An Age of Limits

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.
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
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 (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

**Law and Order Politics**

**New Federalism Wears Two Faces**

**Nixon’s New Conservatism**
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 the South, Nixon decided to slow the country’s desegregation by saying integration was a middle road course between instant integration and segregation forever.

- Nixon opposes extension of Voting Rights Act but Congress extends it

Turning a blind eye
Chapter 24

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

Section-1
The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Chapter 24

Section-1

Confronting a Stagnant Economy

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

Nixon sucks @ home
But is great outside
the U.S.

Going into debt to pay the bills (e.g. war)

Middle East
Nixon’s Foreign Policy Triumphs

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.
Chapter 24

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
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
The Cover-Up Unravels (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
- **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

*No one is murdered*

*Court ORDERED*
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
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.
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

Government is perceived as corrupt.

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 also sucks @ home
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
Chapter 24

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 also sucks @ home and @ foreign policy

Southern Democrats
Very religious
Peanut farmer from Georgia
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
Carter’s Domestic Agenda (continued)

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

Quotas based on pop.
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

In 22 years we will give you (Panama) the canal...
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

Easing of Cold War tension
GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER
1. Location  What OPEC countries are shown on the map?
2. Human-Environment Interaction  How does Israel’s location contribute to its conflicts?
Chapter 24

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
Triumph and Crisis in the Middle East \{continued\}

The Iran Hostage Crisis

- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini leads overthrow of shah — establishes Islamic state
- 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.
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 \textit{continued}\textbf{ }

Balancing \underline{Progress} and \underline{Conservation} in \underline{Alaska}

- Pipeline creates jobs, revenue, worries over \underline{wildlife}, \underline{native people}
- Nixon gives millions of \underline{acres} to native tribes for conservation, \underline{use}
- Carter sets aside 56 \underline{million} acres as national monuments
- 1980, Congress adds 104 \underline{million} acres as \underline{protected areas}

The \underline{Debate} over \underline{Nuclear} \underline{Energy}

- Many think nuclear power \underline{good} alternative to foreign oil
- Opponents contend nuclear plants, waste \underline{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
If you want to see the effects of a nuclear disaster, research Chernobyl.
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

Argument:

If you protect the environment, it means a loss of jobs.
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 state:
  - 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.