Essential Question:
– In what ways did President Nixon represent a change towards conservative politics & how did his foreign policy alter the U.S. relationship with USSR & China?

Warm-Up Question:
– Why was 1968 an important year in American history?
By the late 1960s, citizens had seen enough turmoil in U.S. foreign & domestic affairs:

– The economic boom of the 1950s & 1960s was starting to come to an end

– American prestige in the world was damaged by the failure in Vietnam

– Anti-war protests, “hippie” culture, & liberal gov’t programs led many citizens to believe that America was headed for moral decay & economic collapse
The Election of Richard Nixon

Nixon’s victory in 1968 was due to the turnout of a “silent majority” who wanted a more conservative gov’t.
Richard Nixon & Domestic Policy

As a conservative, Nixon believed in a limited role for the national gov’t.

He tried to reduce or eliminate many Great Society programs.

He gave states more control over how money for welfare programs was spent.
Richard Nixon & Domestic Policy

By the late 1960s, the South was becoming more conservative due to new military bases & corporate headquarters, the relocation of retirees, & frustration by whites over civil rights. Nixon seized the opportunity to attract Southerners to the Republican Party by opposing new civil rights policies & cutting government spending.
President Nixon successfully changed U.S. foreign policy. Instead of using containment to fight Communism & increase Cold War tensions, Nixon created a policy of détente (to ease tensions) with America’s Cold War enemies.
The Presidency of Richard Nixon

President Nixon successfully changed U.S. foreign policy

President Nixon & aide Henry Kissinger used a strategy called triangular diplomacy to improve America’s role in the world
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon’s foreign policy included better relations with China. In 1972, Nixon became the 1st president to visit and recognize China. Nixon’s visit allowed for the possibility of U.S. trade with China. Nixon’s visit to China was also meant to exploit a growing rift between the U.S.S.R. and China; now the U.S.S.R. had to cooperate with the U.S.
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon’s détente policy was aimed at easing Cold War tensions with the USSR.

By visiting China, Nixon became the 1st president to visit Moscow; Brezhnev to negotiate with the United States.

In 1972, Nixon’s visit led to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) to limit ICBMs.
The Presidency of Richard Nixon

■ Nixon was a popular president by the end of his 1st term – His domestic policies reduced gov't spending & revitalized middle-class, conservative, & Southern voters – His foreign policies led to the end of an unpopular war in Vietnam & eased tensions with America's two biggest Cold War rivals

■ In 1972, Nixon won one of the biggest landslide victories in presidential history. But after Nixon’s re-election in 1972, the Watergate scandal broke; President Nixon resigned in 1974 rather than face impeachment

But after Nixon’s re-election in 1972, the Watergate scandal broke; President Nixon resigned in 1974 rather than face impeachment
Closure Activity: Reviewing U.S. Containment Policy

- Review the Cold War containment policies of the United States from 1945 to 1973
- List the Cold War events of each president
  - Harry Truman (1945-1953)
  - Dwight Eisenhower (1953-1961)
  - John F Kennedy (1961-1963)
  - Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969)
- Rank these presidents from most effective (#1) “Cold Warrior” to least effective (#5)
**Essential Question:**
– In what ways did Presidents Ford & Carter fail to meet the needs of America in the late 1970s?

**Warm-Up Question:**
– Should Nixon’s presidency be judged more in his foreign policy successes or the Watergate scandal? Why?
America from 1974 to 1980

- In the late 70s, the U.S. was “overextended”
  - Americans distrusted their government as a result of Vietnam & Watergate
  - The economy had entered a recession with high unemployment & inflation
  - A decline in America’s status in the world
  - A series of presidents (Ford & Carter) that failed to inspire a sense of hope among the American people
When Nixon resigned in 1974, VP Gerald Ford became president. Ford was seen as an “honest man” & hoped to move America past the Watergate scandal. But, Ford was unable to move forward due to constant questions about a potential criminal trial of Nixon. In September 1974, Ford pardoned Nixon of any crimes related to Watergate; Ford lost popular support.
Another issue during Ford’s presidency was a growing economic recession. Since the early 1970s, the economy had grown stagnant with few new jobs or business profits. Inflation, interest rates, and unemployment were all on the rise. Together, a stagnant economy & high inflation are known as: STAGFLATION.
President Gerald Ford

Making the economic situation worse was the oil crisis of the 1970s

Since “automania” of the 1950s, U.S. use of oil was on the rise

In 1960, the oil rich nations in the Middle East & Latin America formed the Org of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
President Gerald Ford

Making the economic situation worse was the oil crisis of the 1970s.

In retaliation for American support of Israel, OPEC cut off oil to the U.S. in 1973.

As a result, gas prices soared & shortages led to long lines for gasoline.
President Jimmy Carter

Ford had no answer for stagflation or the gas crisis & was challenged by Georgia Democrat Jimmy Carter in the 1976 election.

Carter ran as an “outsider” who played no part in Vietnam, Watergate, or the recession.
President Jimmy Carter

In the 1976 election, Carter beat Ford
Carter & Domestic Policy

None of his efforts worked. Inflation hit 14%, interest rates neared 20%, & a new oil embargo in 1979 increased gas prices.
Carter & Foreign Policy

Carter entered office committed to making “human rights” the basis of U.S. foreign policy.

Carter stopped supporting foreign governments that violated human rights.

In 1977, Carter agreed that the U.S. would return the Panama Canal in Dec 1999.

Carter hoped to gain peace in the Middle East between Israel & the Muslim nations.
By the 1970s, Egypt appeared ready to recognize Israel in exchange for the return of land in the Sinai Peninsula.
Carter & Foreign Policy

Carter brought Egyptian leader Anwar el-Sadat & Israeli leader Menachem Begin to the U.S. for the **Camp David Accords** in 1977.

Israel agreed to leave the Sinai Peninsula.

Egypt recognized Israel's right to exist.

Carter did the impossible.
But, the situation in the Middle East got worse in 1979 when fundamentalist Islamic cleric Ayatollah Khomeini led the Iranian Revolution.
Carter & Foreign Policy

Iranians seized the U.S. embassy & captured 52 American hostages (Iranian Hostage Crisis)

Carter tried negotiation, economic threats, & a rescue mission to return the hostages but all efforts failed

The 52 hostages were held for 444 days
Carter & Foreign Policy

To make matters worse, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to defeat an anti-communist uprising. The invasion signaled an end to Nixon’s détente with the USSR as the United States sent aid to the Afghan rebels.
By 1980, Carter had been unable to end stagflation, free the U.S. hostages in Iran, or restore America's place in the world. In the election of 1980, Americans in search of answers elected Ronald Reagan as president.
By 1980, the USA seemed to be losing its place as the top nation in the world:

– The 1970s presented failures in the Cold War & new problems in the Middle East
– The social protests & counter culture seemed to divide liberals & conservatives
– Stagflation & the economic recession were growing worse, not better
– The failures of Johnson, Nixon, Ford, & Carter left citizens in search of optimism, strong leadership, & conservative policies