

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

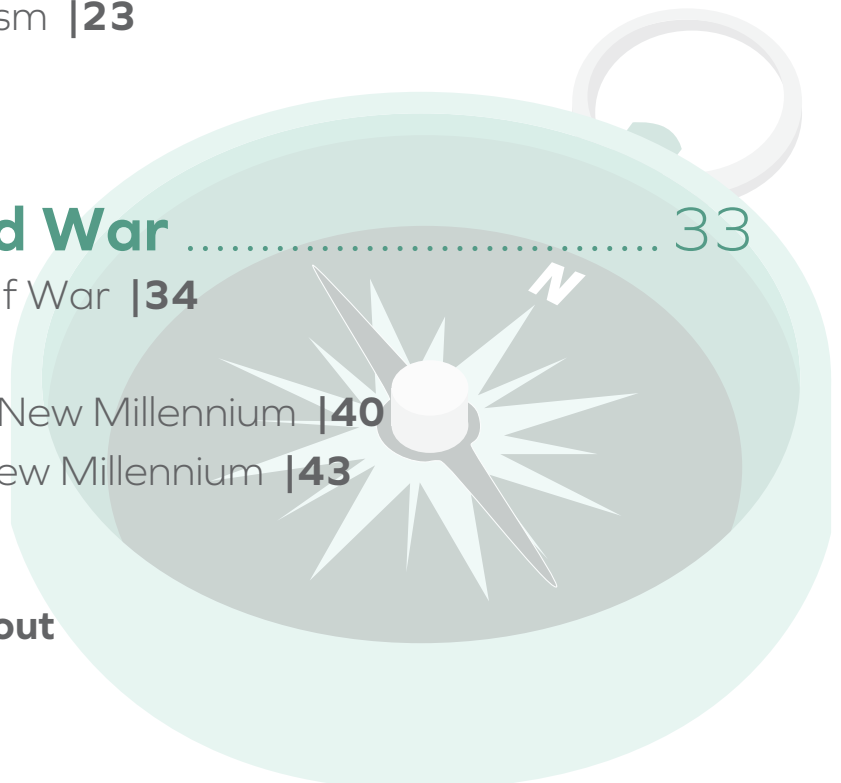
► **5th Grade** | Unit 9

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 509

## AMERICA INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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An American flag is shown waving in the upper left corner. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers visible under a clear sky. The title 'AMERICA INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM' is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the upper middle section of the image.

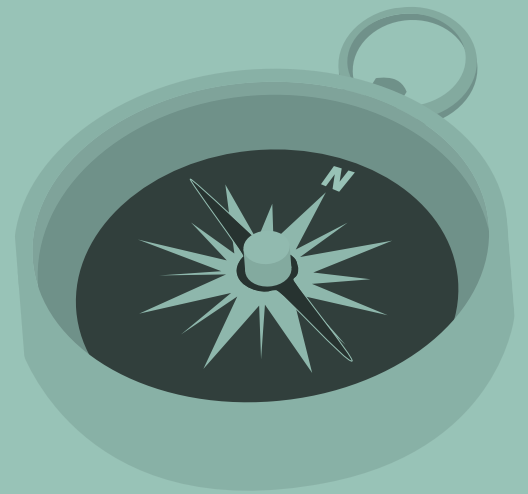
# AMERICA INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

The end of the second millennium brought many changes to America and its place in the world. America faced many crises and scandals during these years. The Cold War continued after 1970 but the way the United States (U.S.) dealt with it changed. Because of the Vietnam War, the U.S. was less willing to fight communism. As a result the U.S. and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R. or Soviet Union) began to cautiously work together. The U.S. accepted Communist China as the government of that land and tried to work with them. However, the Cold War did not end until communism itself ended in Europe in the 1980s. America was left as the only super power at the close of the second millennium. At the beginning of the new century, full-scale terrorism came to U.S. soil on September 11, 2001. As a result, the U.S. entered Afghanistan and Iraq in an effort to root out those who assisted terrorists. The U.S. also took an active role in helping people around the world during times of natural and man-made disasters.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC®. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify the presidents of this time and their actions.
2. Describe Détente and the Watergate Scandal.
3. Describe how the Cold War ended and the changes that came.
4. Describe the first Persian Gulf War and the events surrounding it.
5. Describe events in America shortly before and after the New Millennium.





# 1. FALL OF A PRESIDENT

Richard Nixon could have gone down in history as one of our greatest presidents. He took America out of Vietnam. Then, he began to work with the communists. He hoped to end the Cold War. He was not able to do that, but he did start a time of better relations between the super powers. He also opened talks with Communist China and accepted them as the government of that land. It was a great accomplishment.

However, Richard Nixon was involved in a huge scandal. It was a complicated mess named “Watergate.” Because of it, Richard Nixon became the only president in our history to resign from office. He did it to avoid being impeached.

Distrust of the government had grown during the Vietnam War. Watergate made it much worse. The new president, Gerald Ford, quickly became unpopular and was voted out of office in 1976. The next president’s lack of experience made him unpopular. He lost the next election in 1980.

## Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify the presidents of this time and their actions.
2. Describe Détente and the Watergate Scandal.
5. Describe events in America near the turn of the millennium.

## Vocabulary

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAK.

**evidence** (ev' ə dnəs). Facts; proof; anything that shows or makes clear.

**innocent** (in' ə sɛnt). Doing no wrong or evil; free from sin or wrong; not guilty.

**investigate** (in ves' tə gāt). To search into; examine closely.

**Islam** (is' ləm). The religion based on the teachings of the man Muhammad as they appear in the Koran.

**pardon** (pərd' n). Forgiveness; to set free from punishment.

**productive** (prə duk' tiv). Producing, supplying, or bringing about much.

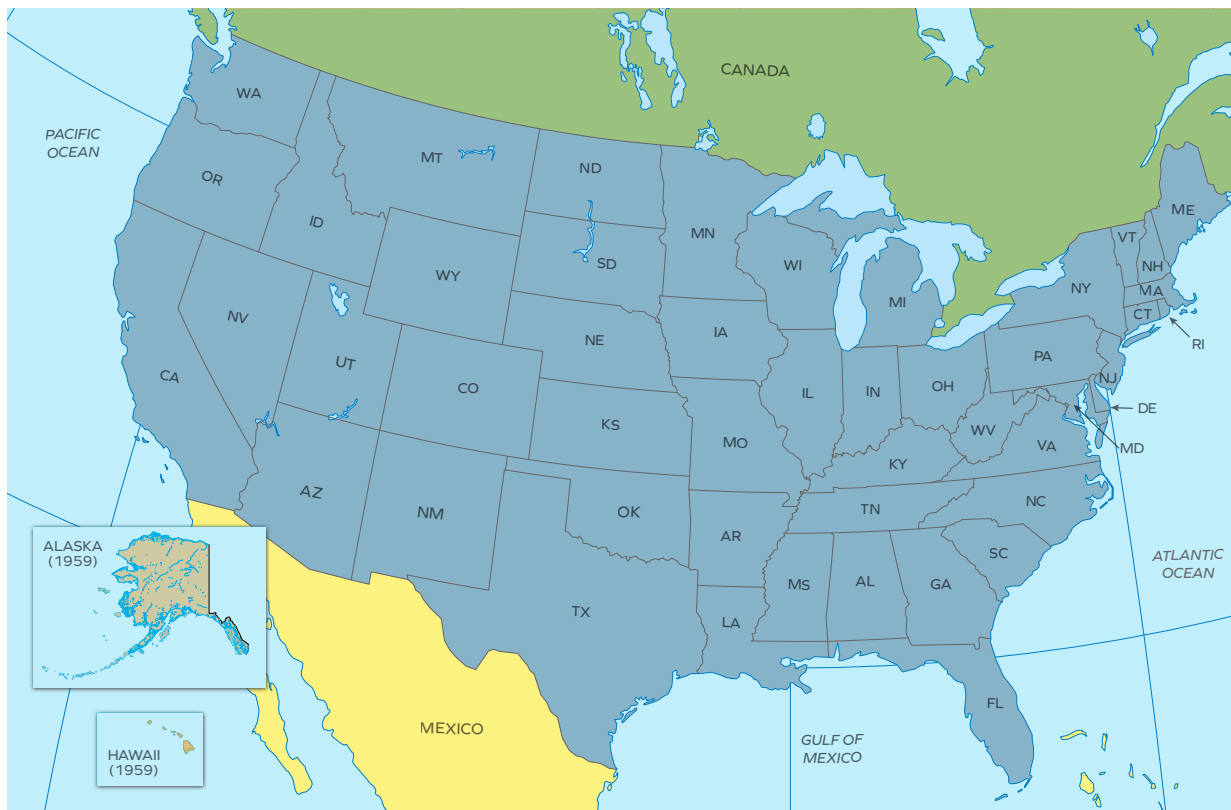
**shortage** (shôr' tij). Lack; too small of an amount.

**technology** (tek nol' ə jē). The use of scientific knowledge to solve practical problems; the practical methods used to solve those problems.

**tension** (ten' shən). A strain; severe or wearing pressure.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



| The United States

## Détente

**China.** President Nixon was well known for how much he disliked communism. However, he realized America did not have the money, men, and willingness to fight communism everywhere. The Vietnam War showed how difficult it could be to fight like that. Therefore, Nixon and his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, decided to work with the communists as much as they possibly could.

Nixon started with China. Since China had become communist, almost no one from the United States had even visited there. Americans knew very little about the country. However, Nixon realized that China and the U.S.S.R. did not trust each other. He knew that the Soviet Union would not like to see America and China become friendly. He hoped the Soviets would also become friendly to keep China and the U.S. from working together against them. It worked.

China was willing to talk to the United States. Mao Zedong, the extreme communist leader of China, was getting old. Many people within his government wanted trade and business with the West. Some of the first Americans to visit China since the communist takeover were ping-pong players. Ping-pong was very popular in China, so an American team was sent. It allowed the two nations to contact each other in a non-political way.

In 1971 the U.S. allowed Communist China to take the Chinese seat in the United Nations. Taiwan was removed from the United Nations completely. The next year, President Nixon shocked the nation by going to China himself! Henry Kissinger had secretly made the arrangements with the Chinese government. The visit was a huge success.

China had been completely closed to the West since 1949. News reports did not cover what happened there because no one knew much. Even such big events as famines or floods in China might not be known in America. The Chinese government did not tell



| Ping-pong was a non-political way for the U.S. and China to interact.



| President Richard Nixon was the first U.S. president to 'open up' China (Nixon on the Great Wall).



anyone about them and American reporters were not allowed in the country. Many Americans were very curious about this ancient land. They were anxious to see what would happen when President Nixon visited there.

U.S. television covered everything about the president's visit. The president met with the Chinese leaders, including Mao. He toured some of the famous places in the country built by the old emperors. It was the first time Beijing and the wonders of ancient China had been seen on television. The success of the visit encouraged both sides. They sent representatives to each other's countries to talk more. In 1979 the U.S. accepted the communist government as the *real* government of China.

**U.S.S.R.** As Nixon had hoped, the Soviet Union was alarmed by the growing friendship between China and America. The new Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, decided to make things better between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Communism in the Soviet Union also was in trouble. The communist system could not create new **technology** as fast as the Free World. Americans were building newer, faster computers, telephones, and other things. The Soviets needed to trade with the West to get them, because they could not invent them that fast. Brezhnev agreed to let Nixon visit the Soviet Union in 1972.

Richard Nixon was the first American president to visit the Soviet Union. He and Brezhnev signed several important agreements. The most important was SALT, the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. It was the first attempt by the super powers to control the atomic arms race. It did not stop the arms race, but it did slow it some.

The new cooperation between the super powers was called *Détente*. The word means a relaxing of anger and **tension** between two people or nations. *Détente* would last until 1979. It was one of the longest and most **productive** thaws in the Cold War.

Many people hoped *Détente* would be a way to end the Cold War peacefully, but that did not happen. The Soviet Union was still communist.

It was still trying to spread communism by "wars of liberation." It still forced eastern Europe to stay communist. As long as communism existed in the Soviet Union, real peace was impossible.

Many other people thought *Détente* was a bad idea. They did not trust the Soviet Union and China. They did not believe that they would keep their word if they did agree to things like fewer atomic bombs. They were afraid that the communists would get the Free World to make peace and then attack when we were not ready.



| President Nixon was the first U.S. president to visit the U.S.S.R. (pictured: Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev)

Some of what these people feared was true. Communist governments would never be fully at peace with the Free World. They were too caught up in their own lie that they had a better kind of government that had to take over the world. However, American presidents never gave up on Containment. They kept giving some help to people fighting communism in their countries. The U.S. also never allowed its military to get so weak that the Soviet Union could attack easily. Thus, Détente did not end the Cold War, but it also did not hurt the United States. The Cold War continued, it was just a quieter war.

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**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.1** Richard Nixon was the first president to visit the communist countries of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.2** Richard Nixon's Secretary of State was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.3** Communist China took the Chinese seat at the United Nations in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.4** The leader of the Soviet Union in 1972 was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.5** The thaw in the Cold War in the 1970s was called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.6** The Soviet Union needed to trade because it could not make new \_\_\_\_\_ as fast as the West.
- 1.7** SALT stands for \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.8** Even during Détente, the U.S. did not give up on the Cold War policy of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.9** The U.S. recognized the communist government of China in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.10** President Nixon's visit to China was completely covered by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.11** Nixon and Kissinger decided to work with the \_\_\_\_\_ as much as possible.

## Watergate

**Burglary.** There was a presidential election in 1972. Democrat George McGovern was running against Republican Richard Nixon, who was trying for a second term. The Democratic Party had its headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. On June 17, 1972, five men were arrested when they broke into the Democratic offices there. They were carrying electronic “bugs,” devices that would allow them to listen to conversations and telephone calls made by the Democrats. It turned out the men had been hired by the Committee to Re-elect the President, Nixon’s people.

**Cover-up.** President Nixon said that he and his closest advisors did not know about the burglary and had not asked for it. He blamed some of his workers for acting on their own. However, later **evidence** would show that several of Nixon’s most important aides knew about the burglary and tried to hide how they were involved. They even lied to the courts about what they knew. President Nixon knew about this and told them to “cover up” (hide and lie about) what they had done. The whole scandal was named “Watergate.”

**Investigation.** Nixon won the election in November of 1972, but many people did not believe he was completely **innocent** in the Watergate burglary. *The Washington Post*, a newspaper, **investigated** and accused the White House of a cover-up. Early in 1973, a committee in the Senate began to hold hearings to investigate for themselves.

One of Nixon’s aides, John Dean, accused him of a cover-up, but there was no proof. Then, in July, the committee learned that President Nixon made tape recordings in his office. All of the talks he had with his aides and helpers were recorded. If the committee could get the tapes of the conversations with John Dean, they would know exactly what the president had been told and what he told his men to do about it!

The committee and the lawyer who was in charge of the investigation, Archibald Cox, asked for the tapes. Nixon refused. The committee and Cox went to court to get them. They won in October. However, Nixon still would not co-operate. He fired Cox and sent some of the tapes, but not the ones that would reveal the truth. The investigation and the controversy continued, as did the arguing in the court case to force Nixon to give up the tapes.

By 1974 enough proof had been collected to arrest several of Nixon’s aides. The House of Representatives was considering impeaching the president. Finally, the Supreme Court ruled



| Taped conversations between Nixon and his aides proved he was involved in the Watergate Scandal. Nixon resigned to avoid being impeached by Congress.

in July that President Nixon had to give the committee the tapes that he had kept. They were made public on August 5, 1974. They clearly showed that the president had told his men to cover up what they knew about the burglary. That made it certain that he would be impeached by the House. On August 9, 1974, Richard Nixon resigned as president of the United States.

**Constitutional success.** The long investigation of the president had revealed many things besides just Watergate. In 1973 Vice President Spiro Agnew had resigned from his office because of things that he had done wrong in reporting his taxes. Under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, the president was allowed to choose a new vice president if one resigned or died. President Nixon chose a replacement for Agnew and the Congress approved his choice. In December of 1973, Congressman Gerald Ford was appointed as the new vice president.

When Nixon resigned in 1974, Ford became president. He was the only man ever to become president who was not elected either president or vice president. He was an appointed president, not an elected one.

The American people were very upset by Watergate, especially when it came so close behind the Vietnam War and the wild protests. People really distrusted the government and their leaders. However, many people pointed out that the Constitution had worked well through the whole scandal. The Congress and courts had been able to use their power to force the president to tell the truth. He had resigned and the Constitution had provided a way to give the nation a new president. America could thank the wonderful planning of the men who wrote the Constitution back in 1787 that all had gone so well.

**Reaction.** President Ford had a difficult job. No one had voted for him to be president. He was appointed to the vice presidency and moved up only because his president resigned. He made matters worse by giving Richard Nixon a full **pardon**. That meant Nixon could never go to jail for what he had done, which made the nation even more furious. The pardon insured that President Ford would never be a popular president. He basically just filled the office until the next election in 1976.



| President Gerald Ford granted Richard Nixon a full pardon for the Watergate Scandal.

By 1976 everyone was very sick of the government thanks to Vietnam, Watergate, and the pardon. Ford was the Republican candidate in 1976, but he really had very little chance of winning. The Democratic candidate was the governor of Georgia, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. Carter ran as someone who had no part in Watergate or the political games in the capital. He emphasized that he was free of all the Washington mess. He promised a more honest government and won the election. His lack of experience in the federal government got him elected, but it would soon get him in trouble, too.



| President Jimmy Carter



**Name the item, event, person, or thing.**

- 1.12** \_\_\_\_\_ Scandal that forced Richard Nixon to resign
- 1.13** \_\_\_\_\_ Lawyer who was in charge of the investigation
- 1.14** \_\_\_\_\_ Vice president who resigned in 1973
- 1.15** \_\_\_\_\_ The first appointed president in American history
- 1.16** \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper that investigated the scandal
- 1.17** \_\_\_\_\_ Date that President Nixon resigned
- 1.18** \_\_\_\_\_ Organization that hired the burglars
- 1.19** \_\_\_\_\_ Aide that accused Nixon of a cover-up
- 1.20** \_\_\_\_\_ Man who was elected president in 1976





**Answer these questions.**

- 1.21** What did President Ford do that made the nation angry at him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.22** What were the burglars carrying when they broke into the Watergate building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.23** Why was Carter elected in 1976?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.24** What finally proved that Nixon wanted a cover-up?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## America in the 1970s

**Inflation.** One of the biggest problems of the 1970s was something called *inflation*. Inflation is a time when prices go up. During the 1970s prices were going up quickly, more quickly than people's salaries. Prices more than doubled from 1970 to 1980. The quickly rising prices made it hard for people to pay their bills and afford all the things they used to be able to afford. To make matters worse, there were not enough jobs for everyone. The American people expected the government to fix these problems.

President Nixon tried several things to stop inflation. He started by trying to cut government spending. He hoped with the government buying less that prices would not go up as fast. When that and other things did not work, he tried price controls. Price controls make it illegal to raise prices. That did not work either because it was too difficult to enforce the law. For example, if someone made a smaller candy bar and sold it for the same price, was that a price increase or not?

President Ford organized a big effort to end inflation. He called it "Whip Inflation Now" or WIN. It also failed. Inflation was finally slowed by the Federal Reserve Board that controls the national bank system. The "Fed" raised interest rates so high that it was difficult to borrow money. That slowed spending, which slowed buying, which slowed price increases beginning in 1979.

**Energy crisis.** The *energy crisis* was another big problem of the 1970s. The energy crisis was about a **shortage** of oil for gasoline. It made the cost of gas for cars go up very quickly. The nations that produced oil had organized to form OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). OPEC began forcing prices up in the 1970s.

Many of the OPEC nations were Arab countries in the Middle East that were enemies of Israel, a nation supported by the United States. In 1973 some of these nations attacked Israel. Many of the OPEC nations embargoed (refused to export) oil to the United States because it was helping Israel. The embargo lasted for five months. It drove prices up, and many people had trouble even finding fuel for their cars. They often had to wait in long lines for gasoline.

The energy crisis eventually was resolved. The high price of oil encouraged American oil companies to drill more oil wells on home soil. That increased the production of oil, ended the oil shortage, and brought the prices back down. However, eventually America will need to find a new fuel for their cars because the oil in the ground will not last forever.

**Camp David Accords.** Israel had been at war with her Arab neighbors from the moment the nation began in 1948. They were not always at war, but they did fight many times. In the 1970s, the president of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, decided to make peace with Israel. However, the peace talks were very difficult.

When it looked like the talks would fail in 1978, President Carter decided to help. He invited Sadat and Menachem Begin, the prime minister of Israel, to come to the U.S. to talk. He took the men to Camp



| The oil shortage caused long lines at gas stations.



| President Jimmy Carter helped bring peace between Israel and Egypt.

David, a retreat for the president in Maryland. Camp David is a large, peaceful, wooded camp with comfortable cabins for the president and his guests. In this relaxed place, away from the reporters and the problems of their own nations, the two men were able to reach an agreement. It was named the Camp David Accords.

The Camp David Accords set up many parts of the peace treaty the two nations signed in 1979. That treaty ended the war between Egypt and Israel. It gave back to Egypt the Sinai Peninsula which Israel had captured. It was also Jimmy Carter's greatest success as president.

**Iran and Afghanistan.** Aside from the Camp David Accords, Jimmy Carter had few other successes as president. His lack of experience, which had gotten him elected, caused problems. He did not know how to work with Congress, and the American people felt like he could not lead clearly. He also faced some major problems with the rest of the world.

Jimmy Carter was a Christian man who wanted to protect the freedom of people all over the world. The problem was that many nations that were not free were also our allies against the communists. One of these was

Iran. Iran's ruler, the Shah, was a cruel dictator, but he was a great help to the U.S. because his nation produced oil and was so near the Soviet Union. When his people began to rebel against his rule, President Carter would not help him. The Shah left early in 1979 and a new government based on the religion of **Islam** came to power. The new government was as bad as the one under the Shah except it was not friendly to the United States.

In November of 1979, the Shah visited the United States for medical care. Angry mobs in Iran attacked the U.S. Embassy in Iran. Embassies are supposed to be protected by the local government, but the Islamic government of Iran did not protect ours. The mob took the American diplomats as hostages and demanded that the Shah be given to them in exchange. President Carter refused and the Iranian government would not release the hostages. It was unbelievable that a government would actually take another nation's diplomats as hostages! This was called the Iran Hostage Crisis.

President Carter was not able to solve the Hostage Crisis. The Iranians held the 52 American diplomats for 15 months. The president tried to negotiate, but the angry government in Iran would not listen. The president finally sent the military to try a rescue, but it failed. The strongest nation on earth could not even get its own people back. It was incredibly frustrating for the American people who followed the whole thing every day on the news.



| The Iranian hostages were freed the day Ronald Reagan became president.

A month after the Hostage Crisis began, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, a country on their southern border. This ended Détente. The Soviet Union was trying to protect a communist government in that land. However, the Soviet army was never able to defeat the Islamic rebels who fought against them there. It was like Vietnam for the United States. The Hostage Crisis and the invasion of Afghanistan made America look very weak and helpless. People blamed Jimmy Carter for that. In 1980 they chose a new president, Republican Ronald Reagan.



### Complete these sentences.

- 1.25** The two biggest problems in America in the 1970s were: \_\_\_\_\_  
(rising prices) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (oil shortages).
- 1.26** In 1973 the Arab nations \_\_\_\_\_ sales of oil to the United States.
- 1.27** Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, with the help of Jimmy Carter, were able to come to an agreement in 1978 called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.28** In 1979 Détente ended when the Soviet Union invaded \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.29** In the \_\_\_\_\_ Crisis, 52 American diplomats were held prisoner for 15 months.
- 1.30** The Shah of Iran left in 1979 and a new government based on the religion of \_\_\_\_\_ took power.
- 1.31** OPEC stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.32** The inflation of the 1970s was ended by the \_\_\_\_\_ when it raised interest rates.
- 1.33** \_\_\_\_\_ was elected president in 1980.



**Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show you what areas you will need to restudy in order to prepare for the unit test.

## SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 3 points).

- |              |   |                    |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ Communist ruler of China                            | a. Richard Nixon   |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ Elected president in 1980                           | b. Jimmy Carter    |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ Prime minister of Israel                            | c. Mao Zedong      |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ Communist leader of the U.S.S.R.                    | d. Leonid Brezhnev |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ Nixon's Secretary of State                          | e. Henry Kissinger |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Only president to resign from office                | f. Archibald Cox   |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ President of Egypt                                  | g. Gerald Ford     |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Only appointed president                            | h. Anwar Sadat     |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ Elected president because of his lack of experience | i. Menachem Begin  |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ Lawyer who investigated the Watergate Scandal       | j. Ronald Reagan   |

**Complete these sentences** (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.011** The \_\_\_\_\_ Scandal forced a president to resign.
- 1.012** Richard Nixon was the first president to visit the communist nations of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.013** The Cold War thaw in the 1970s was called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.014** The two biggest problems in America in the 1970s were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.015** Egypt and Israel were able to make peace because of the \_\_\_\_\_ Accords, an agreement between their leaders made in 1978 with the help of Jimmy Carter.
- 1.016** The treaty to control atomic bombs was called SALT, which stands for \_\_\_\_\_.



**1.017** Fifty-two diplomats were held hostage for 15 months by a mob in Iran during the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**1.018** The Soviet Union ended its thaw with the U.S. when it invaded the nation of \_\_\_\_\_ on its southern border in 1979.

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 3 points).

**1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ Gerald Ford made Americans very angry when he pardoned John Dean.

**1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ During Détente, American presidents ended Containment.

**1.021** \_\_\_\_\_ Watergate started with a burglary of the Democratic Party headquarters.

**1.022** \_\_\_\_\_ Richard Nixon recorded conversations in his office while he was president.

**1.023** \_\_\_\_\_ The Federal Reserve Board was able to control inflation by raising interest rates.

**1.024** \_\_\_\_\_ Communist China has not yet taken the Chinese seat in the United Nations.

**1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ The Soviet Union needed to trade with the West to get new technology.

**1.026** \_\_\_\_\_ The Soviet Union stopped “wars of liberation” during the 1970s.

**1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ Many Americans began to trust the government more because of Watergate.

**1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ OPEC tried to make oil cheaper in the 1970s.

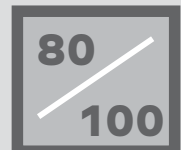


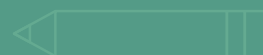
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HIS0509 – Jan '16 Printing

ISBN 978-1-58095-169-2



9 781580 951692