

WEEK/ASSIGNMENT #7: Monday June 15, 2020- Sunday June 21, 2020.



Directions: Read and analyze all readings and visual documents AND answer the six (6) questions on the answer sheet. The questions on the answer sheet are also after the reading and visual documents to help you find your answers faster. AGAIN, only record your answers on the ANSWER SHEET.

---Grades for ONLINE instruction must be submitted by Monday of next week. Please complete the assignment before Friday June 19, 2020. Hence, the much shorter assignment this week. Thank you.

Mr. Sapia

Name/Class:
Date:

U.S History
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WATERGATE SCANDAL *NIXON VS UNITED STATES (1974)*

The Watergate break-in had its roots in Richard Nixon's obsession with secrecy and acquiring dirt and secrets regarding his political enemies. To stop "leaks" of information to the press, in 1971 the Nixon White House assembled a team of "plumbers," consisting of former CIA members. This private police force engaged in a wide range of criminal acts, including phone tapping and burglary, against those on its "enemies list."

In 1972, when President Nixon was running for re-election, CREEP (*Committee for the Re-election of the President*) authorized another series of illegal activities. It hired people to stage "dirty tricks" against potential Democratic nominees, which included mailing letters that falsely accused one candidate of fathering an illegitimate child. It considered a plan to kidnap anti-Nixon political leaders. The committee also authorized \$250,000 for intelligence-gathering operations. Four times the committee sent burglars to break into Democratic headquarters.

In 1972, five burglars were caught breaking into the Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. Among other activities, the Democratic National Headquarters was responsible for raising money for and coordinating campaigns for Democratic candidates, including the presidential candidate. Media and government investigations discovered that the burglars were connected to the White House, which at the time was occupied by President Richard Nixon, a member of the Republican party. In addition, these investigations revealed that the president and his aides probably had abused their power in other ways as well.

Congress held hearings on the scandal to investigate wrongdoing by the president and his aides. During those hearings, the public discovered that President Nixon had installed a tape recorder in the Oval Office of the White House. Congress believed that these tape recordings probably had conversations between the president and his aides that could support some of the accusations against them. The special prosecutor in charge of the case wanted to hear these tapes, but President Nixon did not want to give them up. President Nixon even had the special prosecutor removed from his job to stop him from obtaining the tapes. However, the next special prosecutor also requested them. This time a federal court judge ruled that the president had to hand over the tape recordings.

In response, the president released edited transcripts and shortened versions of the tapes, but these were not good enough to meet the court order. The special prosecutor again challenged the president in the United States District Court. The District Court again ruled against the president and ordered him to give up the complete tapes. When the president appealed the District Court's ruling to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, the special prosecutor asked the United States Supreme Court to step in and settle the dispute. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Before the Supreme Court, Nixon's lawyers argued that the courts could not hear the case because it was a conflict or dispute within the executive branch over which the courts had no power or jurisdiction (authority) to settle. They also argued that the tapes should be protected by the president's executive privilege. Executive privilege means that the communication between the president and his aides has a certain level of confidentiality. While it is not a right specifically given to the president in the Constitution, it is based on the constitutional separation of powers. Executive privilege reflects the belief that those in the executive branch should be able to communicate with the president, sharing their ideas without concern that their opinions will become the knowledge of the other branches of the government or the public. Having this freedom encourages advisors to be as honest and forthcoming as possible, which helps the president to make an informed decision. This is particularly important in matters of national defense. President Nixon's lawyers argued that only the president should be able to decide when his communications with his aides can be revealed to the public or other branches of the government.

The Department of Justice, representing the people of the United States argued, however, that executive privilege was not absolute, but an unlimited right; just like freedom of speech. In this case, those normally confidential communications were very important for a criminal case. If only the president had the power to decide when his communications could be revealed to the public, then he could cover up information about illegal activities and this would be dangerous for the legal system and the rule of law.

The Watergate scandal gradually came to include not only the cover-up but a wide range of President Nixon's wrongdoings. These transgressions included: extending political favors to powerful business groups in exchange for campaign contributions; misusing public funds; deceiving Congress and the public about the secret bombing of Cambodia during the Vietnam war; authorizing illegal domestic political surveillance and espionage against political opponents, and journalists; and attempting to use FBI investigations and income tax audits by the IRS to harass political enemies.

Questions:

1. What was CREEP alleged to have done that was against the law?
2. How would you categorize Pres. Nixon's attitude when it was discovered that they might be evidence linking him and his aides to the Watergate break-in?
3. What defense did Pres. Nixon use in an attempt to not hand over any tape recordings he had with his top aides?

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Directions: Using any strategy to deconstruct political cartoons, determine the author's claim and potential purpose for creating this political cartoon.

VISUAL DOCUMENT #1



4. What is the main idea that the cartoonist try to convey to his/her intended audience?

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PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
HOW SHOULD HISTORY REMEMBER HIS PRESIDENCY?

Political unrest in the oil-rich Middle East contributed significantly to America's economic troubles. After suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Arab leaders unsheathed a new political weapon--oil. In order to pressure Israel out of territory conquered in the 1967 and 1973 wars, Arab nations cut oil production 25 percent and embargoed all oil exports to the United States. Leading the way was OPEC, founded by Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela in 1960 to fight a reduction in prices by oil companies.

Because Arab nations controlled 60 percent of the oil reserves in the non-Communist world, they had the Western nations over a barrel. Production cutbacks produced an immediate global shortage. The United States imported a third of its oil from Arab nations. As a result, gas prices rose, long lines formed at gas pumps, some factories shortened the work week, and some shopping centers restricted business hours.

The oil crisis did have a positive side effect. It increased public consciousness about the environment and stimulated awareness of the importance of conservation and the need to seek alternative forms of energy. This was one initiative that President Jimmy Carter believed in.

In the Middle East, President Carter achieved his greatest diplomatic success by negotiating peace between Egypt and Israel. Although both countries wanted peace, major obstacles had to be overcome before a deal between Israel and Egypt could be reached. Sadat wanted Israel to retreat from the West Bank of the Jordan River and from the Golan Heights (which it had taken from Jordan in the 1967 war), and to provide a homeland for the Palestinians, among other things. Such conditions were unacceptable to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who refused to consider recognition of the PLO or the return of the West Bank. By the end of 1977, Sadat's peace mission had run aground.

Jimmy Carter broke the deadlock by inviting both men to Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, for face-to-face talks. For two weeks in September 1978, they hammered out peace accords (agreements). Although several important issues were left unresolved, Prime Minister Begin did agree to return the Sinai to Egypt. In return, Egypt promised to recognize Israel, and as a result, became a staunch U.S. ally. For Carter it was a proud moment. Unfortunately, the rest of the Arab Middle East denounced (rejected) the Camp David accords, and in 1981, Sadat paid for his vision with his life when anti-Israeli Egyptian soldiers assassinated him.

In 1978, Carter also pushed the Panama Canal Treaty through the Senate, which provided for the return of the Canal Zone to Panama and improved the image of the United States in Latin

America. However, President Carter short-term success would soon be overshadowed by the greatest challenge of his presidency--the Iran hostage crisis.

Since the end of World War II, Iran had been a valuable friend of the United States in the troubled Middle East. In 1953, the CIA had worked to ensure the power of the young shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. During the next 25 years, the shah often repaid the debt. He allowed the United States to establish electronic listening posts in Northern Iran along the border of the Soviet Union, and during the 1973-1974 Arab oil embargo, he continued to sell oil to the United States. The shah also bought arms from the United States, helping to ease the American balance of payments problem. Few world leaders were more loyal to the United States.

The shah was indeed popular among wealthy Iranians, but in the slums of Teheran (capital city of Iran) and in rural, poverty stricken villages, there was little respect, admiration, or love for his government. Led by a fundamentalist religious Islamics, the masses of Iranians turned against the shah and his Westernization policies. In early fall of 1978, the revolutionary surges in Iran gained force.

In January 1979, the shah fled to Egypt. Exiled Iranian religious leader, Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, returned to Iran, preaching the doctrine that the United States was the "Great Satan" behind the shah. Relations between the United States and the new Iranian government were terrible, but Iranian officials warned that they would become infinitely worse if the shah were granted asylum (place of safety). Nevertheless, Carter permitted the shah to enter the United States for treatment of lymphoma. The reaction in Iran was severe and forceful.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian supporters of Khomeini invaded the American embassy in Teheran and captured 66 Americans, 13 of whom were freed several weeks later. The rest were held hostage for 444 days and were the objects of intense political interest and media coverage.

Carter was helpless. Because Iran was not a stable country in any recognizable sense, its government was not susceptible to pressure. Iran's demands--the return of the shah to Iran and the admission of U.S. guilt in supporting the shah--were unacceptable. Carter devoted far too much attention to the almost insoluble problem. The hostages stayed in the public spotlight, in part, because Carter kept them there.

Carter's foreign policy problems mounted in December 1979, when the Soviet Union sent tanks into Afghanistan. In response, the Carter administration embargoed grain and high-technology exports to the Soviet Union and boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow (the Soviet Union gradually withdrew its troops a decade later).

As public disapproval of the president's handling of the Iran crisis increased, some Carter advisers advocated the use of force to free the hostages. At first Carter disagreed, but eventually, he authorized a rescue attempt. It failed, and Carter's position became even worse. Negotiations finally brought the hostages' release, but they also brought humiliation to Carter. The hostages were held until minutes after Ronald Reagan, Carter's successor, had taken the oath of office as president.

When Carter left office in January 1981, many Americans judged his presidency a failure. Instead of being remembered for the good he accomplished for the Middle East at Camp David, he was remembered for what he failed to accomplish. The Iranian hostage crisis had become emblematic of the perception that America's role in the world had declined.

5. Identify ONE accomplishment and ONE failure most historians associate with President Carter?

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Document #1: Ronald Reagan

“I regret to say that we are in the worst economic mess since the Great Depression. . . .

The Federal budget is out of control, and we face runaway deficits of almost \$80 billion for this budget year that ends September 30th. That deficit is larger than the entire Federal budget in 1957, and so is the almost \$80 billion we will pay in interest this year on the national debt.

Twenty years ago, in 1960, our Federal Government payroll was less than \$13 billion. Today it is \$75 billion. During these 20 years our population has only increased by 23.3 percent. The Federal budget has gone up 528 percent.

Now, we have just had two years of back-to-back double-digit inflation — 13.3 percent in 1979, 12.4 percent last year. The last time this happened was in World War I. In 1960, mortgage interest rates averaged about 6 percent. They are 2½ times as high now, 15.4 percent.

The percentage of your earnings the Federal Government took in taxes in 1960 has almost doubled. And finally, there are 7 million Americans caught up in the personal indignity and human tragedy of unemployment. If they stood in a line, allowing three feet for each person, the line would reach from the coast of Maine to California. . . .

Over the years we have let negative economic forces run out of control. We stalled the judgment day, but we no longer have that luxury. We are out of time.

And to you, my fellow citizens, let us join in a new determination to rebuild the foundation of our society, to work together, to act responsibly. Let us do so with the most profound respect for that which must be preserved as well as with sensitive understanding and compassion for those who must be protected.

We can leave our children with an unrepayable massive debt and a shattered economy, or we can leave them liberty in a land where every individual has the opportunity to be whatever God intended us to be. All it takes is a little common sense and recognition of our own ability. Together we can forge a new beginning for America.”

— Ronald Reagan

Excerpt From a Televised Address to the Nation The White House, February 5, 1981

6. Identify TWO problems President Ronald Reagan wanted to address during a televised Address to the nation in February of 1981?

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WEEK/TASK #7 U.S HISTORY STUDENT ANSWER SHEET--- MODERN
AMERICAN PRESIDENTS OF LATE 1900s

Directions: Please record your answers in complete sentences in the spaces that are provided. Please write neatly. Email me ONLY the answer sheet. Thank you again.

1. What was CREEP alleged to have done that was against the law?
2. How would you categorize Pres. Nixon's attitude when it was discovered that they might be evidence linking him and his aides to the Watergate break-in?
3. What defense did Pres. Nixon use in an attempt to not hand over any tape recordings he had with his top aides?

4. What is the main idea that the cartoonist try to convey to his/her intended audience?

5. Identify ONE accomplishment and ONE failure most historians associate with President Carter?

6. Identify TWO problems President Ronald Reagan wanted to address during a televised Address to the nation in February of 1981?