Widening the War

- Nixon ran on a platform of ending the war.
- **Henry Kissinger**, his security advisor, immediately began negotiating with North Vietnam.
- Nixon’s “peace with honor” called for **Vietnamization**, which meant slowly letting South Vietnam fight the war and pulling American troops out.
- He hoped the government would not collapse until **after the US left**, so it would look like South Vietnam failed.

Laos and Cambodia

- Still antiwar activist criticized Nixon for not doing an immediate withdraw from Vietnam.
- But secretly, Nixon was **expanding the war**.
- He bombed Cambodia, and sent troops there and Laos to destroy bases and the Ho Chi Minh trail.
- This was done to get better deals negotiating: **“Madman Theory”**.
- He even began bombing N. Vietnam again.
Essential Questions
1. Who was Nixon’s Security advisor?
2. What was Vietnamization?
3. What was the purpose of Vietnamization?
4. Why did Nixon call for bombing in Laos and Cambodia?

Increasing Protest
- In 1970 Nixon announced troops were sent to Cambodia.
- Protest broke out, especially on college campuses.
- Kent State: The National guard was sent in to end protest. They fired on protesters and killed 4 people.
- By 1969 the antiwar movement was becoming mainstream. Public support for the war was now a minority position.
- 250,000 protesters gathered in Washington DC to protest the war in 1969.

Radical Protest
- Weathermen: Extreme antiwar protesters that used bombs and weapons.
- These radical tactics were not supported by mainstream war protesters though.
- My Lai Massacre: Over 450 women, children, and elderly men were killed by US troops in this village.
- Pentagon Papers: Secret government papers were revealed to the public and it showed how the government was lying to the American people about the Vietnam war.
- Embarrassed Nixon’s administration.
1972 Election

- **Nixon** ran for reelection
- **George McGovern**, a critic of the war, ran for Democrats
- McGovern called for an [immediate end to the war](#), and hoped the [26th Amendment](#) would help him since most young people supported him.
- Kissinger announced a [breakthrough in negotiations](#) 2 weeks before the election, this helped Nixon cruise to reelection.
- Talks stalled again after the election, but by January 1973 they had finally reached an agreement. The US agreed to leave South Vietnam.

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**Essential Questions**

1. What happened at Kent State?
2. What happened to the antiwar movement by 1969?
3. What was the My Lai Massacre?
4. What were the Pentagon Papers?
5. What was the 26th Amendment? Why would it help McGovern?

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**The Legacy of Vietnam**

- By 1975 North Vietnam had taken over South Vietnam and [turned the whole country communists](#)
- Many Americans and South Vietnamese who helped had to be airlifted out of Vietnam.
- **Khmer Rouge**: Would lead a violent communists revolution in Cambodia.
- **Effects on Southeast Asia**: Death, contamination, refugees fleeing, 700,000 immigrants to the US.
Effects on Veterans

- 58,000 soldiers **died**
- 600 POW’s taken and tortured
- Many **paralyzed and disabled** soldiers.
- Soldiers developed **cancer** from defoliants (agent orange).
- Veterans did not return to parades, they **endured abuse**.
- Post traumatic stress.

War’s Political Impact

- **150 billion** spent on the war, caused inflation
- Never **prevented South Vietnam** from turning communists.
- Many felt Johnson and Nixon abused their powers: **War Powers Act 1973**: Would set a 60 day limit on Presidential commitment on troops, thus reaffirming Congress’s **sole power to declare war**.
- **Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial** in Washington DC.

Essential Questions

1. What happens to South Vietnam after the US leaves?
2. What were Vietnam war effects on the American veterans of the war?
3. Why was the War Powers Act of 1973 made into law?
4. What is the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial?