

CPP High School



T&E 100058

Prentice Hall Brief Review

United States History and Government

Briggs / Fish Petersen

The background of the cover features a close-up, slightly blurred image of the United States Constitution. The top portion of the document is visible, showing the opening words 'We the People' in a large, elegant cursive script. Below this, smaller text is visible, including the words 'We the People' and 'do hereby ordain and establish'. The document is set against a dark, textured background that resembles the cover of an old book.

We the People
We the People do hereby ordain and establish
this Constitution for the United States of America.

2015

Turning Point

- Why is the Watergate affair considered a turning point in U.S. history?

Key Themes and Concepts

Presidential Decisions and Actions

Following a Senate investigation into the Watergate affair, President Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974. Vice President Gerald Ford became the first non-elected president in U.S. history. Although President Nixon was never charged with any crime, President Ford issued a pardon to him.

- Why do you think President Ford pardoned President Nixon?

Analyzing Documents

Based on the chart and your knowledge of social studies, answer the following questions.

- What happened to fuel prices in 1973 and 1974?
- What caused the change in fuel prices in those years?
- How might the change in fuel prices and in all consumer item prices be related?

From 1974 until 1977, the United States had both a President and Vice President who had not been elected to their offices but had been appointed. Such a situation had not occurred before and has not occurred since.

Significance of Watergate

Although Nixon was never charged with any specific crimes, President Ford pardoned him. Ford hoped to end what he called "our long national nightmare." Many of Nixon's advisers, however, were found guilty of crimes and sentenced to prison. The incident showed, as Ford put it, that "the Constitution works." The system of checks and balances had stopped Nixon from placing the presidency above the law. However, one impact of the Watergate Scandal was a decline in the public's trust in government.

The Ford Administration

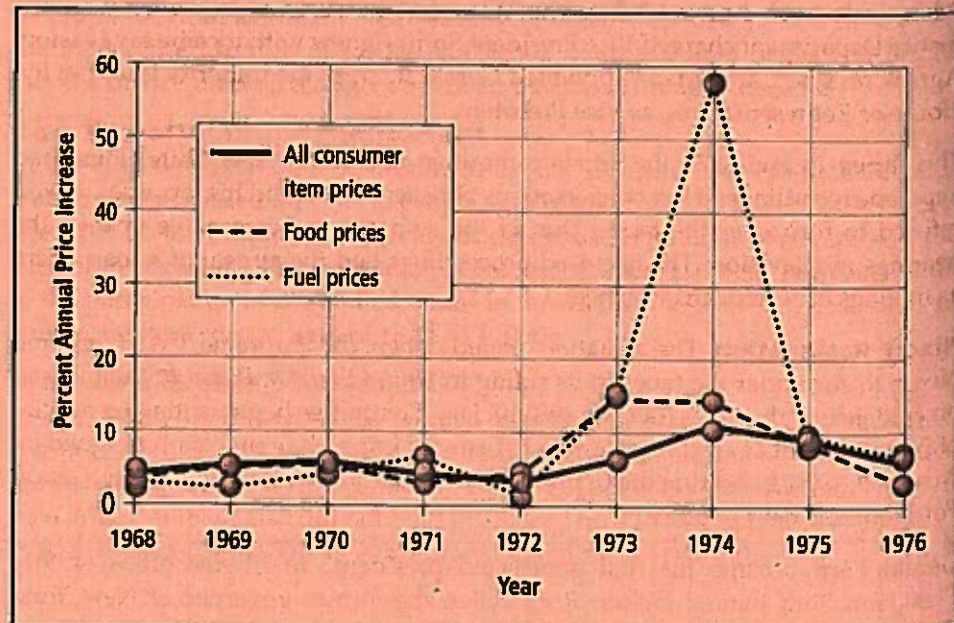
Many people called Nixon's administration the "Imperial Presidency" because of his disregard of the Constitution. Ford tried to rebuild the image of the President. However, the Watergate affair had disillusioned many Americans.

Ford's Domestic Policies

From the start, President Ford faced a number of domestic problems.

- **Nixon's Pardon** Many Americans questioned Ford's decision to pardon Nixon when so many of his advisers stood trial and were convicted and jailed.
- **Amnesty Plan** Ford stirred bitter debate when he offered amnesty to thousands of young men who avoided military service in Vietnam by violating draft laws, fleeing the country, or deserting the military.
- **Inflation** In 1973, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) placed an oil embargo on the United States for its support of Israel. The price of oil and gasoline more than doubled, setting off a new round of inflation. Temporary rationing of gasoline and federal incentives to research energy alternatives helped ease shortages. Even so, Americans remained highly dependent on foreign oil. Inflation topped 10 percent, and the nation entered into its worst recession since World War II.

Rate of Inflation, 1968–1976



Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States

Ford's Foreign Policies

Henry Kissinger continued working with the Ford administration. Kissinger helped:

- negotiate a cease-fire agreement between Egypt and Israel, thus ending the 1973 Yom Kippur War and OPEC oil embargo.
- continue the policy of détente with the Soviet Union, including the sale of tons of grain to the Soviets and a hookup of Soviet and American space capsules.
- oversee the end of the Vietnam War, including the withdrawal of the last American personnel from Saigon in 1975.

The Election of 1976

The nation's bicentennial (200th anniversary) in 1976 gave the Ford presidency a boost. However, it was not enough to help Ford completely shake off his negative association with the Nixon years. He lost a close election to the Democratic candidate, James (Jimmy) Earl Carter, former governor of Georgia.

The Carter Administration

Jimmy Carter won the 1976 election, in part, because of his appeal to the American sense of honesty and integrity. He stated a desire to return to basic American "down home" values. He wanted to prove that an "outsider" could make government more responsive to the people. However, Carter's unfamiliarity with Washington politics proved a disadvantage. First Lady Rosalynn Carter became his most trusted adviser.

Carter's Domestic Policies

Carter's presidency was made more difficult by changes that had taken place within Congress because of Watergate. Newly elected members tended to question every executive act.

"Stagflation" President Carter ran into the same economic woes as Ford—inflation coupled with rising unemployment. The problems were worsened by many welfare programs that increased the cost of government. With the economy apparently stalled in place, economists coined a new term, stagflation, to describe the situation. (The term referred to the stagnation of the economy and simultaneous inflation of prices.)

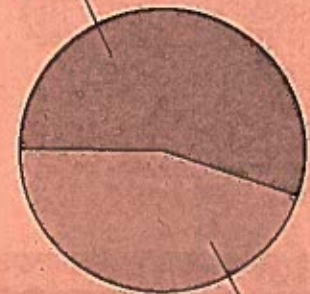
Energy Problem As the world's leading industrial power, the United States was also the world's leading consumer of energy. By the late 1970s, the nation had to import more than 40 percent of its oil. OPEC kept prices high, and American dollars flowed out of the country, worsening the trade deficit—the situation in which a nation buys more foreign goods than it exports abroad. In 1977, President Carter spoke to the American people about the energy crisis. He presented a national energy plan based on ten principles including conservation, environmental protection, and the development of new conventional or alternative sources of energy.

Corporate Bailouts Some American corporations were hard hit by stagflation and the decline in purchasing power at home. Foreign imports undersold some American goods, especially automobiles. The Chrysler Corporation and Lockheed Aircraft faced possible bankruptcy. Fearing the effect of massive layoffs on the economy, the federal government authorized huge loans to both corporations to keep them in business.

Environmental Problems Acid rain, created by toxic air pollution, continued to threaten forests, lakes, and wildlife in the United States. President Nixon had

Election of 1976

Democrat Jimmy Carter
55% of electoral vote



Republican Gerald R. Ford
45% of electoral vote

Key Themes and Concepts

Environment

In the 1970s, the United States faced a number of environmental problems.

- What steps did Nixon and Carter take to resolve some of these problems?
- Do any of these problems persist today? If so, which ones?

Key Themes and Concepts

Presidential Decisions and Actions

As you know from your study of United States history, all events are influenced by decisions, actions, and outcomes of earlier times.

- How was Carter's presidency influenced by the shadow of Nixon's presidency?

taken steps to end harmful industrial pollution by creating the Environmental Protection Agency. Carter supported environmental programs as well, but inflation and energy shortages prevented him from undertaking ambitious programs to protect the environment. Coal polluted the air, but the nation needed coal to offset oil shortages. The nation needed to clean up the air, but emission devices for cars and factories pushed up prices.

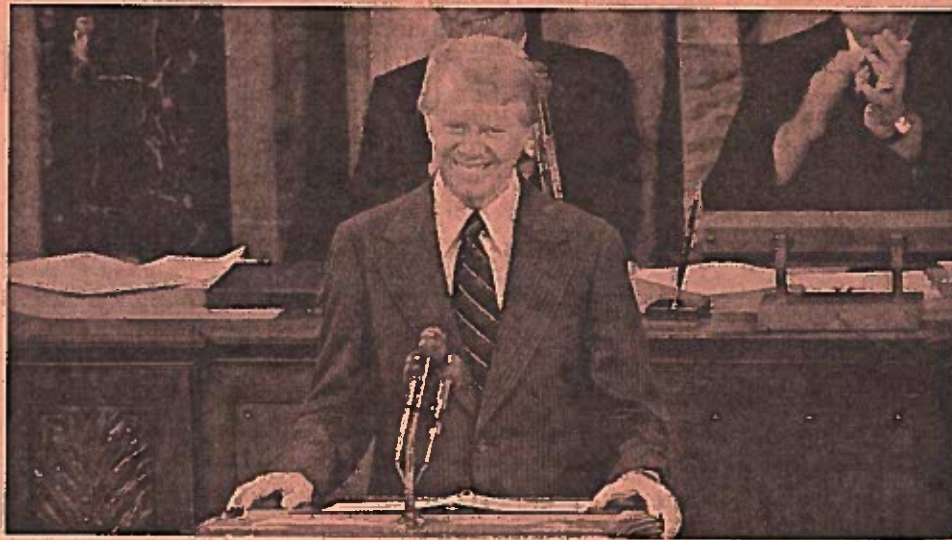
Nuclear Energy Carter supported nuclear energy as an alternative to coal and oil. However, in 1979, an accident occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Although the problem was brought under control, the incident highlighted the hazards of the nuclear power industry, which by the late 1970s supplied about 4 percent of the nation's energy.

Carter's Foreign Policy

During his presidency, Carter faced a number of foreign-policy challenges.

Helsinki Accords In 1975, the United States and other nations signed the Helsinki Accords, promising to respect basic human rights. Carter believed that the United States should withhold aid from nations that violated human rights.

Camp David Accords In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat surprised the world by visiting Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. President Carter seized the opportunity for bringing peace to the Middle East by inviting the two leaders to Camp David, the president's retreat in Maryland. There, Sadat and Begin hammered out the terms for a peace treaty known as the Camp David Accords. The two leaders signed the treaty in 1979. Other Arab nations, however, still refused to recognize Israel.



President Carter announces the results of the Camp David Accords to a Joint Session of Congress

Panama Canal Treaties In 1977, President Carter signed two treaties promising to turn over control of the Panama Canal to Panama in 1999. The treaties aroused bitter debate, but the Senate narrowly ratified them in 1978.

Problems With Détente In June 1979, Carter met with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to negotiate the SALT II Treaty. However, a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan later that year ended détente. Carter cut off grain shipments to the Soviet Union and boycotted the 1980 summer Olympic games held in Moscow. Carter's tough line spurred debate at home.

Host
a rev
Pahl
Unit
Stat

The
Dur
cont
cons
pro
and
rele

Re

A fu
"go
pro
infl
infl
our

Re
Du
bac
sup
soc

Su
inc
wc
an
ec
na

Ba
bu
He
Pr
th
pr

"g
de
m
or
fu
m
de
pe

Fi
w
ir
T

Hostage Crisis The biggest foreign policy crisis for Carter came in Iran. In 1979, a revolution led by Islamic fundamentalists toppled the pro-American shah, Reza Pahlavi. The shah, suffering from terminal cancer, requested treatment in the United States, and Carter agreed. Islamic rebels struck back by seizing the United States embassy in Teheran and holding more than 50 Americans hostage.

The 1980 Election

During the 1980 presidential campaign, President Carter was haunted by the continuing hostage crisis, persistent energy shortages, and lingering inflation. The conservative Republican candidate, former California governor Ronald Reagan, promised Americans a "new beginning" and a restoration of confidence at home and abroad. Reagan swept to victory, and on the day of his inauguration, Iran released the hostages after more than a year of captivity.

Reagan and the Challenges of the 1980s

A former actor, Reagan appealed to many Americans with his references to the "good old days" and his patriotic speeches. He used his prepared speeches to promote a conservative approach to government and the economy. He targeted inflation as his top priority and argued that big government was the cause of inflation. "In the present crisis," said Reagan, "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

Reagan's First-Term Domestic Policies

During his first term in office, President Reagan supported a domestic program backed by both Eisenhower and Nixon. Like his Republican predecessors, he supported New Federalism, a policy that turned over federal control of some social welfare programs to the states.

Supply-Side Economics Reagan called for cuts in taxes on businesses and individuals, especially those with large incomes. The president believed that they would reinvest in more businesses. These businesses would hire more workers and increase the supply of goods and services. Reagan argued that supply-side economics, or the trickle down theory, would end inflation without increasing the national debt. His ideas later became known as Reaganomics.

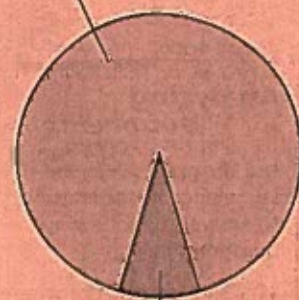
Balanced Budget Reagan tried to balance the budget by reducing many social welfare programs. He also made sharp cuts in the Environmental Protection Agency. Despite such efforts, however, the national debt climbed throughout Reagan's presidency.

"Star Wars" Reagan felt national security rested on defense and made every effort to fight off cuts in the military budget. He pushed for increased spending on missiles, ships, and bombers. He also asked for funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a massive satellite shield designed to intercept and destroy incoming Soviet missiles. SDI became popularly known as "Star Wars."

Farm Aid In the 1980s, farmers experienced their worst economic problems since the Great Depression. A worldwide recession made it impossible for farmers to sell their surpluses—and to repay their loans. The Reagan administration responded by paying farmers not to plant millions of

Election of 1980

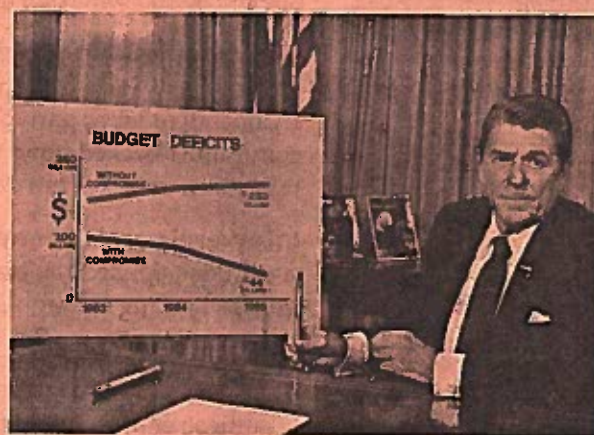
Republican Ronald Reagan
91% of electoral vote



Democrat Jimmy Carter
9% of electoral vote

Preparing for the Exam

- What reasons led the American people to elect Ronald Reagan as president in 1980?



President Reagan charts budget deficits