly.
- Nixon broke his view of limited government went he put prices controls in effect for 3 months in 1971
- Business could not raise prices or salaries of employees for months.
- It seemed to work for a while
- But the oil crisis of 1973-1974 sent inflation and prices souring again

Essential Question

1. What did OPEC do to strike back against the US for helping Israel?
2. What effects did the oil embargo have on the US?
3. What was Apollo 11?
4. What caused the price controls not to work against inflation?