Carter’s Presidency
Chapter 21 Section 3

The Right Guy on the Right Day
- Carter came across as an **honest guy and deeply religious**
- He told America he would never lie to them.
- Carter defeated Ford in 1976
- He **pardoned Vietnam draft dodgers** allowing them to return to the US.
- Unfortunately Carter tried and **could do nothing about inflation** as it rose.
- Carter was more successful on **addressing the nation’s energy crisis**. He established the **Department of Energy**
- He urged conservation, driving less, fuel standards for car makers, and alternative energy
- Carter’s energy policies **helped reduce dependence on foreign oil** and production of energy increased.

Environment Concerns
- He believed conserving energy would help save the environment
- Passed the **Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act**: Protected 100 million acres of land
- **Three Mile Island**: A near nuclear release at a nuclear power plant brought nuclear energy into forefront.
- **Love Canal**: A community suffered from high birth defect rates.
- It was uncovered that chemical wastes left behind years before by businesses was the cause.
Essential Questions
1. Why was Jimmy Carter a refreshing change in 1976?
2. Did Jimmy Carter stop inflation?
3. What was called into question by “Three Mile Island”?
4. What happened at Love Canal?

Carter’s Foreign Policy
• Had very little experience in Foreign affairs
• He hired many African and Hispanic Americans to high level positions showing his commitment to Civil Rights.
• Human rights was a top Priority of his Foreign Policy.
• He completed SALT II with the Soviets, it called for more reductions with certain kinds of nuclear weapons.
• But the treaty never passed Congress

More Foreign Policy
• Carter negotiated an agreement with Panama to hand over the Panama Canal to them in 2000.
• Carter officially recognized the Communist China as the real China not Taiwan.
• Camp David Accords: This was Carter’s biggest achievement
• He got Israel and Egypt to agree to peace in 1979 and Israel agreed to give up some of its territorial possessions back to Egypt.
• The leaders of Egypt and Israel won the Nobel Peace Prize for this.
Essential Questions
1. How did Carter show his commitment to Civil Rights?
2. What was a top priority of Carter’s Foreign Policy?
3. What were the Camp David Accords?

The Soviets and Afghanistan
- When a communists regime appeared to be crumbling in Afghanistan the Soviet Union jumped in to help.
- This threatened to ruin American-Soviet relations of détente, and is what killed the SALT II agreements in Congress.
- Some feared a weak American response.
- America reacted by boycotting the 1980 summer Olympics and stopping grain shipments to the Soviets.
- Americans were mad at this response saying it also hurt America.

Iranian Hostage Crisis
- 1979 Iran had a revolution and an American backed Shaw was ousted.
- Ayatollah Khomeini took over and preached hatred of the United States
- When Iran learned the Shaw was receiving medical help in the United States they attacked the American embassy and took the Americans as hostages
- Carter was unable to negotiate a release and military mission failed with a crash in the desert
- These events made Americans feel helpless.
Carter and the Aftermath

- The **Iran hostage crisis** dragged on during the 1980 election.
- Also the **production of gas** in Iran was disrupted during the events causing gas prices to rise.
- **Prices went up and inflation went crazy**
- These events made him a **sitting duck in the election of 1980** because people blamed him for what happened.
- What started out so upbeat in 1976, was all gone by now.

**Essential Questions**

1. What was the American response to the Afghanistan invasion? Why were people upset with it?
2. Why and How did Iranians take Americans hostage in 1979?
3. How did Carter fail in the Iranian Hostage Crisis?
4. Why was Carter a sitting duck in 1980?