SSUSH22 Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations.

a. Analyze the international policies and actions taken as a response to the Cold War including the opening of and establishment of diplomatic relations with China, the end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the War Powers Act, the Camp David Accords, and Carter’s response to the 1979 Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis.

b. Connect major domestic issues to their social effects including the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the emergence of the National Organization for Women, Nixon’s resignation due to the Watergate scandal, and his pardon by Ford.
Essential Question

How did the actions of NOW during the United States' modern era affect society?
The Women’s Movement
Betty Freidan began the modern women’s movement by publishing *Feminine Mystique* in 1963.
"The problem lay buried, unspoken. . . . It was a strange stirring, a sense of dissatisfaction, a yearning that women suffered in the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. Each suburban wife struggled with it alone. As she made the beds, shopped for groceries, matched slipcover material, ate peanut butter sandwiches with her children, chauffeured Cub Scouts and Brownies, lay beside her husband at night—she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question—‘Is this all?’"

—The Feminine Mystique
Feminists drew attention to sexual discrimination & unequal pay for women.
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Betty Freidan co-founded the National Organization of Women (NOW) to advocate for women
Feminists drew attention to sexual discrimination and unequal pay for women. Feminists demanded an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to ban sexism. The ERA was defeated in the 1970s by conservatives and anti-ERA women. The leader of the anti-ERA movement was Phyllis Schlafly who believed that women were protected by the Civil Rights Act.
But, the women’s movement did have successes

Gained abortion rights in **Roe v Wade** (1973)

Congress passed **Title VII** to protect women from sexual harassment

Congress passed **Title IX** that outlawed sexual discrimination in education programs

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

(20 U.S.C. § 1681(a))
The Environmental Movement
In 1962, biologist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* exposing the dangers of pesticides on the environment. By 1970, the government passed clean air & water laws, created the Endangered Species Act & formed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22.
Essential Question
How did the actions of Richard Nixon during the United States' modern era affect society?
Richard Nixon

• By the late 1960s, citizens had seen enough turmoil in U.S. foreign & domestic affairs:
  • The economic boom of the 1950s and 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, and liberal government programs led many citizens to believe that America was headed for moral decay & economic collapse
Richard Nixon

Nixon’s victory in 1968 was due to the turnout of a “silent majority” who wanted a more conservative gov’t.
Richard Nixon & Domestic Policy

As a conservative, Nixon believed in a limited role for the national government. 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.
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

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.

Diagram showing triangular diplomacy with the United States in the center and the Soviet Union, China, and Vietnam at the vertices.
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon’s foreign policy included “peace with honor” in Vietnam

Nixon discussed plans for “Vietnamization” but secretly bombed Cambodia & Laos in 1970

In 1973, Nixon negotiated a cease fire, withdrew U.S. troops, & ended the Vietnam War
Vietnamization

When Americans found out about Nixon’s attacks on Cambodia & Laos, it set off the largest protest in U.S. history. 250,000 people, mostly students on college campuses, protested the war & some protests turned violent. 4 students died when the National Guard shot into a crowd of violent protestors at Kent State University in 1970.
In 1975, North Vietnam violated the cease fire, invaded South Vietnam, & unified the nation under a communist government.
1960: Eisenhower sends military advisers to train South Vietnam’s army.

1964: Congress approves the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, giving Johnson more war-making powers in Vietnam.

1965: Johnson launches the U.S. ground war against the Vietcong and NVA; first national anti-war protest is held in Washington, D.C.

1968: Vietcong launches the Tet Offensive; Johnson decides not to seek re-election.

1970: Nixon orders troop invasion of Cambodia to destroy NVA bases; antiwar protests erupt on college campuses.

1971: Release of the Pentagon Papers reveals that government officials had misled the public about the war.

1972: Nixon orders the Christmas bombings on Hanoi and Haiphong after peace talks with North Vietnam break down.

1973: United States and North Vietnam sign a truce; the U.S. withdraws its troops from Vietnam.

1975: North Vietnam captures Saigon; the United States airlifts embassy staff and 120,000 South Vietnamese supporters to safety.
The Impact of the Vietnam War

The war changed foreign policy...

• Containment ended as Americans became cautious of the U.S. role in the world

• Congress limited a president's ability to send troops without a declaration of war by passing the War Powers Act in 1973
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

Nixon’s foreign policy included better relations with China. In 1972, Nixon became the 1st president to visit China. Nixon’s visit allowed for the possibility of U.S. trade with China. Nixon’s visit to China was also meant to exploit a growing rift between the USSR and China; now the USSR had to cooperate with the U.S.
Richard Nixon & Foreign Policy

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

By visiting China, Nixon pressured Soviet leader Brezhnev to negotiate with the United States.

In 1972, Nixon became the 1st president to visit Moscow; his visit led to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) to limit ICBMs.
But after Nixon’s re-election in 1972, the Watergate scandal broke; President Nixon resigned in 1974 rather than face impeachment.
Quick Review:
Why was Nixon overwhelmingly re-elected as president in 1972? Why was Nixon so popular?

Conservative domestic policy:
• Lowered gov’t spending
• Reduced social programs

Active foreign policy:
• Ended the war in Vietnam
• “Opened” China
• Détente with the USSR
Nixon was insecure & paranoid about power:

- He kept an “enemies list” of people he suspected were out to undermine his policies
- “Tricky Dick” used his position as president to spy on, infiltrate, & sabotage his “enemies”
- These tactics & fears were the reasons for the Watergate scandal that ended his presidency
NIXON REVISES
HE URGES A TIME OF 'HEALING';
FORD WILL TAKE OFFICE TODAY

'Sacrifice' Is Praised; Kissinger to Remain

The 37th President Is First to Quit Post
Why is Watergate such an important event in U.S. history?

How did Watergate change the way Americans perceive their political leaders?

Should Nixon’s presidency be judged more in his foreign policy successes or the Watergate scandal? Why?

Do you think Nixon’s actions were different from most politicians?
The Watergate scandal changed America:
• The scandal eroded public trust in their political leaders; Added to the distrust created by the Vietnam War
• Revealed the importance of the media in serving as a “watchdog” of the gov’t
• Congress assumed more leadership
• Uncertainty whether prosecutors would charge Nixon with crimes
Essential Question
How did the actions of Gerald Ford during the United States' modern era affect society?
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
Gerald Ford

When Nixon resigned in 1974, VP Gerald Ford became president. Ford was seen as an “honest man” & hoped to move America past the Watergate scandal. But, in September 1974, to Ford's disappointment, Nixon was not convicted of any crimes related to Watergate. Ford lost popular support.
Another issue during Ford’s presidency was a growing economic recession. Since the early 1970s, Inflation, interest rates, and unemployment were all on the rise, economy had grown stagnant with few new jobs or business profits. Together, a stagnant economy & high inflation are known as: STAGFLATION.

Unemployment and Inflation, 1970–1980

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)
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.
Essential Question

How did the actions of Jimmy Carter during the United States' modern era affect society?
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.
In the 1976 election, Carter beat Ford.
As president, Carter tried to attack the energy crisis, stagflation, & the recession. Inflation hit 14%, interest rates neared 20%, & a new oil embargo in 1979 increased gas prices.
Jimmy 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. Since its creation in 1947, Israel was attacked by its Muslim neighbors in the 1940s, 1960s, & 1970s. By the 1970s, Egypt appeared ready to recognize Israel in exchange for the return of land in the Sinai Peninsula.
Jimmy 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.

Israel agreed to leave the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt recognized Israel’s right to exist. Carter did the impossible.
But, the situation in the Middle East worsened in 1979 when fundamentalist Islamic cleric Ayatollah Khomeini led the Iranian Revolution.
Jimmy 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.
Jimmy 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

By 1980, Carter had been unable to end stagflation, free the U.S. hostages in Iran, or restore America's place in the world. 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