

Unit 7 Section 8

The Ford and Carter Years

TYWL: Global interaction may be caused by conflict. / Forces of imperialism, nationalism, militarism and geo-political alliances, taken to the extreme, can lead to international conflicts. / Nationalism and the quest for power are often underlying causes for war. / Conflict occurs when compromise over land, national identity and colonial possessions is no longer an option between those in authority and those they serve. /

Path to the Presidency

- House Minority Leader Gerald Ford selected as Vice President when Spiro Agnew resigns in scandal
- Becomes President when Nixon resigns in 1974 – an un-elected President – 25th Amendment
- Difficult situation



Ford's White House

- Pardons Nixon bringing a great deal of criticism
- Attempts to put Watergate and Vietnam behind the country – “Our long national nightmare is over”
- Attempts to combat inflation with “Whip Inflation Now” policy – calls for voluntary cutbacks on gas usage, raises interest rates
- Actions lead to recession

Ford's Foreign Policy

- Continues policy of détente
- Helsinki Accords – Series of agreements to ease tensions between Eastern and Western Europe...greatest achievement
- Conflict in Cambodia, Fall of Saigon in 1975



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Foto: Sturm, Hoist | 1. August 1975

1976 Election

- Ford vs. Democrat, Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter
- Peanut farmer, Washington outsider
- Personality, earthiness help him get elected – promises to bring integrity back to White House



Domestic Policies



- Energy crisis in US – dependence on foreign oil, gas shortages
- Department of Energy created
- National Energy Act – tax on gas guzzling cars, tax credits for alternative energies

Domestic Policies

- Policies ineffective in fixing problems
- Delivers famous “malaise speech,” many Americans lose hope in Carter
- Inflation rising, economic downswing, loss of manufacturing jobs to automation and foreign competition
- Carter had strong record of appointing minorities
- University of California v. Bakke: Court rules that colleges cannot have racial quotas for admission

The Environment

- Environmental issues come to forefront in 1970's
- Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) is a major influence
- EPA established in 1970 – 1st Earth Day
- Energy debate with Three Mile Island accident of 1979

Carter's Foreign Policy

- Committed to protecting human rights
- Philosophy clashes with détente
- Gives control of Panama Canal to Panama
- Clashes with China and Soviets over human rights – collapse of détente
- Tension with Soviets over invasion of Afghanistan

Middle East Triumphs and Failures

- Camp David Accords – Carter negotiates agreement between Egypt and Israel – brings hopes of peace in Middle East.
- Iran Hostage Crisis – Shah of Iran is overthrown by Islamic elements. Flees to US, Carter refuses to send him back to Iran. US Embassy is stormed – 52 hostages held for 444 days. Rescue attempt fails.

