

A photograph of the White House at night, illuminated by warm lights. The building is framed by a black border. The text is overlaid on the image, following a diagonal path from the top left to the bottom right.

**THE
POLITICS
OF THE
70'S**

President Richard Nixon



1969 to

1974

<http://www.watergate.com/>

Nixon's First Term



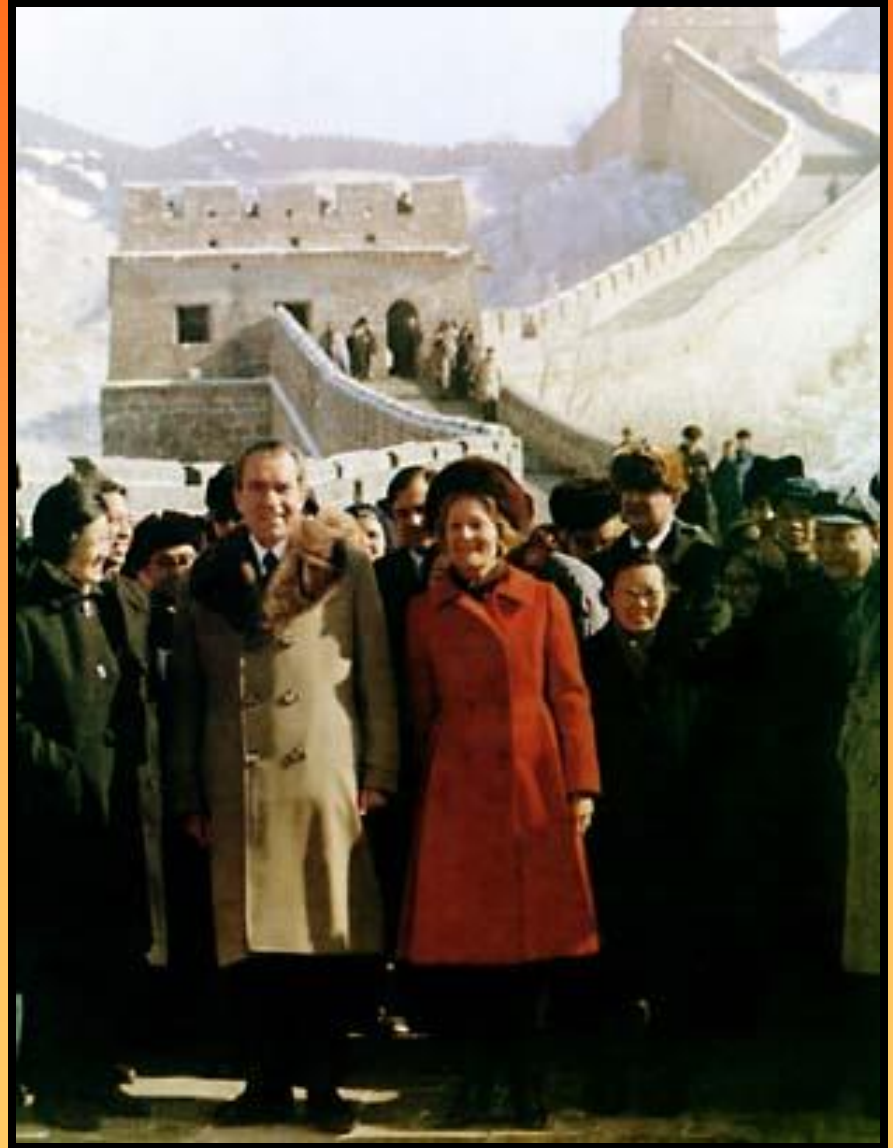
Nixon assumed the presidency in 1969 at a difficult time in U.S. history. High inflation, domestic civil rights protests, and the Vietnam War had split the nation along age, class, and racial lines.

Nixon's Accomplishments As President of the United States

China

**In February of 1972,
Nixon became the first
president to visit
China thereby opening
communications with
that country and
substantially reducing
tensions in the world.**

**This communication
helped reduce hostility
in the Cold War
between US, and
China.**



In 1972 Nixon Began Campaigning for Re-election



<http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com>

Though Nixon was easily reelected, beating Democratic candidate George McGovern, he was forced to resign the presidency less than two years later because of the Watergate scandal.

STOP! It is important you understand the word “Détente” so the following slides make sense.

The word “Détente” is a French word meaning relaxation. It is a policy of trying to reduce tensions among states as a way to lessen the likelihood of war and to pursue a peaceful coexistence between perhaps radically different political or social systems. *Détente* was a major factor in the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 70’s.

Nixon's Accomplishments Continued...

* For the leaders of both North and South Vietnam, *Detente* was NOT a welcome development. Their countries had each been supported by the Cold War's rival superpowers. As the conflict dragged on, however, they sensed that their powerful allies were losing interest.

* In May 1972, Nixon became the first US president to visit the Soviet Union. While he was there, he signed nuclear weapons treaties. Nixon seemed to be doing all the right things.

* Soviet Union's leader, Brezhnev, agreed to help Nixon push North Vietnam to negotiate an end to war, and Nixon began trade with Russia.

Soviet Union Continued



Because of his involvement with détente, Nixon was able to create peaceable relations with the Soviet Union. He visited Moscow in 1972, and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev came to the United States in 1973. Their talks resulted in a large grain sale to the Soviet Union by the United States and the beginning of talks on limiting strategic nuclear weapons.

A Step Toward Ending The Cold War!

- **During the early 70's, after two decades of outright hostility, the United States, Soviet Union, and China all concluded that the world would be a safer place if relations between them improved. President Nixon's decision to visit both countries helped to move the negotiations along. During the 1970's, the Cold War became a little less frosty.**





Israel, Egypt, & Syria



US & Soviet Union Team Up:

During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the Nixon administration, along with the Soviet Union, successfully pressured Israel, Egypt, and Syria to cease hostilities. With peace restored, Nixon made a friendly visit to Israel and four Arab nations in 1974.

Vietnam War

US involvement in the Vietnam War began 1959.



<http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com>

Nixon, along with Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State & the National Security Advisor, were determined to put an end to the war.

Henry Kissinger was the principal architect of U.S. foreign policy during the administrations of Republican presidents Nixon and Ford. For his efforts to negotiate a settlement of the Vietnam War, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973.

Nixon's

Vietnamization Plan

Nixon gradually withdrew U.S. forces from South Vietnam. Under his “Vietnamization plan,” the South Vietnamese army was trained to take over the fighting and to use American air power to force North Vietnam to relinquish its quest for total victory. In 1970, American bombing of communist bases in Cambodia and Laos succeeded in disrupting enemy supply lines but unleashed a fury of domestic political protests.



Despite Nixon's Accomplishments...

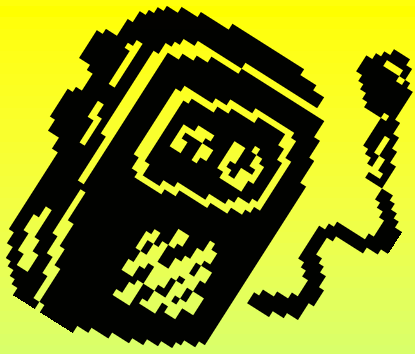
**Unfortunately,
President Nixon is
best remembered for
leaving office as a
result of the
Watergate scandal.**



<http://www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com>

“Watergate” The Scandal That Brought Down Richard Nixon

"Watergate" is a general term used to describe a complex web of political scandals between 1972 and 1974. The word specifically refers to the Watergate Hotel in Washington D.C. The scandal occurred when members of his re-election committee were caught breaking in to the Democratic headquarters to find information to use in the 1972 campaign.



NIXON'S SECRET

Like John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, Nixon secretly taped his conversations to keep an accurate record for history and, his former aides have said, to track whether what advisors and politicians told him privately matched what they said in public. Nixon's secret recordings destroyed his career. His taped conversations about the Watergate scandal revealed Nixon breaking the law and abusing his presidential authority, which led him to become the only U.S. president ever to resign from office.



Watergate Hotel 2006



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/themonk/99048409/>

The Burglary

Watergate has entered the political arena as a term synonymous with corruption and scandal, yet the Watergate Hotel is one of Washington's plushiest hotels! Even today, it is home to former Senator Bob Dole and was once the place where Monica Lewinsky laid low. It was here that the Watergate Burglars broke into the Democratic Party's National Committee offices on June 17, 1972. If it had not been for the alert actions of Frank Wills, a security guard, the scandal may never have erupted.



The Investigation

Initial investigations of Watergate were heavily influenced by the media, particularly the work of two reporters from the *Washington Post*, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, along with their mysterious informant, Deep Throat.





Nixon Reacts To Watergate

Nixon made three major speeches on the Watergate scandal during 1973 and 1974. The first was on April 30, 1973, in which he announced the departure of Dean, Haldeman and Ehrlichman. A more defiant speech was delivered on August 15, 1973. Perhaps the politically most difficult speech was the one on April 29, 1974, in which Nixon released partial transcripts of the White House tapes.



**TOGETHER
WITH FAMILY**

Wednesday, August 7, 1974.

- **President Nixon meeting with his family in the White House solarium to say he would resign. In spite of the tears, a White House photographer snapped the family smiling. From left: Edward Cox, Tricia Nixon Cox, President Richard Nixon, First Lady Patricia Nixon, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, David Eisenhower.**

photo: NARA



Wednesday, August 7, 1974.

President Nixon and Vice President Ford meet in the Oval Office to discuss the transition. Ford would become president the next morning.

photo: NARA



Thursday, August 8, 1974.

**As speculation grew about a presidential resignation,
crowds gathered outside the White House.**

photo: NARA

Nixon's last days in office came in late July and early August, 1974. The House Judiciary Committee voted to accept three of four proposed Articles of Impeachment, with some Republicans voting with Democrats to recommend impeachment of the President. The final blow came with the decision by the Supreme Court to order Nixon to release more White House tapes. One of these became known as the 'smoking gun' tape when it revealed that Nixon had participated in the Watergate cover-up as far back as June 23, 1972. Around the country, there were calls for Nixon to resign.



Thursday, August 8, 1974.

The President's long-time secretary, Rosemary Woods, in her office. Woods gained fame for erasing an 18-and-a-half-minute segment of conversation between Nixon and his Chief of Staff, Bob Haldeman, three days after the Watergate break-in. She said it was an accident. *photo: NARA*

At 9pm on the evening of August 8, 1974, Nixon delivered a nationally televised resignation speech. The next morning, he made his final remarks to the White House staff before sending his resignation letter to the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger.



Thursday, August 8, 1974.

In a televised Oval Office address to the nation at 9 PM, President Nixon announces he will resign.

photo: NARA



Friday, August 9, 1974.

President Nixon waves goodbye.

photo: NARA

The Aftermath of Watergate

Watergate had profound consequences in the United States. There was a long list of convictions and other casualties. For example, the aftermath of Watergate ushered in changes in campaign finance reform and a more aggressive attitude by the media. By the time the 25th anniversary of Watergate occurred in 1997, a vast library of books and films existed. Watergate's influence was felt in the Clinton Impeachment of 1998-99. Nixon died in 1994 and was eulogized by the political establishment, although he was still a figure of controversy.

The investigations into Watergate that led to the resignation of Richard Nixon are a case study in the operation of the American Constitution and political values.

WATERGATE Part One:

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