



## **Grand Expectations: President Policy Since World War II [1947 to 1989]**

A review of the complexities of America's evolving foreign policy agenda from the aftermath of World War II through the years of decolonization, Cold War maneuvering, and European unification in an increasingly multipolar and interconnected world..

## Historical Context: Origins of the Cold War 1945-1952



The Cold War was an ideological conflict between the democratic United States and the communist Soviet Union. During the cold war both sides didn't shoot at each other due to the destructiveness of nuclear weapons in an idea known as M.A.D. (mutually assured destruction). Although both sides participated in a number of proxy wars, in which they supported the opposing sides. The Cold War lasted from 1945-1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union, and was a consideration in all major foreign policy decisions during that time.

George Keenan was an experienced American Diplomat who specialized in Soviet affairs. He issued the long telegram which declared that the only thing the Soviets respected was strength. The United States should not try to appease the Soviets. The U.S. should vigorously oppose all Soviet expansion with full economic and military force. This policy, known as containment, became America's foreign policy for the duration of the cold war (46 years).

After FDR's death in April of 1945, Harry Truman became president. He was not afraid to make difficult decisions such as dropping the Atomic Bomb. He issued what is known as the Truman Doctrine in 1947. This doctrine proclaimed that America would have to abandon its isolationist past and oppose communism everywhere it threatened to spread. This foreign policy would guide America, for better or worse until 1991.

The first place Truman applied the doctrine was in war torn Europe. Many countries were struggling to survive and began looking to communism as the answer. But, according to Truman, intervening would be a waste of time unless you gave the countries a hand out of poverty. The president's Secretary of State, George Marshall, came up with an economic package called the Marshall Plan to economically rebuild Europe. At first congress didn't want to spend the millions that the plan would need to succeed. But fear of communism prompted them to approve the ambitious plan. The Marshall Plan was a tremendous success.

Berlin, Germany's Capital, was deep in the Soviet Sector. In 1948, the Soviets closed access, thus preventing American, English, and French shipments of supplies. The British and Americans flew in supplies in an effort known as the Berlin Airlift. After nearly a year the Soviets reopened access.

China was also crippled by the war, and it had two sides fighting for control, the communists, under Mao Zedong and the Nationalists under Chang Kai-shek. The United States supported the nationalists, but Chang was brutal to his people and lost the U.S. support. Eventually, China became communist under Mao. The Republican Party blamed the Democrats for the loss, claiming that they were "soft" on communism. This claim would haunt America years later in Vietnam.

The fall of China and Eastern Europe to communism provoked a hysteria known as the Red Scare. It was the second such scare (the first was in 1919, after World War I). A husband and wife named Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of spying for the Soviets and were executed. A drunken senator named Joe McCarthy took advantage of the situation by

claiming that commie spies had infiltrated the government. He held hearings that recklessly accused people of being communist, and ruined many people's lives. This phenomenon became known as McCarthyism.

The focus of containment was on Europe but quickly turned to Asia at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. Communist North Korea invaded South Korea and was nearly victorious. The United Nations, led by the United States assisted South Korea in fighting off North Korea. This was the first time that black and white soldiers fought together, as Harry Truman had integrated the armed forces in 1948. The Chinese intervened on the side of North Korea and the war on drug on for nearly three years. Eventually an armistice was signed in 1953; it divided the country back to approximately where it began.

When both the Soviets and Americans exploded Hydrogen Bombs, people were terrified of a nuclear war. They dug bomb shelters and school children practiced duck and cover drills. The United States and its allies formed N.A.T.O. (North American Treaty Organization) for protection. The Soviets formed rival Warsaw Pact. Things would remain this way until 1991.

### **Historical Context: Society and Culture of the 1950s**

The 1950's are looked upon as an idyllic time when everyone was in a happy daze. America was prospering, babies were being born, and people were moving into new homes in the suburbs. Beneath the surface discontent about conformity, economic inequality, political alienation, and segregation simmered and would boil over in the next decade.

The G.I. Bill gave returning soldiers loans to get homes, businesses and go to college. Many of them moved to the newly built suburban homes. The first of these planned communities was called Levittown. The soldiers and their wives began the baby boom, perhaps the most prolific explosion of child births ever (in 1957 a baby was born every seven seconds!).

A new wave of consumerism swept society. Just as in the 1920's, advertisers enticed people into buying things that they didn't need. Manufacturers used planned obsolescence, purposely made a new style of an item every year, to encourage people to buy the latest version of their product. Automobiles, new appliances, and clothes were purchased on a brand new invention, the plastic credit card. People ran themselves into debt, especially to purchase the most coveted item, the television.

### The Presidency of Harry Truman[1945 to 1952]

The Cold War - Four decades of tensions between the super powers. Tensions in the form of words, not bullets. Set in the context of “proxy wars”

**Containment Policy** George F. Kennan A member of the State Department, he felt that the best way to keep Communism out of Europe was to confront the Russians wherever they tried to spread their power.

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
<p>The U.S. initiates two significant foreign policy efforts:</p> <p>#1 <b>The Truman Doctrine</b> Stated that the U.S. would support any nation threatened by Communism.</p> <p>#2 <b>The Marshall Plan</b> - the proposed massive and systematic American economic aid to Europe to revitalize the European economies after WWII and help prevent the spread of Communism.</p>	<p><b>1947</b></p>	<p>Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American major league baseball player</p> <p><b>Taft Hartley Act (1947)</b> The act amended the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 and imposed certain restrictions of the money and power of labor unions, including a prohibition against mandatory <i>closed shops</i>.</p>
<p>Berlin Blockade and Airlift The first Cold War hotspot</p>	<p><b>1948</b></p>	<p>Harry Truman is elected as president in his own right despite a split in the Democratic Party when the "<b>Dixiecrats</b>" objected to his civil rights stand.</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> <i>Connect the split in the Democratic party in 1948 to...</i></p> <p><i>The Election of 1860</i></p> <p><i>The Election of 1896</i></p> <p><i>The Election of 1912</i></p> <p>US Military is desegregated by Harry Truman</p>

<p>[Dec. 9, 1949] The Nationalist Chinese are driven from the mainland to the island of Taiwan by the Communist Chinese led by Mao Zedong</p> <p>[April 4, 1949] <b>The North Atlantic Treaty Organization</b> (NATO) is formed for the purpose of mutual defense.</p> <p><b>Soviet Union Has Atomic Bomb</b> Klaus Fuchs admits to giving A-Bomb secrets; FBI traces connection of espionage to the Rosenbergs</p>	<b>1949</b>	HUAC (House on Unamerican Activities Committee)
<p>North Korean forces cross the 38th parallel in a surprise invasion, precipitating the <b>Korean Conflict</b> (1950-53)</p> <p><b>NSC 68</b> -- National Security Council recommended increasing US defense spending by 4X, initially ignored, was resurrected by the Korean crisis when Truman recommended raising the armed forces to 3.5 million men and spending 13% of the GNP (\$50 billion) annually on defense.</p>	<b>1950</b>	<p>Sen. Joe McCarthy began the "Second Red Scare" with a speech charging that he had a list of known Communists within the U.S. Dept. of State. Anti-Communist fervor led to two different laws: the McCarran Internal Securities Act and the <u>McCarran Immigration and Nationality Act</u> (1952).</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect McCarthyism of the 1950's to other Red Scares...</p> <p>The Haymarket Riot (1886)</p> <p>The Palmer Raids (1919)</p>
<p>After months of conflict over the U.S. role and strategy in Korea, Truman fires MacArthur and maintains a limited scope for the war.</p>	<b>1951</b>	

### The Presidency of Dwight Eisenhower

**Modern Republicanism** – Acceptance of the New Deal and the Fair Deal but moderation in the expansion of government social programs, support for the United Nations and military and economic aid abroad

Less taxes, less regulation of business. Expansion of Social Security, increased minimum wage (\$1.00)

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
John Foster Dulles (Secretary of State 1953-59) and <b>Brinkmanship</b> . Containment wasn't enough!!	<b>1952</b>	Former Allied Commander Gen. Dwight Eisenhower runs for president against former Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson. "Ike" chooses little known (outside of California) Sen. Richard Nixon.  Eisenhower wins the presidency based upon his vow to end the Korean War.
Eisenhower succeeds in ending the Korean Conflict, which eases the threat of Communism. Used veiled threats of Nuclear attacks in pursuit of peace	<b>1953</b>	Julius and Ethel Rosenberg executed for Espionage  <b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect Rosa Parks to...  Homer Plessy (1896) challenging separate rail cars for blacks and whites
The French lose their colonial possessions in Indo-China at Dien Bien Phu.	<b>1954</b>	<b>Brown v. Board of Education (1954)</b> ruled that segregation in public schools was unequal and thus unconstitutional. The decision reversed the previous ruling in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896).

<p>The Cold War heats up with rhetoric from the U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles such as <b>massive retaliation</b> and <b>mutually assured destruction</b> (M.A.D.)</p> <p>Massive retaliation – build-up of Strategic Air Command + nukes to level cities “More bang for the buck” – turned out to be extremely expensive and eventually Ike warns against “military-industrial complex”</p> <p>[May 11, 1955] <b>Warsaw Pact</b> was a collective defence treaty among the Soviet Union and seven other Soviet satellite states</p> <p>The United States began sending military advisors to South Vietnam</p>	<p><b>1955</b></p>	<p>Fourteen-year-old Chicagoan <b>Emmett Till</b> is visiting family in Mississippi when he is kidnapped, brutally beaten, shot, and dumped in the</p> <p><b>Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)</b> A yearlong successful <b>boycott</b> after Rosa Parks refuses seat. Martin Luther King (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) gains status and proved blacks could unite.</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect Rosa Parks to... Homer Plessy (1896) challenging separate rail cars for blacks and whites</p>
<p>South Vietnamese leader Ngo Dinh Diem (with US support) refused to allow the elections to take place because he realized that Ho Chi Minh would win.</p>	<p><b>1956</b></p>	<p>The <b>Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956</b>, popularly known as the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act massive interstate highway building (41, 000 miles) contributes to <b>suburbanization</b></p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect interstate highway building to</p> <p>Henry Clay’s American System (1824) and infrastructure investment (Erie Canal)</p> <p>Transcontinental Railroad (1869)</p> <p>The Panama Canal (1914)</p>

<p>[January 5, 1957] The <b>Eisenhower Doctrine</b> – stated that the US would provide economic aid and arms to help Middle Eastern countries fight communism; First applied in Lebanon in 1958</p>	<p><b>1957</b></p>	
<p>[October 4, 1957] The Soviets launch "Sputnik"</p>	<p><b>1957</b></p>	<p>[September 24, 1957] Eisenhower is <b>forced</b> to send in federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to enforce federal de-segregation laws.</p> <p>The U.S. responds to Sputnik launch and "space gap" (or the "missile gap") with large expenditures for missiles and education.</p> <p>Beat generation writes <u>On The Road</u>.</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect Beat novelist Jack Kerouac to the Lost Generation of the Roaring Twenties</p> <p>The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) expands its efforts to include "covert actions" to overthrow pro-Communist governments in Africa and the Middle East.</p>



<p>The Soviet Union vows to suspend the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere. The U.S. follows the Soviets toward "peaceful coexistence."</p>	<p><b>1958</b></p>	<p>[ September 2, 1958]The <b><u>National Defense Education Act</u></b> (NDEA) Motivated by a growing national sense that U.S. scientists were falling behind scientists in the Soviet Union, it was arguably catalyzed by early Soviet success in the Space Race, notably the launch of the first-ever satellite, Sputnik, the year before.</p> <p>Education – too easygoing – substitute square roots for square dancing and promoted Advanced Placement program; authorized loans for college</p>
<p>Eisenhower coins the term "<b><u>domino theory</u></b>" to explain why the U.S. should intervene to stop the spread of Communism in Southeast Asia.</p> <p>Castro leads revolution in Cuba</p>	<p><b>1959</b></p>	<p>Alaska and Hawaii are admitted as the 49th and 50th states of the Union</p>
<p>[May 1, 1960] The Soviet Union shoots down the American <b>U-2 spy plane</b> piloted by Francis Gary Powers.</p> <p>Powers is tried and convicted of espionage. He is later released in a prisoner exchange, but a planned Eisenhower-Khrushchev summit meeting collapsed.</p>	<p><b>1960</b></p>	<p>[February 1, 1960]_Students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College begin a <b><u>sit-in at a segregated</u></b> Woolworth's lunch counter.</p> <p>[September 26, 1960] <b><u>First Televised Presidential Debates</u></b> Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged Vice-President Richard Nixon to the first televised presidential debates. The medium favors Kennedy as a young and charismatic leader, inspiring hope in the "next generation."</p>
<p>Ike's <b><u>Farewell Address</u></b> (1961) warned Americans against the "military industrial complex" or arms build up despite the recent unfolding of events in Cuba and a perceived "missile gap"</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect President Eisenhower's Farewell address to....George Washington's Farwell Address in 1796</p>		

### Historical Context: The Stormy Sixties 1960-1969

The 1960's marked a dramatic shift from the conformity and consensus that the 1950's had imparted. The decade was rocked with a brush with nuclear war, the assassinations of political and cultural leaders, protests, riots, and a war. In what many consider to be America's worst year, 1968 had virtually all of the above elements in one calendar year. 1960 was an election year. The two candidates were very dissimilar from one another. Republican Richard Nixon was an experienced, shrewd politician, but cold and ruthless. Democrat John Kennedy was youthful and inexperienced, but very charismatic and personable. The two met in the first ever Presidential debate, which was televised. Kennedy looked more presidential and may have convinced enough voters to elect him in the closest election in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Kennedy inherited a plan to train exiled Cubans and have them attack the newly communist Cuba. They trained on Cayo Costa in Lee County. The plan, called the Bay of Pigs, was a complete disaster. This was one of a number of events in the simmering cold war. The Soviets completed the Berlin Wall in 1961 separating east and west Berlin, essentially making East Germany a prison. The emboldened Soviets placed missiles in Cuba, 90 miles from Florida. The interstate was closed except for military traffic as the world watched and hoped a nuclear war would not occur. A tense stand off began as the United States demanded the Soviets remove the missiles. The world held its breath for thirteen days as the two countries glared frostily at each other. The Soviets finally backed down and removed the missiles, in exchange for our promise not to invade Cuba.

President Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963. The new President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, embarked on an ambitious program to combat poverty and inequality. The program, called the Great Society, would introduce head-start, Medicare, Medicaid, a civil rights act, and a voting rights act. Johnson tried to help the lower tiers of society achieve the success of middle class enjoyed.

African Americans began the civil rights movement in 1954. By the mid 1960's they gained ground. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's steady confrontational, non violent approach was working. He headed up the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a student organization the Students Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was formed for younger people to protest. But for many African Americans, it wasn't working quickly enough. It was true that the poll tax had been eliminated as did segregation in schools and public facilities. However, in the Deep South it persisted stubbornly. New leaders such as Stockley Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, and Malcolm X espoused a more militant stance. Freedom Riders were organized to integrate buses. Freedom Summer was held to register blacks to vote. The Black Panthers formed and began to arm themselves to fight the white opposition with bullets. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 in an internal power struggle in his organization, the Nation of Islam. That year the black ghetto of Watts, in Los Angeles, violently rioted what began many "long, hot summers" of discontent among inner city African Americans.

The Supreme Court, under the leadership of Earl Warren, became a liberal defender of people's rights. They ruled against segregation, for the rights of people accused of crimes (most famously Miranda v. Arizona). The court also ruled that congressional voting districts should be more representative and equal, known as "one man one vote." Other Warren/Burger court cases were: Gideon vs Wainwright, Escobedo vs Illinois, & Tinker vs Ohio. College students began to protest during the 1960's. At first it was a minority movement who wanted people to change society that they believed was morally corrupt. As the Vietnam War drug on, they protested

that our involvement was immoral. The movement gained members, some of whom were Hippies. Hippies lived an alternative lifestyle dubbed the counterculture. They used drugs, had premarital sex, didn't bathe regularly, didn't hold jobs, and grew their hair long.

America's involvement in Vietnam was gradual. In the late 1940's, we gave money to the French to control the country. When the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu, we sent advisors to help the South Vietnamese against the communist North Vietnamese. It was part of the containment policy known as the Domino Theory which stated that if Vietnam fell to communism its neighbors might succumb to communism as well. We increased the advisors to 16,000 by 1963. To not appear soft on communism, President Johnson looked for an excuse to escalate our involvement in Vietnam. He found it in 1964 at the Gulf of Tonkin. He claimed we were attacked by the North Vietnamese. Congress allowed the President to do whatever was necessary to control Vietnam. Johnson said of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that it was "like grandmas night shirt, it covered everything". By 1968 we had 500,000 troops fighting in Vietnam.

The year 1968 opened with the Vietnamese attacking on their new year, Tet. The Tet Offensive was a simultaneous attack on 100 cities and bases. The North Vietnamese used the Ho Chi Minh Trail, named after the leader of North Vietnam to move troops and supplies through other, the neutral countries of Laos and Cambodia to avoid the American Army. Though the United States beat back the North Vietnamese, the American people were shocked. The Americans had been told we were winning the war, now it appeared very different on their televisions. This opened up a yawning credibility gap between Americans and their leaders. The anti war movement grew and began protesting more loudly. In March United States soldiers killed nearly 500 unarmed women, children, and old people in the Mai Lai Massacre. President Johnson decided not to run for reelection, which shocked the nation. Robert Kennedy, John's brother, decided to run for president. He was youthful and gave hope to many people. In April, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, riots rocked over thirty cities. In June Robert Kennedy was assassinated. The Democratic Convention to choose a presidential candidate was marred by violent student protests. With the Democrats badly divided, the Republican Convention in Miami nominated Richard Nixon, who managed to win in November over Vice President Hubert Humphrey. The sixties ended on a higher note as America became the first country to have a man walk on the moon in July 1969.

### The Presidency of John F. Kennedy

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
<p>[April 17, 1961] <b><u>The Bay of Pigs Invasion</u></b> 1,400 Cuban exiles launched what became a botched invasion at the Bay of Pigs on the south coast of Cuba. In 1959, Fidel Castro came to power in an armed revolt that overthrew Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista.</p> <p>Decision is made to expand U.S. involvement in Vietnam. <b>The first Americans died in Vietnam</b></p> <p>[August 1961] East Germans erect the Berlin Wall Surrounding Soviet East Berlin.</p> <p>Soviets put the first man (Yuri Gagarin) into earth orbit. Kennedy vows to have a man on the moon by the end of the decade.</p>	<b>1961</b>	<p>Kennedy is inaugurated to lead America into the "New Frontier"</p> <p>[May to December 1961] Student volunteers begin taking bus trips through the South to test out new laws that prohibit segregation in interstate travel facilities, which includes bus and railway stations. Several of the groups of "<b><u>Freedom Riders</u></b>" as they are called, are attacked by angry mobs along the way.</p> <p>The program, sponsored by <b><u>The Congress of Racial Equality</u></b> (CORE) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), involves more than 1,000 volunteers, black and white</p>
<p>U-2 photo evidence reveals Soviet missiles are being placed in Cuba, starting the confrontation known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.</p>	<b>1962</b>	<p>[ September 27, 1962] <b><u>Rachel Carson</u></b> publishes <i>Silent Spring</i> (1962) which brought environmental concerns to an unprecedented portion of the American public. The book inspired led to the creation of the <b><u>Environmental Protection Agency</u></b>.</p> <p>Students for a <b><u>Democratic Society (SDS)</u></b> issues the Port Huron statement "We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit"</p>

	<b>1962</b>	<p>[October 1, 1962] <b>James Meredith</b> becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence and riots surrounding the incident cause President, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy to send 500 U.S. Marshals to the scene</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect President Kennedy’s decision to send troops to University of Mississippi to the clash between the states and federal government...</p> <p>The Whiskey Rebellion (1794)</p> <p>South Carolina nullification crisis (1828)</p> <p>The Little Rock Nine (1957)</p>
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## The Presidency of Lyndon Baines Johnson [1964 to 1969]

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
<p>While campaigning for President, Lyndon Johnson claims “We are not about to send American boys 10,000 miles from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.”</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect LBJ’s 1964 statement to ...</p> <p><b>Woodrow Wilson (1917)</b> Wilson runs and wins a second term and wins on a “He kept us out of the war!” Peace platform</p> <p><b>Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1937)</b> “Your boys are not going to be sent to any foreign war”</p> <p>[August 10, 1964] An incident involving American ships in the <b>Gulf of Tonkin</b> off Vietnam prompts a "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution" allowing the president to use all means necessary, including armed force to assist South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect Gulf of Tonkin Incident to...</p> <p><i>Spot Resolution (1846)</i></p> <p><i>Sinking of the Maine (1898)</i></p> <p><i>The Lusitania (1915)</i></p> <p><i>Weapons of Mass Destruction</i></p>	<p><b>1964</b></p>	<p>[January 1964] <b>LBJ and the Great Society:</b> Lyndon Baines Johnson succeeds Kennedy and vows to follow through on JFK’s plans for Civil Rights, launching his "Great Society" agenda.</p> <p>[January 23, 1964] The 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax, which originally had been instituted in 11 southern states after Reconstruction to make it difficult for poor blacks to vote.</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment to...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15<sup>th</sup>                      19<sup>th</sup>                      26<sup>th</sup></p> <p>The New Left ideology promotes the concept of a "counterculture" against the "Establishment" (Don’t trust anyone over 30.)</p> <p>President Johnson signs the <b>Civil Rights Act of 1964</b> prohibiting discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation</p> <p><b>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</b> Connect the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to... <i>Abolition movement—Garrison, The Liberator, Frederick Douglass; Civil War Amendements 13th, 14th, 15th amendments; Booker T. Washington/DuBois; 19th amendment (note the general connection between civil rights and women’s rights)</i></p> <p>[November 1964] Johnson is challenged by conservative Republican <b>Barry Goldwater</b> for president, but wins in a landslide.</p>

<p>The US states bombing North Vietnam</p> <p>The United States begins to use combat troops to fight against North Vietnam. By the end of the year, the United States had 185,000 troops in Vietnam.</p> <p>Protests begin at United States colleges and universities- protestors concentrate on teach-ins</p>	<b>1965</b>	<p>[February 21, 1965] Black Muslim leader <b><u>Malcolm X</u></b> is assassinated</p> <p>[ July 30, 1965] <b><u>The Great Society</u></b> legislation is launched:</p> <p>Medicare/Medicaid,</p> <p>Voting Rights Act</p> <p>Job Corps</p> <p>Head Start</p> <p>Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), etc.</p> <p><b><i>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</i></b>  <i>Connect the Great Society to ...</i></p> <p><i>The New Deal under FDR</i></p> <p><i>Relief</i></p> <p><i>Recovery</i></p> <p><i>Reform</i></p> <p>[August 6, 1965] Congress passes the <b><u>Voting Rights Act of 1965</u></b>, making it easier for Southern blacks to register to vote. Literacy tests, poll taxes, and other such requirements that were used to restrict black voting are made illegal.</p> <p><b><i>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</i></b>  <i>Literacy Tests and Poll taxes in the post Reconstruction South</i></p>
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<p>American troops in Vietnam reach nearly 400,000.</p>	<p><b>1966</b></p>	<p>[June 13, 1966] <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> - verdict leads to the use of so-called "Miranda rights"</p> <p>[ June 30, 1966] National Organization for Women (NOW) is formed. Betty Friedan elected NOW's first President</p> <p>"Black power" becomes the anthem of Stokely Carmichael of the <b>SNCC</b> (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee).</p> <p>[ October 15, 1966] The militant Black Panthers are founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.</p>
<p>American troops in Vietnam number nearly 500,000</p> <p>[November 20, 1967] Nearly 200,000 antiwar protesters march on the Pentagon as domestic opposition to the war turns to resistance- March on the Pentagon, draft card burning</p>	<p><b>1967</b></p>	<p>[June 12, 1967] In <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>, the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional. Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time are forced to revise their laws.</p> <p>[ July 28, 1967] Kerner Commission reports that our nation is becoming two societies, "one black, one white— separate but unequal."</p>

<p>American troops in Vietnam peak at over 538,000.</p> <p>[January 30, 1968] th <b>Tet Offensive-</b> A major push by North Vietnam and the Vietcong showed Americans that the war, despite what our government was saying, was far from over. General Westmoreland, who had our 500,000 troops, wanted 208,000 more.</p> <p>During Tet, the Vietnam lunar new year - Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army raiding forces attacked provincial capitals throughout Vietnam, even seizing the U.S. embassy for a time. U.S. opinion began turning against the war.</p> <p>[March 16 1968]- An American unit destroyed the village of <b>My Lai</b>, killing many women and children. The incident was not revealed to the public until 20 months later. Lt. Calley, who led the patrol, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 10 years for killing 20 people.</p> <p>New President Richard M. Nixon begins the policy of Vietnamization by gradually substituting South Vietnamese troops for American troops</p>	<b>1968</b>	<p>[April 4, 1968] <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b> is assassinated in Memphis. Riots explode across the country.</p> <p>[April 11, 1968] President Johnson signs <b>the Civil Rights Act of 1968</b>, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.</p> <p>[April 16, 1968] <b>Lyndon Johnson withdraws</b> from presidential consideration.</p> <p>[ June 5, 1968] Democratic presidential hopeful <b>Robert Kennedy is assassinated</b> on the eve of his California primary victory.</p> <p>[August 26-29 1968] New Left ideology leads to the disruption of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago (Trial of the Chicago Seven, including Tom Hayden).</p> <p>[November 5, 1968] Nixon wins on the basis that he has a secret plan to end the Vietnam War (or at least America's involvement).</p>
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<p>Nixon secretly begins bombing Viet Cong strongholds in Cambodia.</p> <p>Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first men to walk on the moon.</p>	<b>1969</b>	<p>[August 15-18, 1969] The concert at <b><u>Woodstock</u></b> draws top names in music and hundreds of thousands of young people.</p>
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## Historical Context: The Stalemated Seventies 1970-1979



The 1970's marked a time of American disillusionment. We had lost a war, continuing social unrest and protest, learned that our government lied to us, had a president resign after being caught lying, experienced a major energy crisis, had unemployment at its highest since the Great Depression, faced a polluted environment, and a humiliating hostage crisis. From the awful clothing (bell bottoms and plaid) to its horrible music (disco) America didn't have much to be proud of at its bicentennial.

Richard Nixon was elected as president largely due to his promise to achieve peace with honor in the Vietnam War. Nixon championed the Silent Majority. He made strides to reduce the number of combat troops in a process known as Vietnamization. Vietnamization is a policy where the South Vietnamese would be trained to fight for themselves. The war continued to linger until the eve of the next presidential election in 1972. The North Vietnamese continued to use a supply route called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, named after the leader of North Vietnam, the trail ran through the neutral countries of Laos and Cambodia. Nixon ordered the secret bombing of these two neutral countries. When the public learned of this widening of the war, massive protests broke out. On Kent State and Jackson State Universities, National Guardsmen shot and killed protesting students. Prior to the 1972 election Nixon proclaimed that peace is at hand. The ploy worked and he won a sweeping election. The Paris Peace Accords ended U.S. involvement in the war in January 1973. The total number of Americans killed was over 58,000. In 1975 the North Vietnamese defeated the South and Vietnam became a united communist nation. The U.S. normalized relations with them in 1994.

In 1973 the congress reasserted its authority to make war with the War Powers Act. This law limits the president's ability to involve United States troops for longer than three months without congressional approval. What the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution allowed, the War Powers Act took away. Nixon was a skilled foreign policy negotiator. He played tensions between the Soviets and China perfectly. He visited both countries and softened the cold war in a policy known as détente, or a relaxation of tensions.

The 1972 election would prove to be the end for Nixon. He was always paranoid and power hungry, he kept an enemies list with Bill Cosby and hundreds of other people on it. People working for Nixon's reelection campaign were caught breaking into the Democratic Party National headquarters in the Watergate building. The Watergate Scandal would eventually bring Nixon down. Congress and the American People wanted to know "What did the President know and when did he know it?" about the break in. Eventually, it was learned that Nixon ordered a cover up of the Watergate affair. Under the threat of impeachment, Nixon resigned. The most baffling issue was that Nixon won the election by the widest margin in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was

unnecessary to break into Watergate! Unfortunately, this sad event just deepened the public mistrust of the government.

Our support for Israel in its wars with its oil rich Muslim neighbors would have dramatic repercussions. The Organization of Oil Producing Countries (O.P.E.C.) would tighten the supply of oil, causing energy prices, including gas, to soar. The energy crisis was coupled with a slow down in the economy where unemployment would reach its highest levels since the Great Depression. None of the three presidents during the decade could solve the energy problem or the persistent, stubborn stagflation.

Gerald Ford took over as vice president when Nixon's vice president went to jail in a bribery scam. He then became president. He pardoned Nixon at the outset of his term, causing many people to distrust him. He was defeated by Jimmy Carter in the 1976 presidential election.

The 1970's included a struggle for equality of many different groups. They were encouraged by the progress of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement. Hispanic Americans and Native Americans won concessions from businesses and congress. The largest group to push for an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was women. They organized the National Organization of Women (NOW) to push for equal rights in the workplace. Women's rights activists got a boost from the Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade in which abortion was legalized. The 1970's also experienced an environmental awareness, spurred by the book Silent Spring by Rachael Carson. The environmentalists pushed for more regulation on business pollution. The first earth day was celebrated in 1970.

President Carter handed the Panama Canal back to the Panamanians. He also brokered an historic peace agreement between Israel and Egypt called the Camp David Accords. He supported the Afghanistan rebels against the Soviet invasion. This invasion would devastate the Afghanistan allowing terrorist groups to operate with impunity. The ten year long invasion would also destroy the Soviet economy, eventually helping to topple the country. The biggest crisis he faced was that Iran had taken 50 American Embassy workers hostage. The Iran Hostage Crisis would lead to his defeat for reelection. The hostages were released on inauguration day 1980, after 444 days in captivity.

### The Presidency of Richard Nixon [1969 to 1974]

<p>[ November 3, 1969] Nixon initiates foreign policy with so-called "<u>Nixon Doctrine</u>"</p>	<p><b>1969</b></p>	
<p>Bombing of Laos and Cambodia begins in an effort to cut off North Vietnam from its lines of supply</p>	<p><b>1970</b></p>	<p>[May 4, 1970] The <u>Kent State</u> shootings, also known as the <u>May 4 massacre</u> or Kent State massacre, occurred at Kent State University in the city of Kent, Ohio, and involved the shooting of students by members of the Ohio National Guard on Monday, May 4, 1970.</p> <p>Four students were killed and nine others were wounded, one of whom suffered permanent paralysis</p>
	<p><b>1971</b></p>	<p>[ June 17, 1972] The Supreme Court, in <i>Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education</i>, upholds busing as a legitimate means for achieving integration of public schools.</p> <p>Although largely unwelcome (and sometimes violently opposed) in local school districts, court-ordered busing plans in cities such as Charlotte, Boston, and Denver continue until the late 1990s.</p> <p><b><i>Historical Thinking Skills – Synthesis</i></b>  <i>Brown vs the Board of Education (1954)</i>  <i>The Little Rock Nine (1957)</i>  <i>Integration of Ole Miss (1962)</i></p>

<p>[February 21, 1972] <b><u>Nixon makes historic trips to China</u></b> (opening informal relations with the U.S. for the first time since 1949/first trip to China by an American president) and the USSR another first trip for an American president basic principles of <b><u>détente</u></b> signed.</p> <p>Nixon ordered heaviest bombing of the war</p> <p>SALT I Agreement - Strategic Arms Limitations Talks by Nixon and Brezhnev in Moscow in May, 1972. Limited Anti-Ballistic Missiles to two major departments and 200 missiles</p>	<p><b>1972</b></p>	<p>[June 17, 1972] Break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters (Watergate). The burglars were later found to be working for the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP) Investigation of Watergate break-in expands (Woodward/Bernstein)</p> <p>[November 7, 1972] Nixon sweeps 49 states in the November election. McGovern only carries Massachusetts and not even his native Minnesota.</p> <p>Nixon's <i>New Federalism</i> instituted with revenue-sharing/block grants to state and local governments</p>
<p>[January 23, 1973] <b><u>Paris Accord</u></b>- U.S. signed a peace treaty with North Vietnam and began withdrawing troops. On April 25, 1975, South Vietnam was taken over by North Vietnam, in violation of the treaty.</p> <p>American troops leave Vietnam as South Vietnam assumes the full responsibility of the war effort (Vietnamization)</p> <p>American assistance to Israel during the Yom Kippur War resulted in an Arab Oil Embargo engineered by the Arab majority of OPEC</p> <p>Cease fire agreements were formally signed and the draft was ended.</p>	<p><b>1973</b></p>	<p>Scope of the Watergate investigation expands</p> <p>[January 22, 1973] <b><u>Roe v. Wade</u></b> The court legalized abortion by rulings the state laws could not restrict abortion during the first three months of pregnancy</p> <p>[July 27, 1972] <b><u>Impeachment hearings begin</u></b> ,Vice President Spiro Agnew convicted on income tax charges, resigns</p> <p>[October 21, 1973] Special Watergate prosecutor appointed, C. Archibald Cox, who was later fired by Solicitor General Robert Bork (later nominated for the Supreme Court by Reagan—appointment denied)</p> <p>[November 7, 1973] <b><u>War Powers Act</u></b> Gave any president the power to go to war under certain circumstances, but required that he could only do so for 90 days before being required to officially bring the matter before Congress.</p>

### The Presidency of Gerald Ford [ 1974 to 1977]

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
	1974	<p>Federal grand jury indictments against Watergate conspirators</p> <p>[ July 24, 1974] <b>US vs. Nixon</b> the court rejected Richard Nixon's claim to an absolute unqualified privilege against any judicial process</p> <p>[ July 27, 1974] Articles of impeachment drafted and passed by the House</p> <p>[August 9, 1974] <b>Nixon resigns as President.</b> Ford sworn in as President and names former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President</p> <p>[September 8, 1974] <b>Ford pardons Nixon</b> - U.S. economy shows signs of weakness as inflation begins to climb</p>
<p>[April 30, 1975] Vietnam falls to Communism</p> <p>[May 12-15, 1975] The <b>Mayaguez incident</b> involving the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia on marked the last official battle of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.</p>	1975	



### The Presidency of Jimmy Carter [1974 to 1977]

Foreign Policy Developments	DATE	Domestic Policy Developments
	<b>1976</b>	<p>[July 4, 1776] The United States celebrates its bicentennial with pomp and circumstance</p> <p>Ford survives a challenge for the Republican nomination by former actor and leading Republican conservative, Ronald Reagan</p> <p>Former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter is nominated by the Democrats and campaigns as an "outsider" favoring a foreign policy based upon the Helsinki Agreement on human rights</p> <p>[November 2, 1976] Carter wins the Presidency 50.1% to 48%</p>
<p>[June 18, 1979] During a summit meeting in Vienna, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign the <b>SALT-II agreement</b> dealing with limitations and guidelines for nuclear weapons. The treaty, which never formally went into effect, proved to be one of the most controversial U.S.-Soviet agreements of the Cold War.</p> <p>[December 31, 1977] <b>President Carter Visits Iran</b> On New Year's Eve, President Jimmy Carter stands beside the shah and toasts him, saying, "Iran, because of the great leadership of the shah, is an island of stability."</p>	<b>1977</b>	<p>Inflation begins to climb at a faster rate. Carter outlines his energy plan</p> <p>[April 18, 1977] President Jimmy Carter's <b>Moral Equivalent of War (MEOW)</b> comparing the <b>energy crisis</b> with the "moral equivalent of war".</p>

<p>[December 15, 1978] In one of the most dramatic announcements of the Cold War, President Jimmy Carter states that as of January 1, 1979, the United States will <b>formally recognize the communist People's Republic of China (PRC)</b> and sever relations with Taiwan.</p> <p>[September 17, 1978 ]President Carter calls Israel's Menachim Begin and Egypt's Anwar Sadat to Camp David to establish a "framework for peace" in the Middle East known as the <b>Camp David Accords signed on</b> [September 27, 1978 ]</p>	<b>1978</b>	<p>[June 20, 1978] <b><i>Regents of the University of California v. Bakke</i></b> was a landmark decision by the Supreme Court of the United States.</p> <p><b>It upheld affirmative action, allowing race to be one of several factors in college admission policy.</b> However, the court ruled that specific racial quotas, such as the 16 out of 100 seats set aside for minority students by the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, were impermissible</p>
<p>[ February 1979] <b>Ayatollah Khomeini</b>, who became a symbol of the Islamic Revolution, arrives in Tehran and immediately calls for the expulsion of all foreigners. "I beg God to cut off the the hands of all evil foreigners and their helpers," he says.</p> <p>The State Department evacuates 1,350 Americans on the day of the ayatollah's return. Khomeini would go on to take control of the country in March, installing a quasi theocracy that remains in power</p> <p>[November 4, 1979] Fifty Americans are taken hostage. Eventually, all are released, but not until most of them spend 444 days in captivity.</p>	<b>1979</b>	<p>[July 15, 1979] Carter gave a nationally televised address in which he identified what he believed to be a "crisis of confidence" among the American people. Known as the "national malaise" speech</p>



### The Presidency of Ronald Reagan [1981 to 1989]

<p>[January 23, 1980] <b>Carter Doctrine</b> " makes the Persian Gulf a zone of "vital American interest"</p> <p>[March 21, 1980] The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan prompts Carter to institute an American-led <b>boycott of the summer Olympic Games to be held in Moscow</b></p>	<b>1980</b>	<p><b>The Election of 1980</b></p> <p><b>Issues of the Day:</b> Iran hostage crisis, USSR invasion of Afghanistan (Summer Olympics boycott), Inflation</p> <p>The United States presidential election of 1980 featured a contest between incumbent Democrat Jimmy Carter and his Republican opponent, Ronald Reagan, as well as Republican Congressman John B. Anderson, who ran as an independent.</p> <p>Reagan, aided by the Iran hostage crisis and a worsening economy at home, won the election in a landslide. Carter, after defeating Ted Kennedy for the Democratic nomination, attacked Reagan as a dangerous right-wing radical. For his part, Reagan, the former Governor of California, repeatedly ridiculed Carter, and won a decisive victory; in the simultaneous Congressional elections, Republicans won control of the United States Senate for the first time in 28 years.</p> <p>This election marked the beginning of what is popularly called the "<b>Reagan Revolution.</b>"</p>
<p>The Reagan Administration lent logistical, financial and military <b>support to the Contras</b>, based in neighboring Honduras, who waged a guerrilla insurgency in an effort to topple the Sandinista government of Nicaragua</p> <p>[March 23, 1983] To combat the supposed US disadvantage in nuclear capability, Reagan proposed the <b>Strategic Defense Initiative</b> ( or the so-called <i>Star Wars</i> defense).</p>	<b>1983</b>	<p>[January 25, 1982] Reagan introduces his <b>New Federalism</b> to shrink the size of the federal government by transferring various government programs to the states.</p> <p>In so doing, he initiated cutbacks in domestic programs (except Social Security and Medicare) and increased spending for the military. This created huge budget deficits—the largest ever in peacetime.</p>
	<b>1984</b>	<p>Democrats nominate Carter VP Walter Mondale and Rep. Geraldine Ferraro (first woman so nominated) to face a Reagan-Bush landslide, creating what was termed "morning in America."</p> <p>Los Angeles hosts an extremely successful summer Olympic Games despite a small Soviet-led boycott</p>

<p>The <b>Reagan Doctrine</b> was a strategy orchestrated and implemented by the United States under the Reagan Administration to overwhelm the global influence of the Soviet Union in an attempt to end the Cold War.</p> <p>Despite earlier posturing which called the Soviet Union the “Evil Empire,” Reagan welcomed the initiatives of new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev who sought economic and civil reform called <i>glasnost</i> (openness) and <i>perestroika</i> (restructuring).</p> <p>The Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Vienna (the famous “walk in the woods”) leads to progress on an arms-limitations agreement (actually concluded in 1987).</p> <p>Afghanistan provides a new region for the testing of the Reagan Doctrine.</p>	<b>1985</b>	<p>Reagan begins his second term, because the country feels it is “better off now than it was four years ago.”</p>
<p>[ October 11-13 1986] The <b>Reykjavik Summit</b> was a summit meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev.</p> <p>The talks collapsed at the last minute, but the progress that had been achieved eventually resulted in the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.</p>	<b>1986</b>	<p><b>The Iran-Contra Affair</b> dominated the news from November through much of 1987 and the joint congressional investigation in to the actions of Oliver North, John Poindexter, and CIA</p> <p>Director William Casey. The investigation centered upon the famous “arms for hostages” charges (arms to Iran, assuring the release of hostages, with the funds diverted to further fund the Contras—freedom fighters—of Nicaragua.</p>

	<b>1987</b>	<p>The joint congressional committee investigation exposed weaknesses in the White House's handling of foreign affairs.</p> <p>An October crash in stock prices (losses of 22.6%) reminded people of the 1929 crash and pointed to a growing gap between rich and poor.</p> <p>Reagan policies also brought about a "deregulation" of civil rights and heightening differences within black America.</p>
	<b>1988</b>	<p>With the Reagan terms winding down, Vice-President George Bush was nominated (and elected) for president</p> <p>He was opposed by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis (who oversaw the "Massachusetts miracle" of stimulating that state's economic recovery).</p>

