**Mixin’ with Nixon**
Understanding the Presidency of Richard M. Nixon

**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?

**Nixon Issues?**

1. Anti-social
2. Mean
3. Vindictive
4. Chip on his shoulder
5. Not well liked
6. Experienced
7. Loyal
8. Preferred advice from ‘his staff’ not Cabinet
9. Staff loyal to Him
10. Not Constitution or USA
11. H. R. Haldeman - Chief
12. J. Ehrlichman - Attorney
14. H. Kissinger - NSA, State
15. Kept him isolated
16. Only hear good…
17. “Berlin Wall”

**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?

**Objective**

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

**Slow Inflation** (Nixon Domestic)

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