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.
Chapter 24

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
Chapter 24

Section-1

The Nixon Administration

President Richard M. Nixon tries to steer the country in a conservative direction and away from federal control.
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
Nixon’s New Conservatism \(\text{continued}\)

**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
To attract white voters in the South, President Nixon decided to slow the country’s desegregation by saying integration was a middle road course between instant integration and segregation forever.

Nixon’s Southern Strategy

A New South

- Southern Democrats help segregationist George Wallace wins 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…
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
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
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
Nixon’s Foreign Policy Triumphs {continued}

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

(she’s giving that same look your momma gives you when you tell her you don’t have any history homework, but your grade is a solid D)
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
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
Chapter 24

Section-2

The Cover-Up Unravels

A Bungled Burglary

- 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…
The Cover-Up Unravels \textit{continued}

The Saturday Night Massacre

- The Saturday Night Massacre
- Special prosecutor Archibald Cox subpoenas tapes; Nixon refuses
- Nixon orders Cox fired, attorney general Elliot Richardson refuses
- \textbf{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
The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Chapter 24

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
Chapter 24

Section-2

The Fall of a President {continued}

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
A Human Rights Foreign Policy (continued)

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
Middle East, 1978–1982

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER
1. Location What OPEC countries are shown on the map? Israel, 1979–1982
2. Human-Environment Interaction How does Israel's location contribute to its conflicts?
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
The Iran Hostage Crisis

- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini leads overthrow of shah — establishes Islamic state
- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini leads overthrow of shah
- 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
During the 1970s, Americans strengthen their efforts to address the nation’s environmental problems.
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
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
Environmental Concerns in the 1970s (continued)

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
Environmental Concerns in the 1970s {continued}

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
THE ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND
A series of human and mechanical errors that caused the partial meltdown of the reactor core brought the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant to the brink of disaster. The accident at Three Mile Island caused widespread concern about nuclear power throughout the American public.

REACTOR MELTDOWN
1. The radioactive reactor core generates heat as its atoms split during a controlled chain reaction.
2. An inoperative valve releases thousands of gallons of coolant from the reactor core.
3. Half of the 36,816 exposed fuel rods melt in temperatures above five thousand degrees.
4. The melted material burns through the lining of the reactor chamber and spills to the floor of the containment structure.

More than 30 years after the accident, clean-up at Three Mile Island continues. The final “clean-up bill” could soar to more than $3 billion. The TMI-2 reactor was dangerously contaminated and could not be entered for two years. All the materials in the containment structure, along with anything used in the clean-up, had to be decontaminated. Because the reactor will never be completely free of radioactivity, it will one day be entombed in cement.
A Continuing Movement

Environment or Employment?

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

- What key events represent political and economic change and controversy from 1960 to 1989?
- How did the Watergate Scandal affect public opinion of government and politicians?
- How did President Carter deal with issues of terrorism in the Middle East during the 1970's?
- How did the oil crisis of the 1970's reflect an interdependent world?
- Students should be able to
  - Students should be able to analyze how the Watergate scandal demonstrated that a president is not above the U.S. Constitution.
  - Students should be able to explain how the Watergate scandal changed public opinion about government.
  - Students should be able to explain President Carter's foreign policy success with the Camp David Accords and his foreign policy failure with the Iranian Hostage Crisis of 1979.
  - Students should be able to use maps to identify major OPEC nations of 1973 and of today to analyze the volume of oil imported by the United States.
  - Students should be able to evaluate the Iran-Contra Affair.