

Chapter Summary

Politics and Economics, 1968–1980

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How do you think the Nixon administration affected people's attitudes toward government? How does society change the shape of itself over time?

This chapter discusses Nixon's domestic and foreign policy, the Watergate scandal, the Ford and Carter administrations, new civil rights battles, and the origins and effectiveness of grassroots movements.

The Nixon Administration

- Appealing to the Silent Majority, Nixon won the 1968 election. Southerners were attracted to the Republican Party with the Southern strategy.
- Nixon appointed a conservative Supreme Court.
- "New Federalism" gave more control to state governments.
- Under Revenue Sharing, States depended on federal funds.
- The Nixon Doctrine made allies responsible for maintaining peace and stability in their region.
- Détente reduced tensions with the Soviet Union and China.
- Nixon visited China in 1972.
- At a summit in 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Salt I Treaty.

The Watergate Scandal

- The Democratic National Committee's headquarters was burglarized.
- Nixon won re-election. After re-election, Nixon worked to cover up White House involvement in the break-in.
- John Dean testified against Nixon.
- Nixon refused to hand over tapes.
- Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned.
- Nixon resigned August 9, 1974.

- The Watergate crisis led to new laws limiting power of the executive branch.

Ford and Carter

- Massive spending caused inflation, slowing the economy.
- OPEC declared an oil embargo.
- Inflation and a stagnant economy created "stagflation."
- Ford failed to revive the economy.
- Relations with the Soviet Union
- Ford lost to Carter.
- The Department of Energy was formed.
- Carter also failed to revive the economy.
- Relations with the Soviet Union faltered.
- The Camp David Accord marked first steps toward Middle East peace.
- 52 Americans were held hostage in Iran for 444 days.

New Approaches to Civil Rights

- African Americans advanced social, political, and legal status.
- Courts ordered busing to end school segregation.
- Affirmative action began as a way to end discrimination.
- In 1971, the Congressional Black Congress was formed.

Chapter Summary *Cont.*



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- Native Americans made slight civil rights gains.
- The Indian self-determination and educational assistance act was passed.
- People with disabilities achieved new legislation to protect them from discrimination.

Environmentalism

- DDT was banned and the environmental movement started.
- Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published.
- In 1970 the first Earth Day was held.
- The EPA was created and many laws were passed.
- Love Canal was declared a disaster area.
- Nuclear energy was hailed as an alternative to fossil fuel.
- In 1979 the Three Mile Island cooling system failed, raising concerns about Nuclear power.