

■ 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:

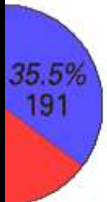
- Why was 1968 an important year in American history?

The Presidency of Richard Nixon

- 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



AL VOTE
538
MINOR 1.3%
972,139



R VOTE
3,026,831



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

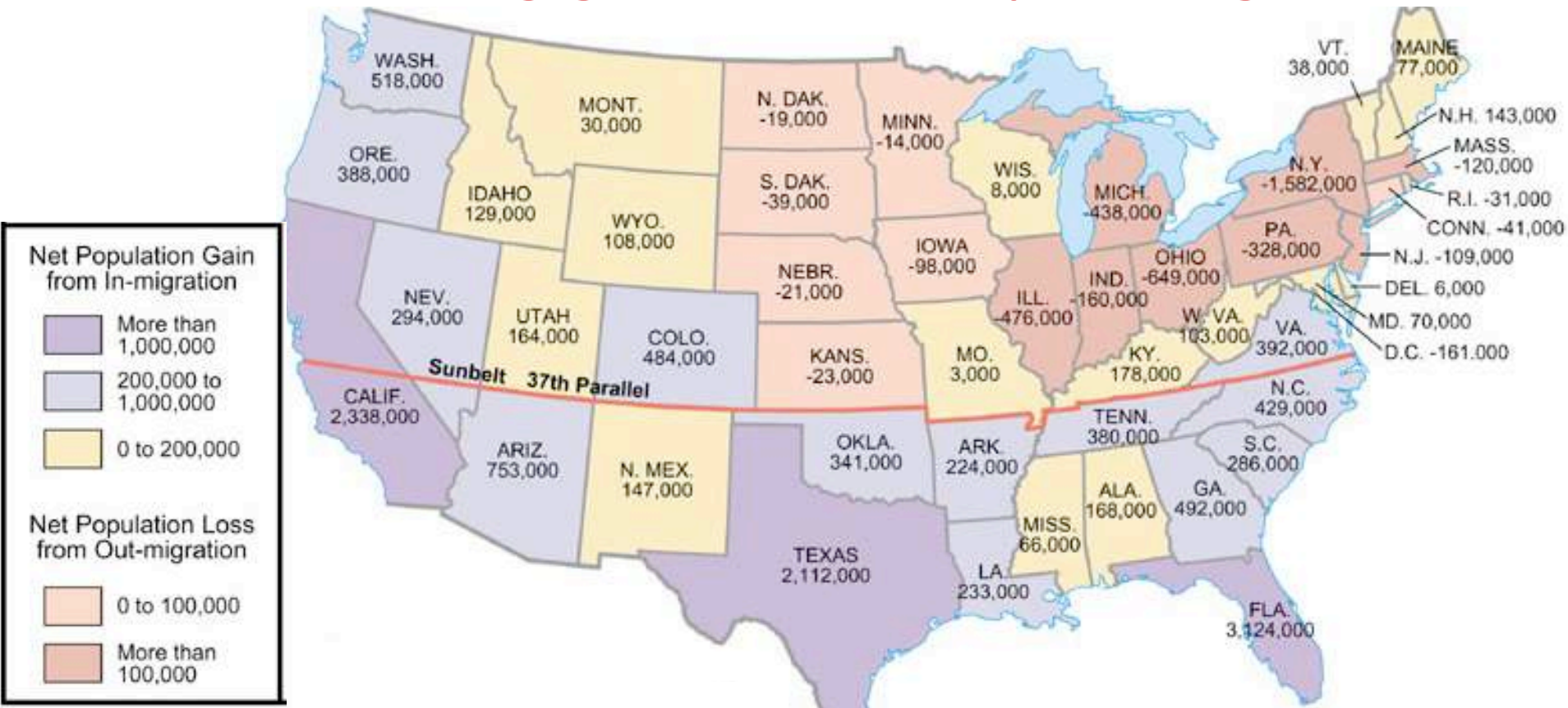
He gave states more control over how money for welfare programs was spent



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



Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

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



Soviet Union



China



Vietnam

Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon's foreign policy included "peace with honor" in Vietnam



Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon's foreign policy included better relations with China



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Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

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



In 1972, Nixon became the 1st president to visit Soviet leader Brezhnev to Moscow; His visit led to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) to limit ICBMs



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)
 - Richard Nixon (1969-1974)
- 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

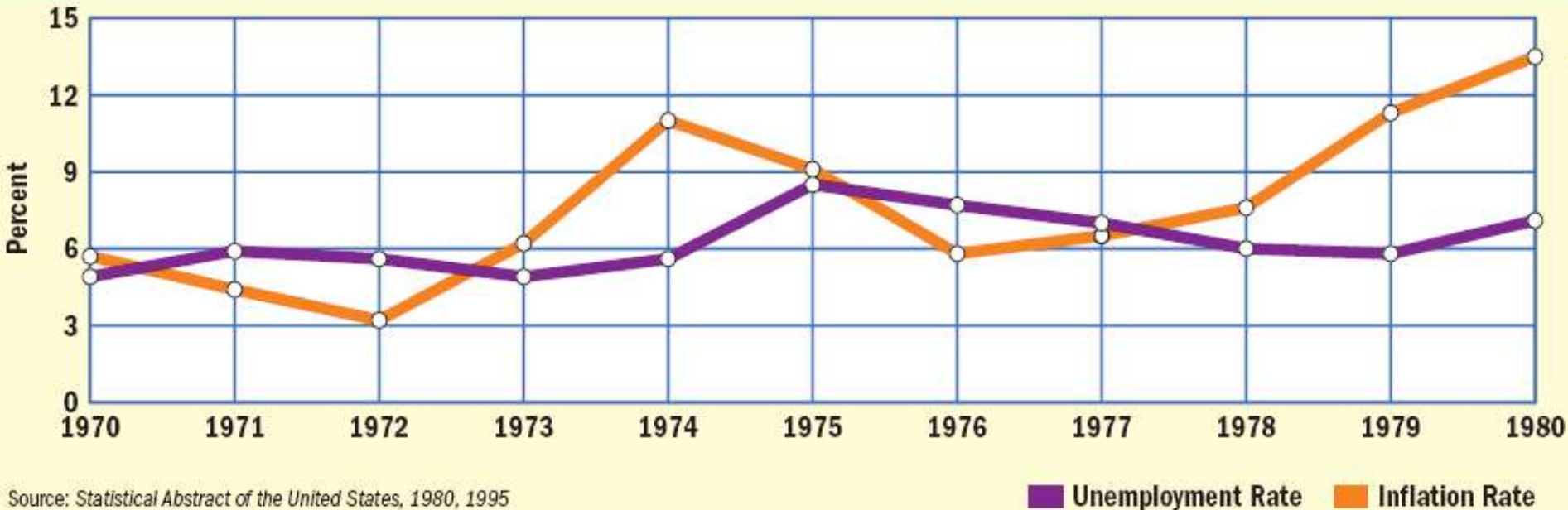
Another issue during Ford's presidency was a growing economic recession

Since the early 1970s, inflation, interest rates, and unemployment were on the rise.

Together, a stagnant economy & high inflation are known as:

STAGFLATION

Unemployment and Inflation, 1970–1980

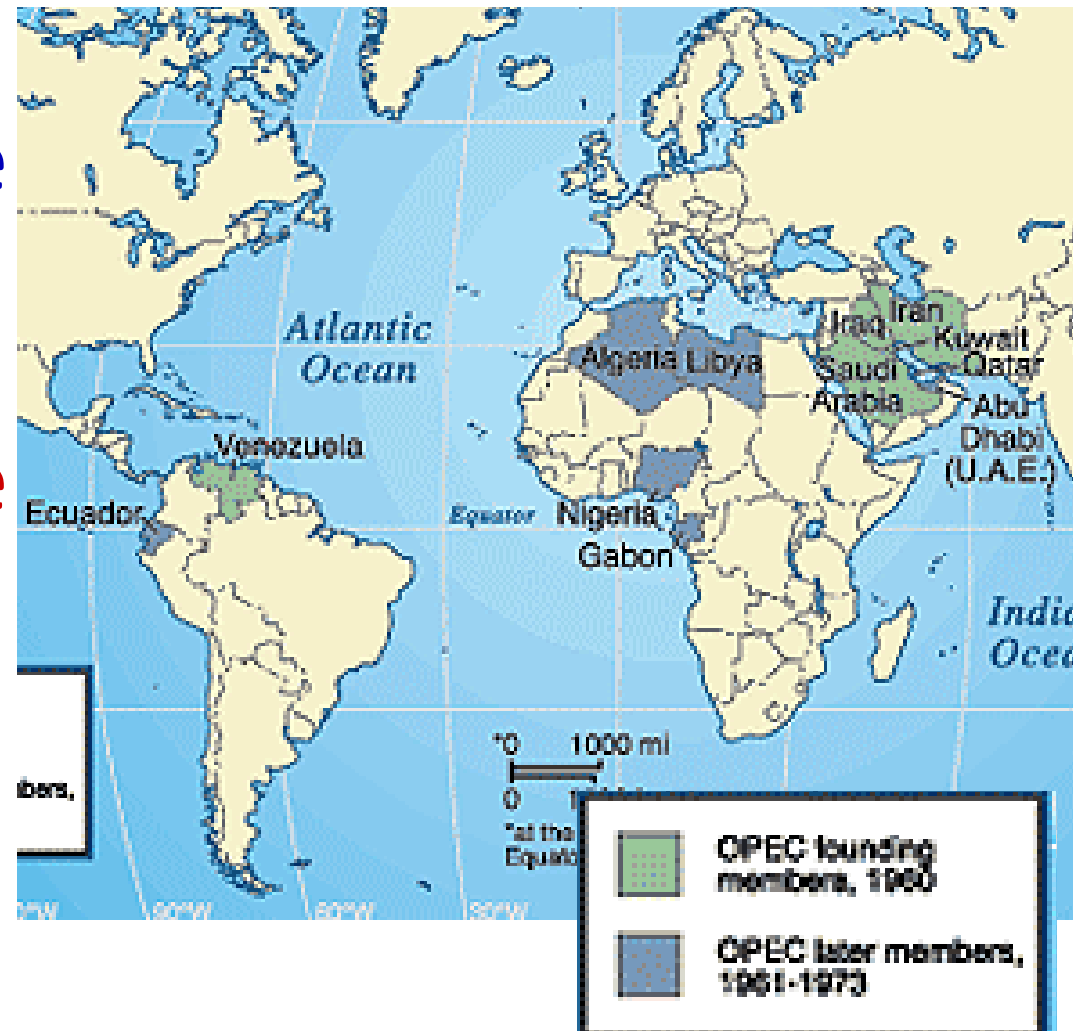


President Gerald Ford

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

Price per gallon of regular



Tight supply costs more at the pump.

1973 1975 1977 1979 1981 1983 1985

President Jimmy Carter

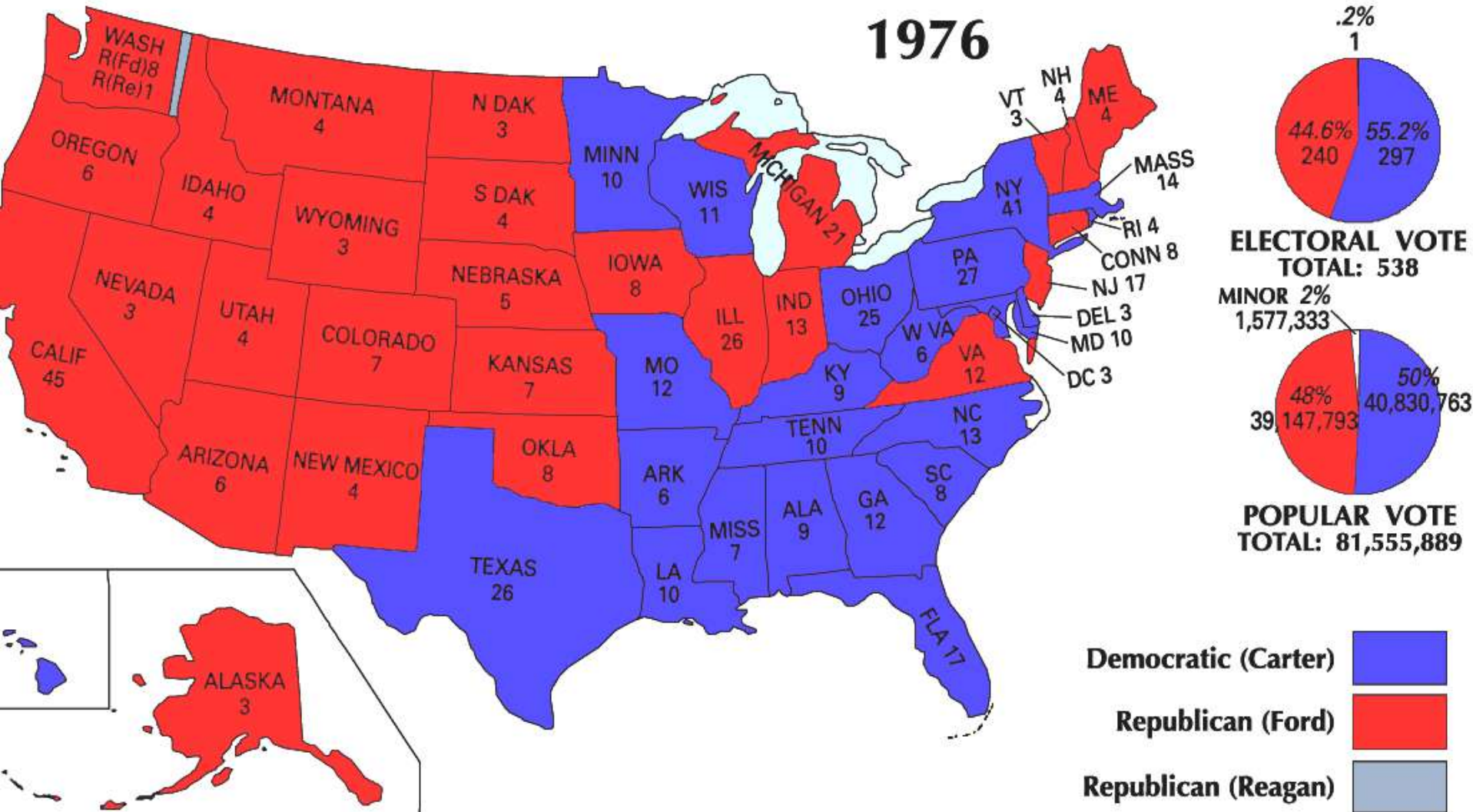
Ford had no answer for stagflation or the gas crisis & was challenged by Georgia Democrat Jimmy Carter in the 1976 election

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



President Jimmy Carter

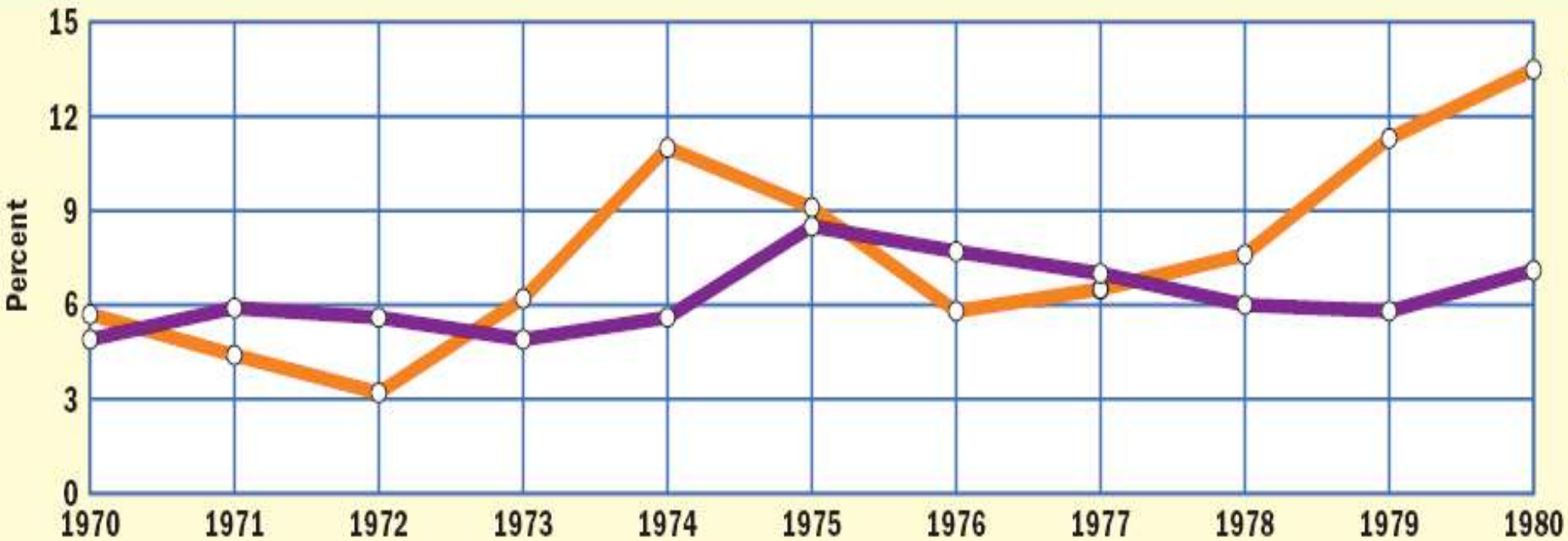
In the 1976 election, Carter beat Ford



Carter & Domestic Policy

As president, None of his efforts worked: the energy crisis, stagflation, & the recession
Inflation hit 14%, interest rates neared 20%, & unemployment hit 10% in 1980

Unemployment and Inflation, 1970-1980



Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1980, 1995

Unemployment Rate Inflation Rate

963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 000 001 002 003 004 005 006 007 008 009

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

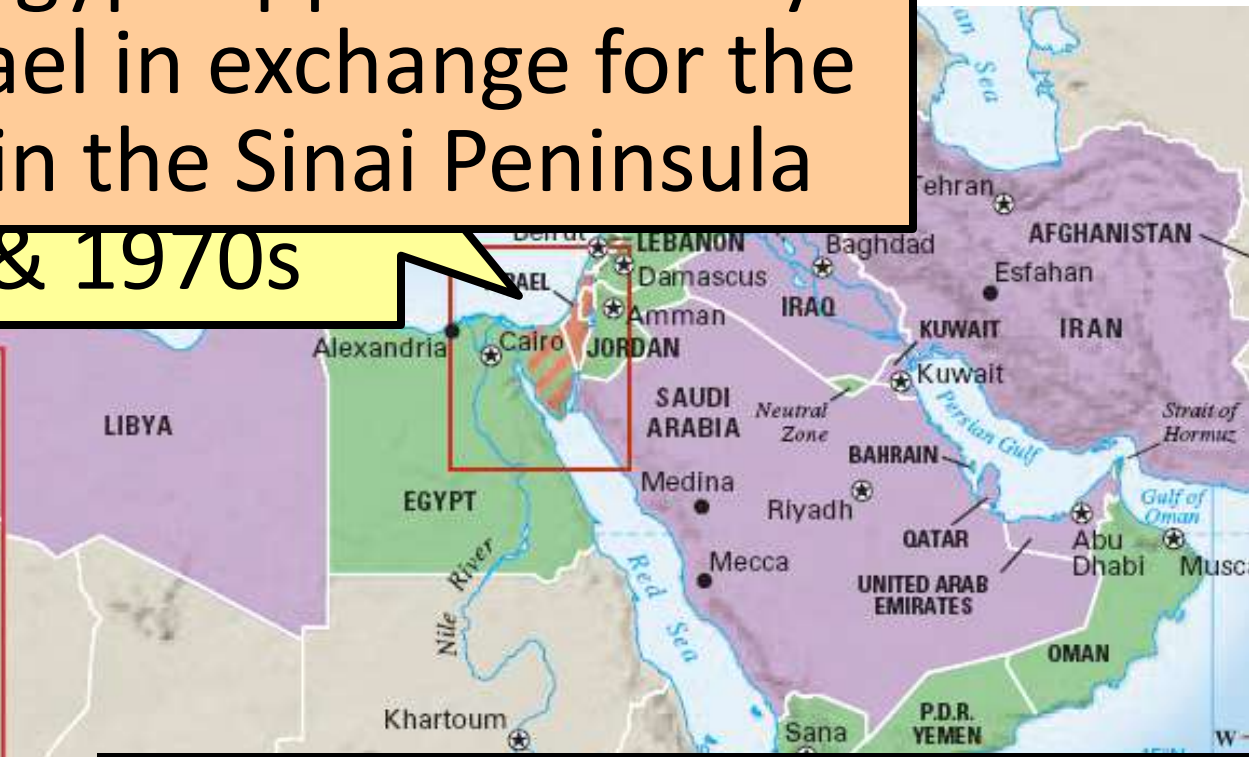
In 1977, Carter agreed that the U.S. would return the Panama Canal in Dec 1999

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

1947, & 1970s



1947 UN votes to partition Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states.

1973 Yom Kippur War between Egypt and Syria against Israel

1949 Israel repels attack by Arab states and takes more land than originally assigned.

1967 Israel wins Six-Day War and seizes more Palestinian land for what it calls security purposes.

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



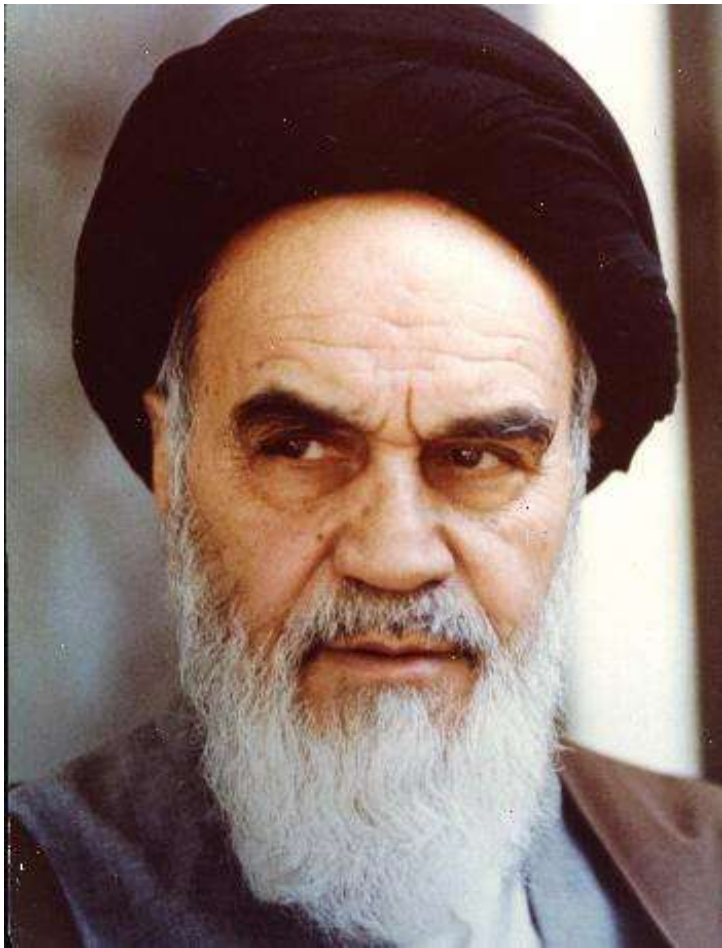
Carter did the impossible

Egypt recognized Israel's right to exist

Israel agreed to leave the Sinai Peninsula

Carter & Foreign Policy

But, the situation in the Middle East got worse in 1979 when fundamentalist Islamic cleric Ayatollah Khomeini led the Iranian Revolution

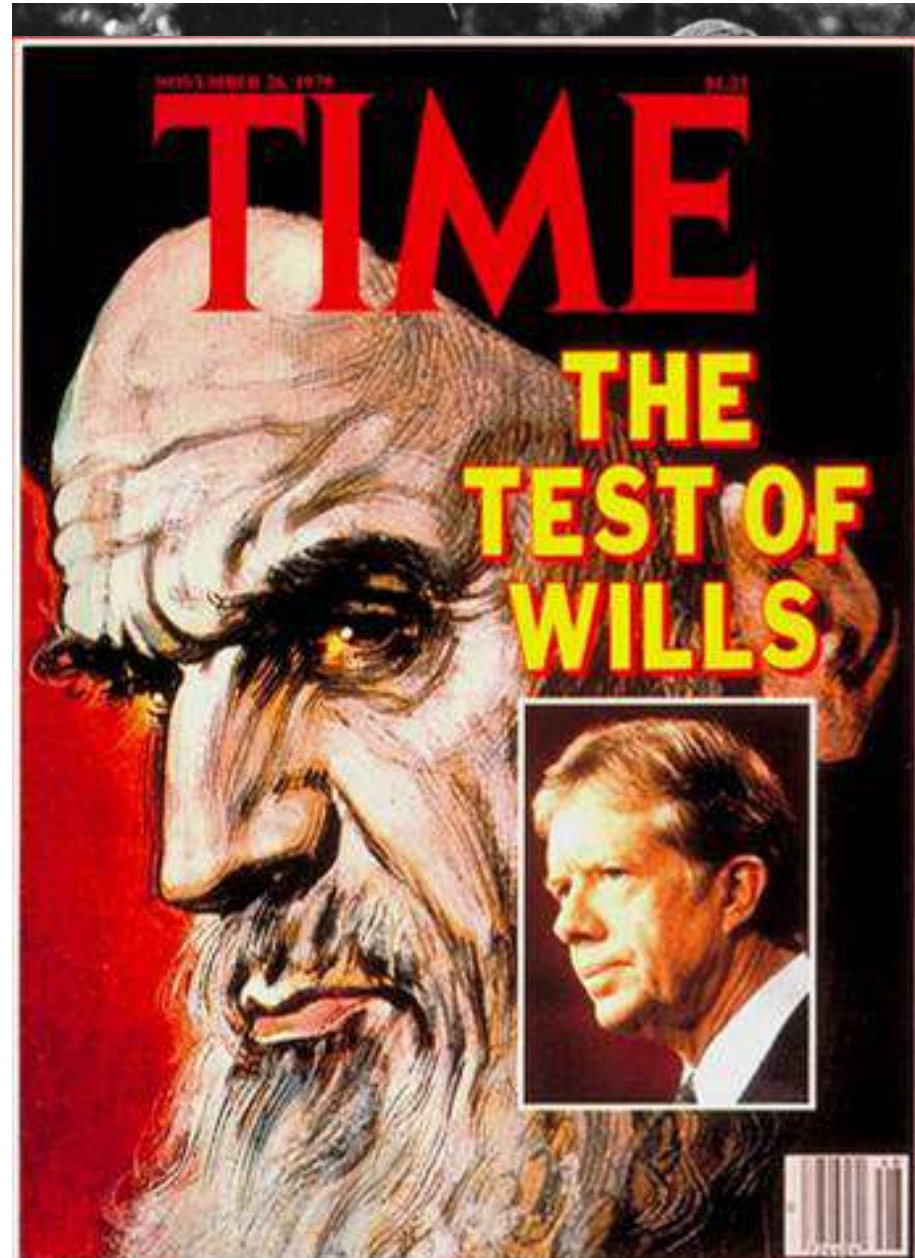


Carter & Foreign Policy

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

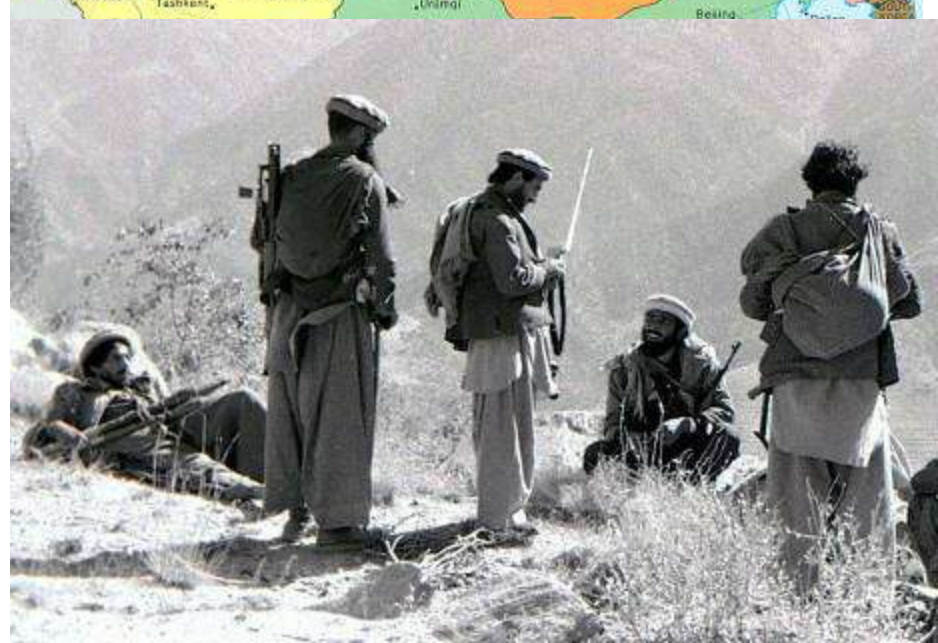
Carter tried negotiation, economic threats, & a rescue mission to return the hostages but all efforts failed

The 52 hostages were held for 444 days



Carter & Foreign Policy

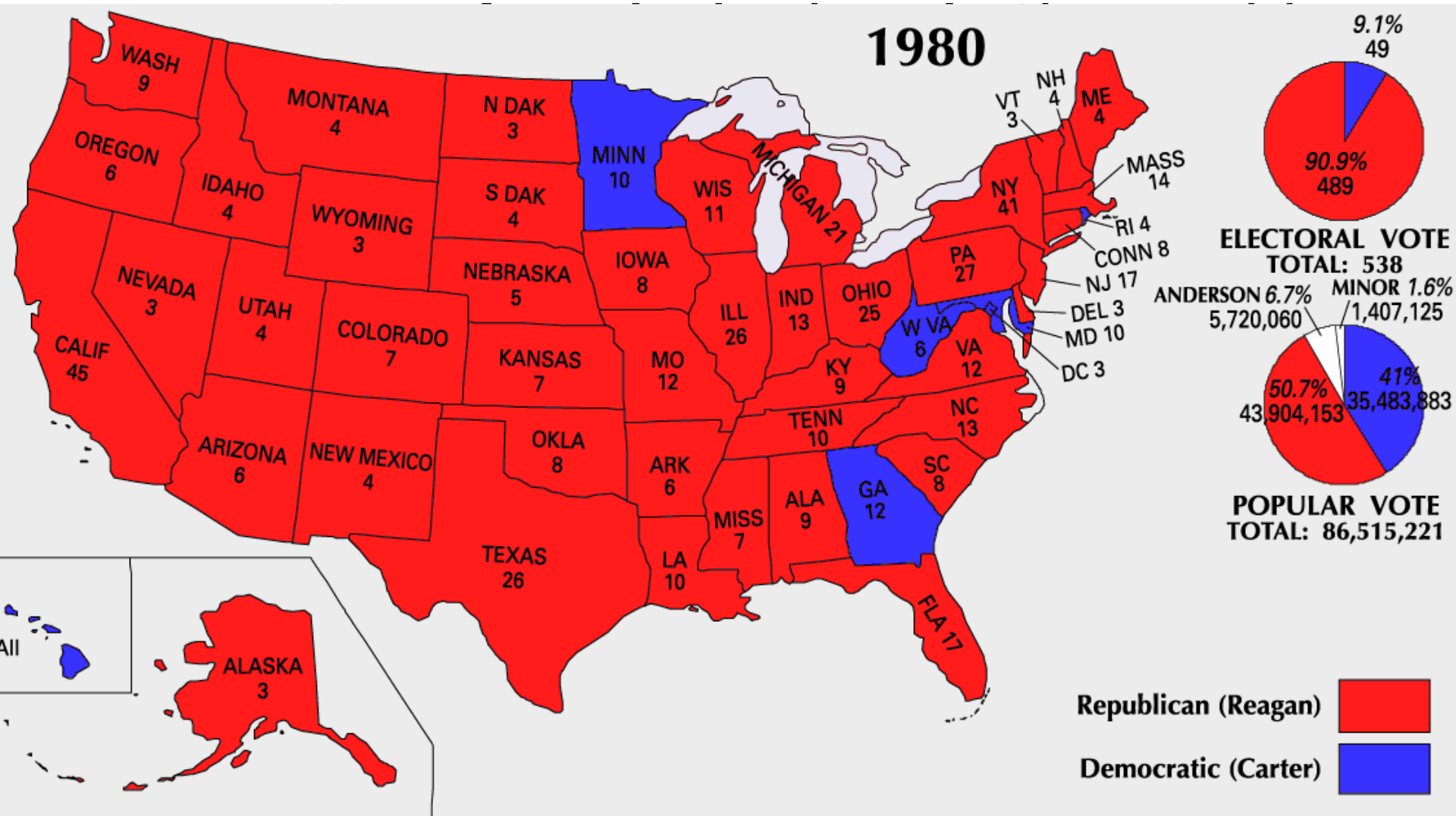
To make matters worse, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 to defeat an anti-communist uprising



The invasion signaled an end to Nixon's détente with the USSR as the United States sent aid to the Afghan rebels

The Election of 1980

In the election of 1980, Americans in search of answers elected Ronald Reagan as president



Conclusions

- 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