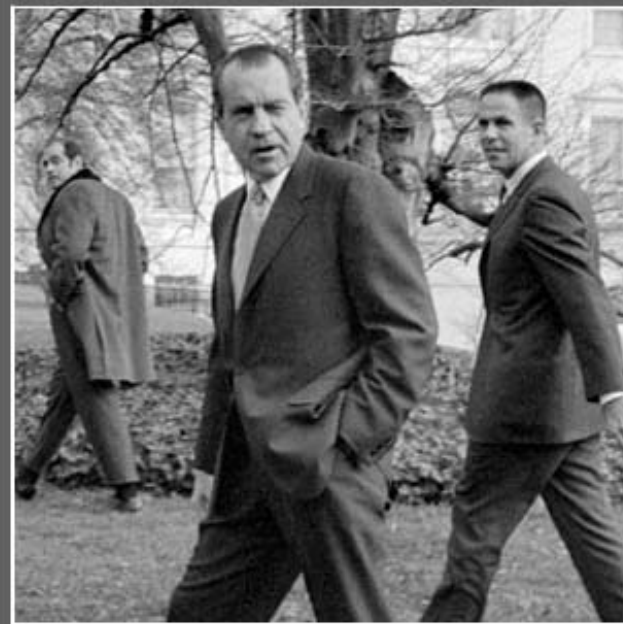


An Age of Limits, 1968–1980

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.



🔍 President Richard Nixon and his assistant, H. R. Haldeman (*right*), in front of the White House (1969).

Section 1

The Nixon Administration

President Richard M. Nixon tries to steer the country in a conservative direction and away from federal control.

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

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

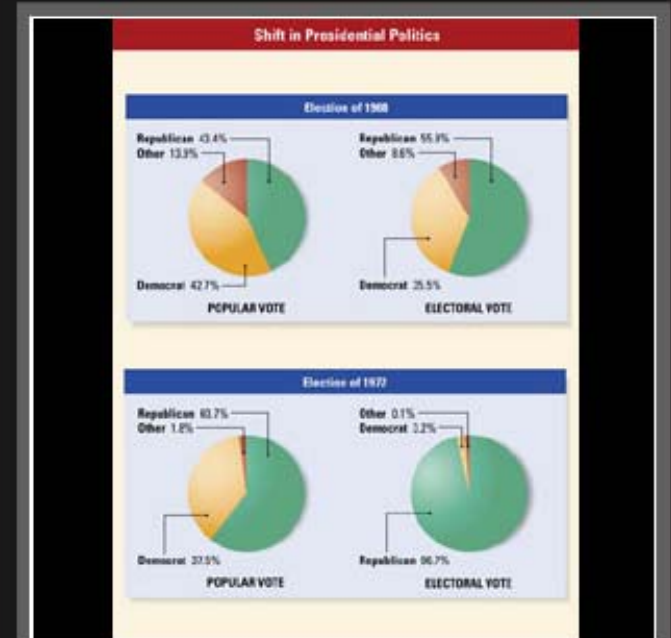
Law and Order Politics

- Nixon moves aggressively to end war, mend divisiveness in country
- Begins law and order policies to end riots, demonstrations
 - sometimes uses illegal tactics

Nixon's Southern Strategy

A New South

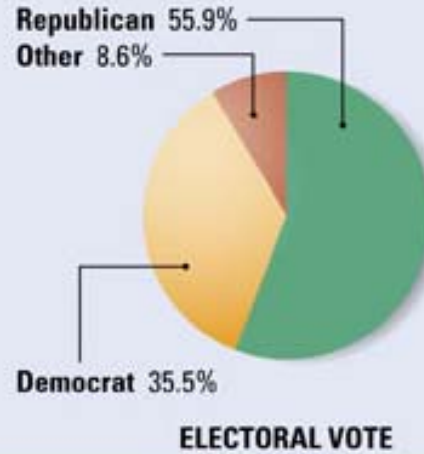
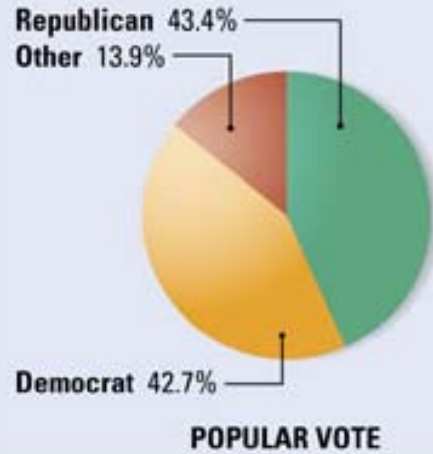
- Southern Democrats help segregationist George Wallace win 5 states *[Visual]*
- Nixon: win over Southern Democrats for votes, majority in Congress
 - Southern strategy—appeal to dislike of desegregation, Supreme Court



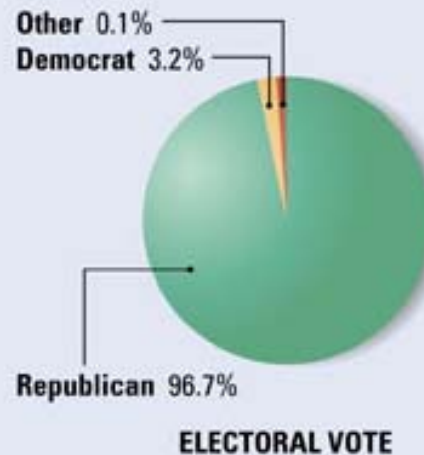
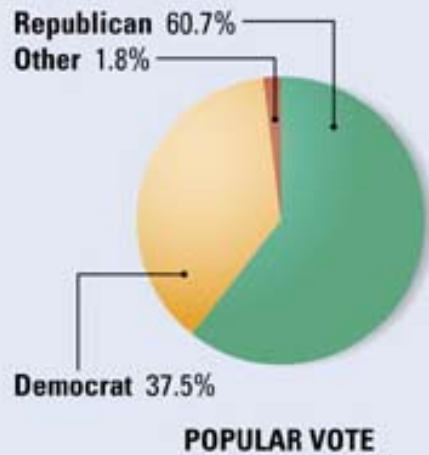
Shift in Presidential Politics

Shift in Presidential Politics

Election of 1968



Election of 1972



Nixon's Southern Strategy

Nixon Slows Integration

- To attract white voters in South, Nixon slows desegregation
- Supreme Court orders Nixon to comply with *Brown* ruling
- Nixon opposes extension of Voting Rights Act but Congress extends it

Nixon's Southern Strategy

Controversy over Busing

- Supreme Court rules school districts may bus to end segregation
- Students, parents in some cities protest angrily *[Visual]*
- 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



Police escorting school buses in South Boston (1974).



Confronting a Stagnant Economy

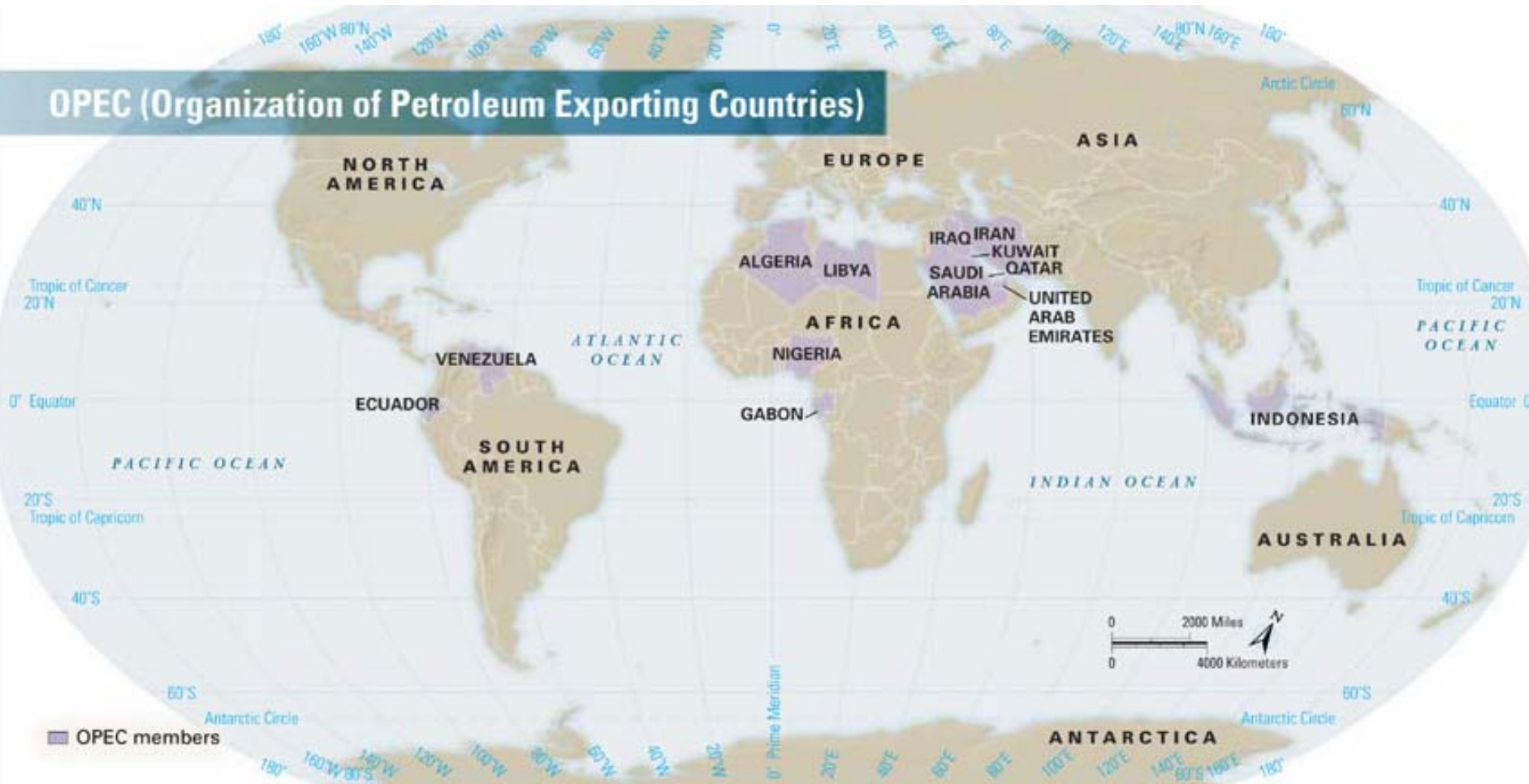
The Causes of Stagflation

- **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 *[Visual]*



 OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)

OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)



Confronting a Stagnant Economy

Nixon Battles Stagflation

- Nixon tries different strategies; none have much success

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

Nixon Visits China

- 1971, Nixon's visit to China a huge success; U. S., China agree to: *[Visual]*
 - cooperate over disputes, have scientific, cultural exchange
- Takes advantage of rift between China, Soviet Union



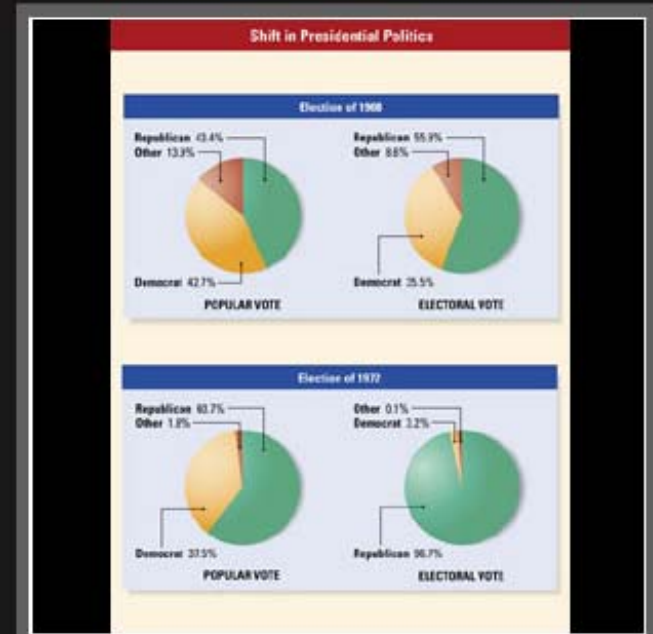
President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, in front of the Great Wall in China (February 1972).



Nixon's Foreign Policy Triumphs

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 *[Visual]*



Shift in Presidential Politics

Section 2

Watergate: Nixon's Downfall

President Richard Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal forces him to resign from office.

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 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


The Senate Investigates Watergate *[Visual]*

- Judge **John Sirica** presides over 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



 John D. Ehrlichman, former aide to President Nixon, speaking before the Senate Watergate committee (1973).



The Cover-Up Unravels

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

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

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 *[Visual 1]*

The Effects of Watergate *[Visual 2]*

- 25 members of administration convicted, serve prison terms



President Nixon giving his farewell speech to members of the cabinet and the White House Staff (August 9, 1974).



The Watergate Scandal



President Nixon giving his farewell speech to members of the cabinet and the White House Staff (August 9, 1974).

CAUSES

- **Nixon runs for reelection in 1972**
- **Nixon desires secrecy and consolidation of powers**
- **Nixon's campaign team breaks into DNC headquarters**
- **Nixon wins landslide victory**



The Watergate Scandal

EFFECTS

- **Nixon resigns**
- **Ford succeeds Nixon as President**
- **Constitutional processes are upheld**
- **Scandal contributes to general cynicism about public officials**

Section 3

The Ford and Carter Years

The Ford and Carter administrations attempt to remedy the nation's worst economic crisis in decades.

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

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

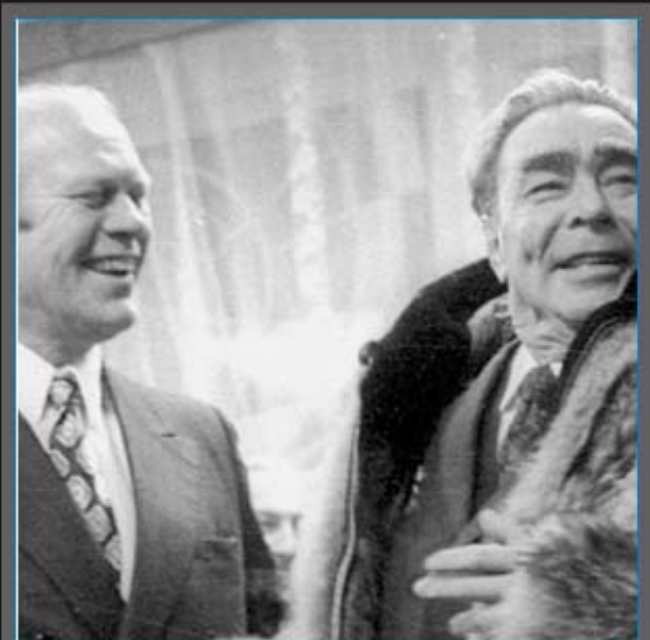
Ford's Foreign Policy

Carrying Out Nixon's Foreign Policies

- Ford continues negotiations with China, Soviet Union
- Signs Helsinki Accords—cooperation between Eastern, Western Europe [Visual]

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



🔍 President Gerald Ford (*left*) shaking hands with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev (1974).

Carter Enters the White House

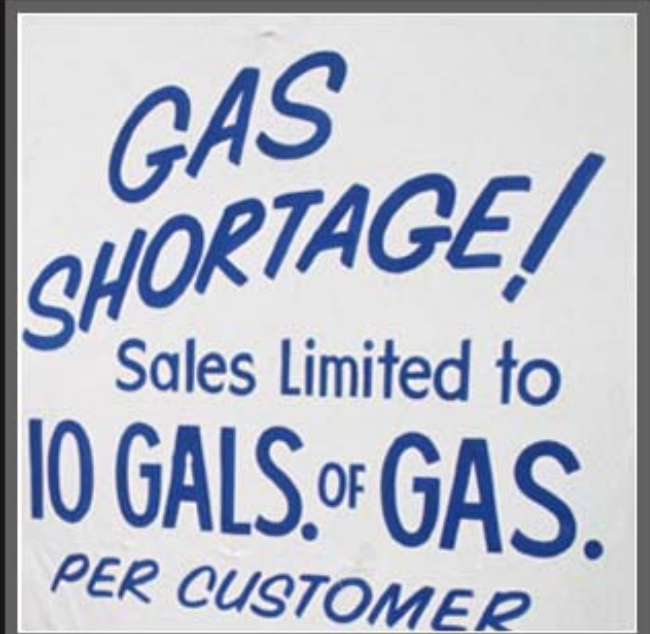
Mr. Carter Goes to Washington

- **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's Domestic Agenda

Confronting the Energy Crisis

- Carter offers energy proposals; oil-, gas-states, auto makers resist
- **National Energy Act**—encourages conservation, U.S. energy sources *[Visual]*
- National Energy Act, conservation cut foreign oil dependence



 A gas shortage sign (1974).



**GAS
SHORTAGE!**

Sales Limited to
10 GALS. OF GAS.
PER CUSTOMER

NP 5033

Carter's Domestic Agenda

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

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

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 December 31, 1999
- Agreements improve relations between U.S., Latin America

A Human Rights Foreign Policy

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 *[Visual]*



 Afghanistan



SOVIET-AFGHANISTAN WAR

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: *[Visual]*
 - Israel withdraws from Sinai Peninsula
 - Egypt recognizes Israel's right to exist

INTERACTIVE

Middle East, 1978-1982

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Extension: What OPEC countries are shown on the map?
2. Research: Compare and contrast how Israel's location contributes to its conflict?

Click on the red box.

Middle East, 1978-1982

Middle East, 1978-1982

- Israel
- Israeli-occupied land
- Israeli conquests returned to Egypt, 1979-1982
- OPEC Member



Triumph and Crisis in the Middle East

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 *[Visual]*
- Carter refuses; standoff ensues; intense secret negotiations follow
- Captives released Jan. 1981, shortly after Ronald Reagan sworn in



U.S. hostages being paraded by their captors in Tehran, Iran (1979).

Section 4

Environmental Activism

During the 1970s, Americans strengthen their efforts to address the nation's environmental problems.

The Roots of Environmentalism

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

Balancing Progress and Conservation in Alaska

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

The Debate over Nuclear Energy

- Many think nuclear power good alternative to foreign oil
- Opponents contend nuclear plants, waste potentially harmful

Environmental Concerns in the 1970s

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

A Continuing Movement

Environment or Employment?

- 1970s, environment movement gains popular support
- Opponents protest loss of jobs, revenues
- 1980s, 1990s, attempt to balance environment with jobs, progress

**Thanks for
your
attention!**