

1 Mixin' with Nixon

Understanding the Presidency of Richard M. Nixon

2 Richard Milhous Nixon

3 Richard Milhous Nixon

- Elected 1968-
 - After the Democratic Disaster
 - RFK killed- June 1968
 - Dem. Convention Chicago = Violence, Unrest
 - Dem. split H. Humphrey and E. McCarthy
 - Wallace (Independent) takes votes away
- Law and Order
- Secret Plan to End Vietnam?

4 Nixon Issues?

1

- Anti-social
- Mean
- Vindictive
- Chip on his shoulder
- Not well liked
- Experienced
- Loyal

2

- Preferred advice from 'his staff' not Cabinet
- Staff loyal to Him
 - Not Constitution or USA
 - H. R. Haldeman - Chief
 - J. Ehrlichman- Attorney
 - J Mitchell- Attorney Gen.
 - H. Kissinger- NSA, State
- Kept him isolated
 - Only hear good...
 - "Berlin Wall"

5 Good President?

- What is the president's job?
- What characteristics make a good president?
- Explain what you think makes a good president, come up with at least 3 qualities.
 - Explain why these would make that person a good president?

6 Objective

- Understand the domestic issues that Richard Nixon faced during his presidency

7 Slow Inflation (Nixon Domestic)

- Inflation- is when the cost of most goods increases faster than average wages do

- Deficit Spending
- Wage and Price Freezes- Voluntary
- OPEC Embargo Sent Inflation Up
 - Embargo was retaliation for US involvement in Mideast conflict... leads to... ??
 - Gas .25 to .65; Unemployment +9%

8 Law and Order (Nixon Domestic)

- Silent Majority- Average American- was tired of protesters
 - Protesters= Drugs, crime, declining moral values
 - Law and Order vs. Protesters Tension
 - Kent State
 - Columbia University and Hard Hats
 - FBI and Justice Dept- target protest groups and leaders
 - Elvis offers his help

9 Southern Strategy (Nixon domestic)

- Slow down civil rights measures
 - Hoped to increase support of Southern Whites
 - Disregard African American voters
- Slow down integration
 - Opposed Busing
 - Did Not support extending '65 Voting Rights Act
 - Cut funds to Civil Rights program- Housing
 - Gave funds to schools still segregated

10 New Federalism (Nixon Domestic)

- New Federalism- States get more money directly but have to fund their own social programs
- Cut back New Deal/ Great Society Social programs
 - Welfare = "Welfare cheaters"
- Reduce Government spending?
 - Military expenditures increased +10%

11 Supreme Court (Nixon Domestic)

- Nixon appointed 4 judges
 - Chief- Warren Burger- Moderate
 - Harry Blackmun- Conservative
 - Lewis Powell, Jr.- Conservative
 - William Rehnquist- Conservative
- Shifted the court to the Conservative side
 - Not friendly towards the Social Movements

12 Watergate (Nixon Domestic)

- The beginning of the end or standard operating procedure?
- More to come later

13 Objective

- Understand the foreign issues that Richard Nixon faced during his presidency

- 14 **Realpolitik** (Nixon Foreign)
- Kissinger (Sec of State, NSA) idea that foreign policy should be not on moral principles but on maintaining strength
 - To maintain/attain US superiority in world
 - Establish military bases, and political connections throughout the world
- 15 **Vietnam War** (Nixon Foreign)
- 1969- Vietnamization = troop reduction
 - Cambodia Bombings- Kent State
 - 1973 Kissinger- set up peace talks
 - End of American involvement in Vietnam
 - All US troops out by end of 1974
 - South Vietnam falls to Commies in 1975
- 16 **Detente** (Nixon Foreign)
- Relaxing the tension between USA and USSR, and USA and China (both evil Commie Countries)
 - Kissinger's influence-
 - They were commies- deal with it
 - Played one against the other-
 - Keep them guessing
- 17 **China** (Nixon Foreign)
- 1949-1970 US act if China doesn't exist
 - 25% of worlds Population - TOO Big to ignore
 - China and USSR not on good terms
 - Nixon- Recognizes China 1970; visits 1972
 - Set up formal relations
 - This put USSR on edge, wondering?
 - US and China now on speaking terms
 - Part of Cold War Tension
- 18 **USSR (Russia)** (Nixon Foreign)
- Nixon visited USSR as well
 - China now wondering
 - Agreed to work together on space, trade and weapons
 - SALT I signed- Limited some Nukes
 - No limit on warheads-actual bomb part
 - Showed willingness to work w/ each other
 - Cold War Tensions are reduced
- 19 **Nuclear Weapons** (Nixon Foreign)
- SALT I Limits ICBM and SLBM (submarine)
 - Shows gov't concern for Nuclear threat
 - Leads to change in Nuke technology
 - Quantity is limited
 - Size doesn't matter
 - More powerful smaller warheads

- Leads to Salt II (1974) and more reductions

20 Middle East (Nixon Foreign)

- USA supports Israel in 1973 Arab- Israeli War
 - Israel vs. Syria and Egypt over territory
 - Israel wins quickly (6 day War?)
- OPEC (Arab members) start oil embargo
 - Embargo- to stop selling or providing a certain product or trade with another group or nation
 - Gas prices increase 250% overnight
 - Leads to inflation in US
 - OPEC and US now see the political power of oil

21 South and Latin America (Nixon Foreign)

- *Realpolitik*- leads to support of pro-USA, anti-Communist leaders
 - Many, most, leaders Not Democratically elected
 - Most are dictators, use military and fear to keep power
 - Supplied by US gov't/ military openly or secretly
 - US business benefit, as do dictators (not people)
 - Stroesner- Paraguay; Pinochet Chile and more...

22 Watergate I- The Crime

- June 1972- 5 are arrested breaking in
 - Appears to be a robbery- but nothing stolen?
- Washington Post- Investigates
- April 1973- Nixon/Whitehouse no connection
- May 1973- Congressional Investigation
- June 1973- John dean spills his guts

23 Watergate II- It's all on tape!

- July 1973- Nixon has tapes?
 - Aug '73-Nixon says you can't have them
 - Oct '73 Nixon gives edited (cut) versions
 - Jan 74- Executive Privilege?
 - April 1974- Nixon give edited transcripts
- July 1974- Supreme Court orders all the tapes
- Aug 1974- Nixon delivers tapes
- Aug 9, 1974- Nixon resigns

24 Watergate Significance

- President approved of crime-
 - Break-in find out, info plant bugs, on Democrats
 - Was to promote his re-election
 - Illegal campaign funds used
- President involved in cover up obstruction
 - Law and Order President?
- Revealed shady underside of politics
- What else don't we know about?
- Reinforces distrust of gov't & politicians