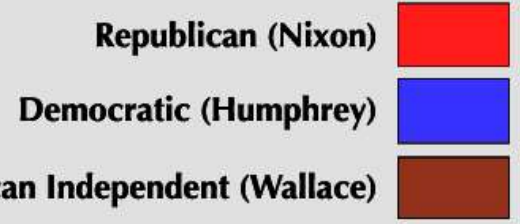
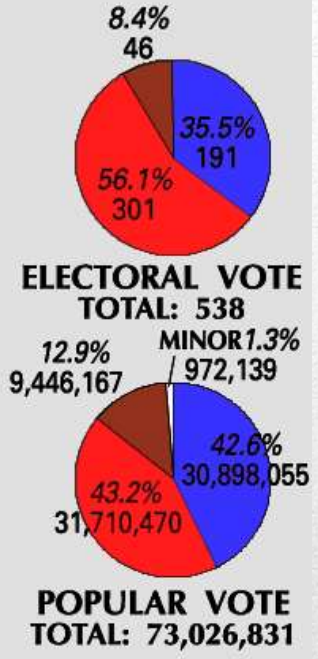
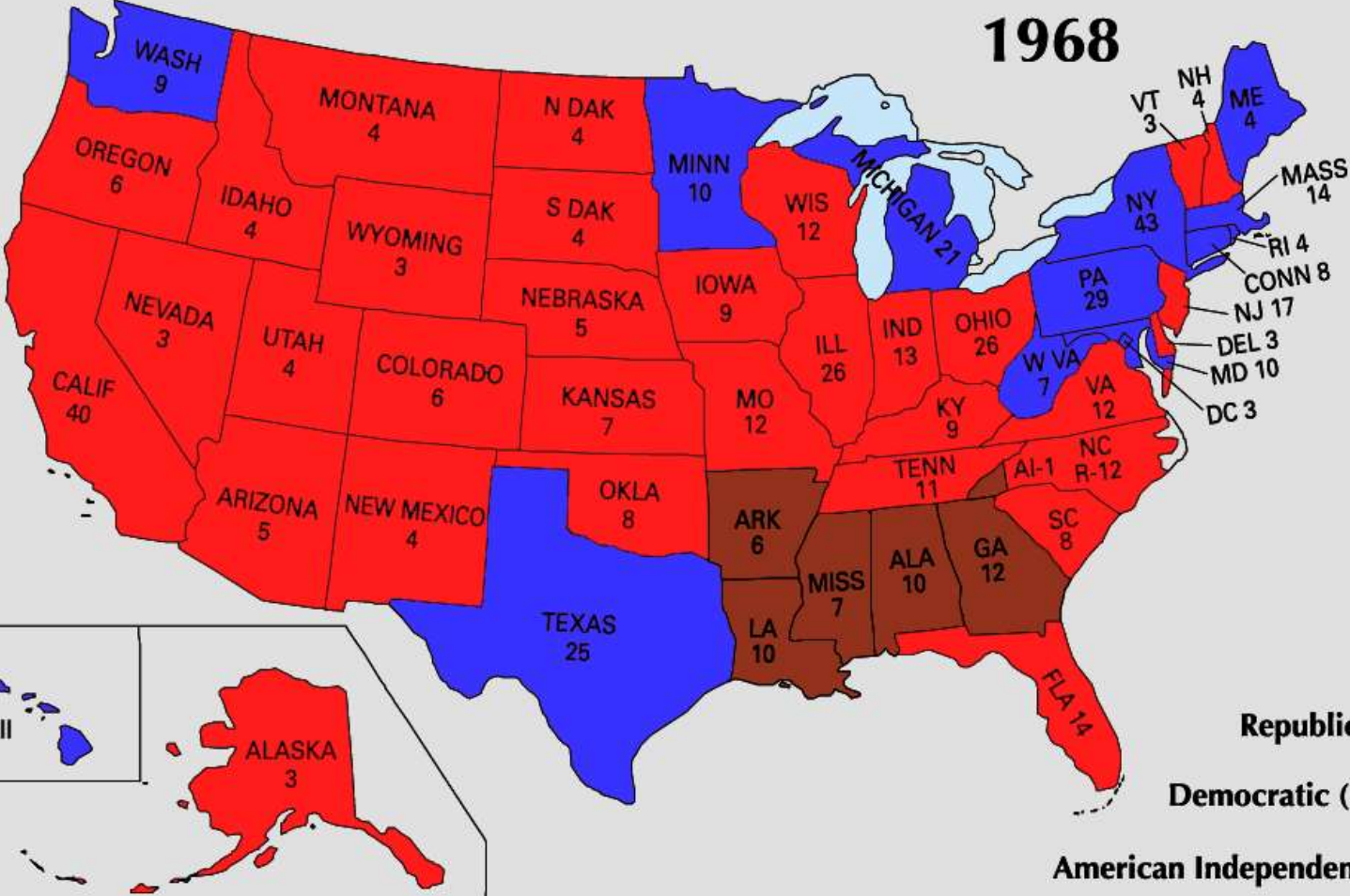




Domestic Crises

1968-1980

1968



- In 1968 conservative Richard Nixon became President.
- One of Nixon's greatest accomplishments was his 1972 visit to communist China.
- Visit opened China to American markets and highlighted a shift in American policy towards communism.



Richard Nixon

- Nixon announced a plan, called Vietnamization, to turn the war over to the Vietnamese (troops gradually withdrew, as they taught the South Vietnamese to fight the war on their own)
- Within three years the number of troops in Vietnam decreased from 500,000 to just under 30,000 in 1972
- Nixon also escalated the war by bombing Cambodia in 1970 to shut down the Ho Chi Minh Trail
- Protests broke out as news of the secret bombings reached the airwaves
- As a result of two of these protests, four students at Kent State in Ohio and two students at Jackson State in Mississippi were shot and killed by National Guard troops sent to keep the peace



Photo © John Filo

Nixon & the Vietnam War

- The nation was shocked again when news of a 1968 massacre of Vietnamese women and children by US troops in the village of My Lai was revealed in 1969
- More secrets from Vietnam during LBJ's administration were leaked to the New York Times
- Henry Kissinger, Nixon's Secretary of State, met secretly with the North Vietnamese to negotiate a settlement
- It was clear that the South Vietnamese could not hold off the communists for long on their own, and he wanted to get out quickly
- As a result, the North Vietnamese regained control of areas in the South in exchange for prisoners of war (POWs)
- Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital, fell to the communists in April 1975
- After learning of the secret bombings in Cambodia, Congress passed the War Powers Act, which severely limits the president's ability to wage war without the consent of the legislative branch

Nixon & the Vietnam War

- Nixon and Kissinger crafted a détente, or relaxing of tensions among the US, the Soviet Union, and China
- In 1972, Nixon became the first US president to visit communist China in an attempt to discuss foreign policy with Mao Zedong
- Nixon and Kissinger had also been mediating between the USSR & China (the two had split over differing opinions about how communism should work in practice)
- Nixon also visited the USSR in 1972 to encourage the USSR to sign a nuclear arms limitation treaty
- In the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), each nation agreed to reduce the number of nuclear missiles in its arsenal in exchange for the US supplying the Soviets with much-needed grain over the next three years
- Détente was not an end to the Cold War, but it relieved some of the tension caused by the power struggle between the three world powers

Détente with Russia & China

- In October 1973, war broke out on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Syria and Egypt
- Nixon sent military aid to Israel
- The war was over quickly with US assistance
- However, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) initiated an embargo of oil exports to the US as punishment for its involvement in the Yom Kippur War
- Gas shortages devastated the economy (companies decreased investment, laid off workers, and reduced inventories)
- The nation fell into a deep recession and inflation was rising at an alarming rate



Yom Kippur & Gas Shortages

- Nixon's presidency saw the emergence of a new economic phenomenon called "stagflation," in which high inflation was coupled with high unemployment
- Nixon first attempted to curb inflation by cutting government spending, not knowing that this would prove to be disastrous
- In 1971, he enacted a new monetary policy to take the country off of the gold standard to bring down the value of the US currency down relative to foreign countries
- This stimulated foreign investment and spending in the US and helped spur economic recovery

Stagflation

- In 1972, Nixon ran for re-election. He was paranoid that he would lose the race.
- Workers from his campaign were caught breaking in to the Democratic National Headquarters located in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.
- They were looking to steal the Democrats' "game plan" for the election.



Watergate



- The Nixon administration attempted to cover-up to break in and distance themselves from the burglars.
- A Congressional investigation ensued.
- Nixon was found guilty of trying to cover-up the break-in after the discovery of taped interviews between him and his staff members at the White House.

Watergate

- Due to mounting public pressure and a threat of impeachment, Nixon chose to resign from office.
- Nixon officially announced his resignation in August 1974.
- This made Richard Nixon the first and so far only President to ever voluntarily leave office.
- The Watergate scandal caused many Americans to lose confidence and trust in a government they viewed as corrupt and untrustworthy.



Nixon Resigns



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That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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NIXON RESIGNS

HE URGES A TIME OF 'HEALING'; FORD WILL TAKE OFFICE TODAY

'Sacrifice' Is Praised; Kissinger to Remain

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (AP)—President Richard M. Nixon announced today that he was resigning the presidency and that Gerald R. Ford would take office today. Mr. Nixon said he was resigning because he believed it was in the best interest of the country to do so. He said he was proud of the achievements of his administration and that he was confident that the country would continue to prosper under the leadership of Mr. Ford. Mr. Nixon also said that he was proud of the role that he had played in the history of the United States and that he was confident that the country would continue to prosper under the leadership of Mr. Ford. Mr. Nixon said that he was proud of the role that he had played in the history of the United States and that he was confident that the country would continue to prosper under the leadership of Mr. Ford.

DISCUSSION LIFE ON VICE PRESIDENT

James Earl Ray, the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, was sentenced to death today. The sentence was handed down by a federal judge in Memphis, Tenn. The judge said that Ray was guilty of the murder of Dr. King and that he deserved the death penalty. The sentence was meted out after a trial that lasted for several weeks. Ray's lawyer said that he would appeal the sentence. The sentence was meted out after a trial that lasted for several weeks. Ray's lawyer said that he would appeal the sentence.



The 37th President Is First to Quit Post

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POLITICAL SCENE *Rise and Fall* **UNUSUAL ASSESSMENTS**
SHARPLY ALTERED Appraisal of Nixon Career **IDEAL WATSON**

- After Nixon resigned VP Gerald Ford became President.
- Ford oversaw America during a time of severe economic recession.
- Victim of two assassination attempts.
- His reputation was further tarnished when he *pardoned* former President Nixon for any wrong doing in the Watergate scandal.



Gerald Ford

- Two landmark decisions were handed down by the Supreme Court in the 1970's.



Supreme Court Decisions of the 1970's

- In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decided that women had the right to privacy in determining whether or not to have an abortion.
- The health of the mother and “viability” of the child to survive outside the womb were taken into consideration in the decision

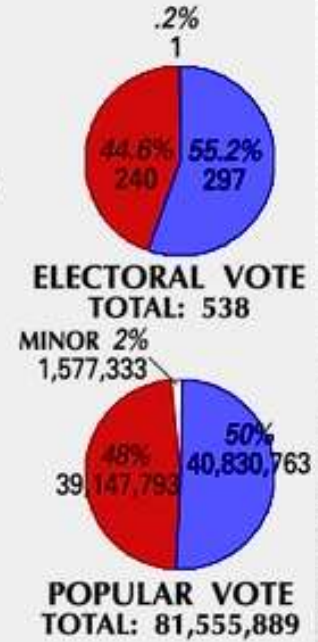
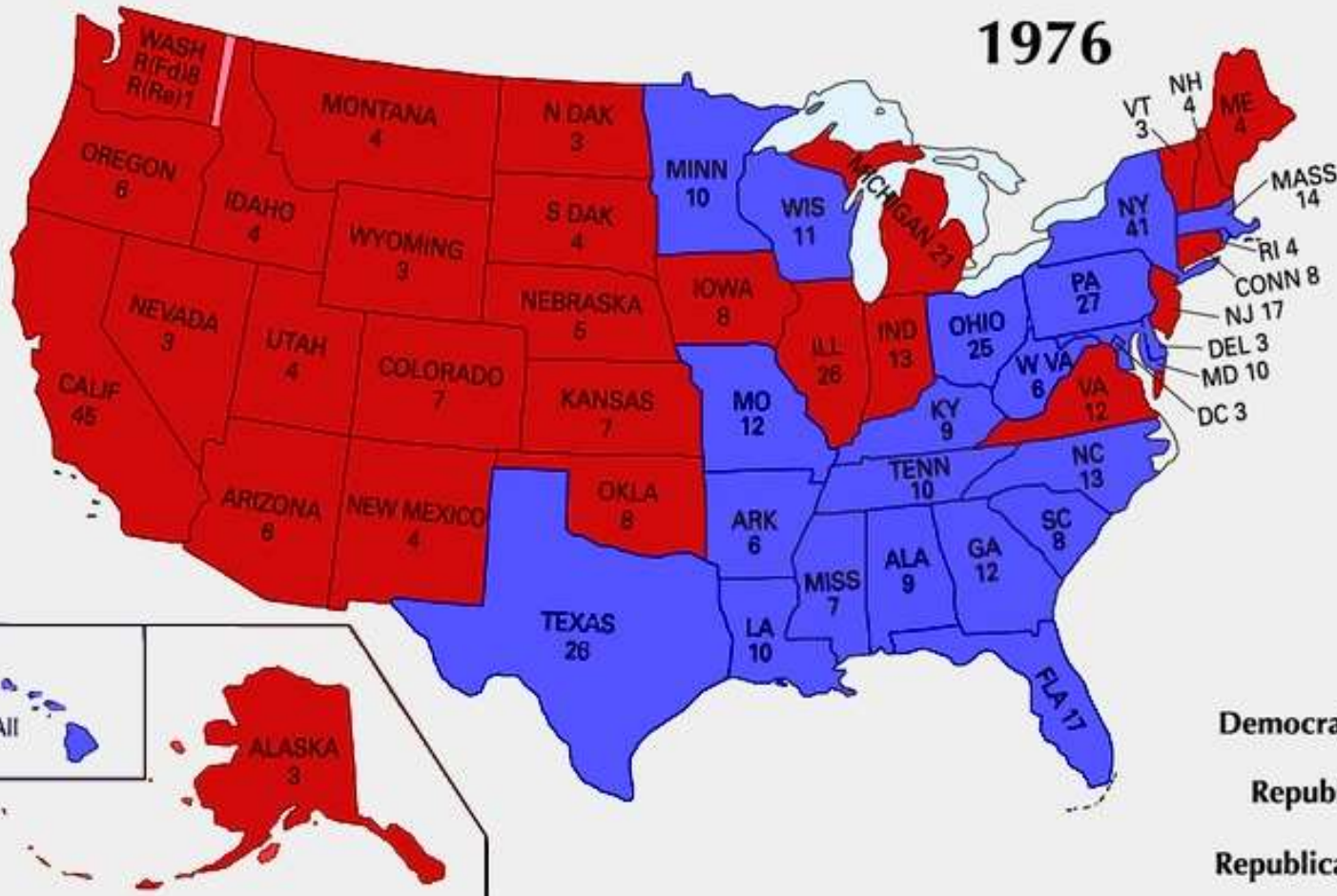


Roe v. Wade (1973)

- Affirmative action – law set in place that allows race to be a deciding factor in college admission policies including specific quotas for each racial group
- Allan Bakke applied to the University of California medical school but was rejected based on his “age” despite having high academic scores.
- Bakke did more research and discovered that many minorities were admitted to the university with significantly lower test scores than Bakke.
- Bakke took his case all the way to the Supreme Court and the court decided:
 - 1. to end the quota system used in college admissions
 - 2. endorsed affirmative action that gave equal opportunities for minorities, not special privileges

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

1976



Democratic (Carter) 

Republican (Ford) 

Republican (Reagan) 

- In 1976 Georgia Democratic Governor Jimmy Carter beat Ford for the presidency.
- Carter's administration was heavily influenced by international issues.
- One highlight was the Camp David Accords, a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1978.
- The Camp David Accords were the first signed peace agreement between the nations of the Middle East.



Jimmy Carter





- SALT I was set to expire in 1977, so Carter and the Soviets were set to sign a renewal treaty
- SALT II was negotiated and sat ready for ratification when another world crisis got in the way
- The USSR invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 in a move to play a bigger role in the Middle East
- The US was certain that the USSR intended to take control of oil transportation region of the Persian Gulf
- The US stopped supplying the USSR with grain and withdrew SALT II from the table
- Carter also boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow

SALT II

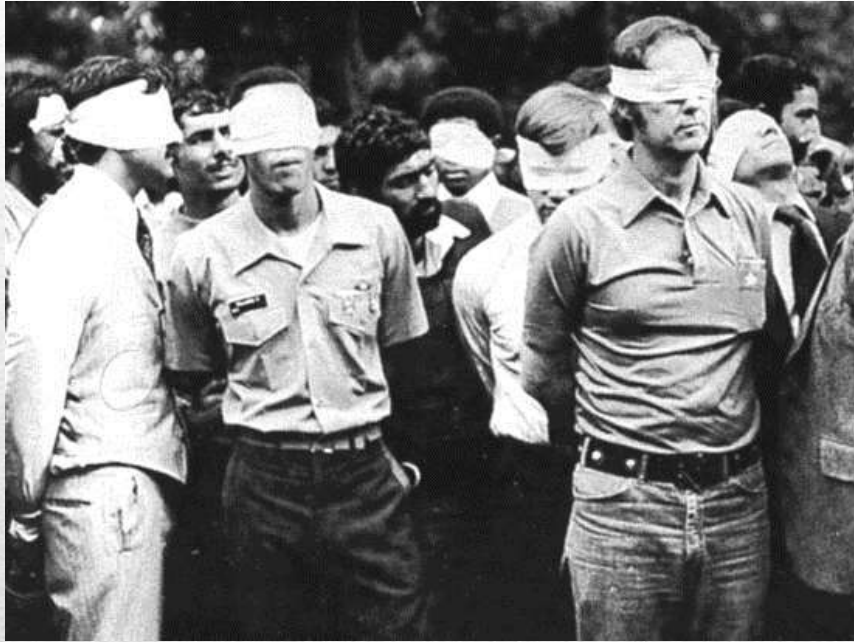
- Through much of the 20th century, the Middle Eastern country of Iran had been an ally of the United States.
- In 1979, Muslim leaders led a revolution that led to the overthrow of the Shah (king) of Iran while he was out of the country.
- Revolutionaries wanted their nation to be ran by a strong, religious leader called the Ayatollah.



Iranian Revolution







- In response to President Carter's refusal to send the Shah back to Iran, Islamic revolutionaries stormed the US embassy in the Iranian capital of Tehran.
- 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days.
- Hostages were finally released on January 20, 1981 when Carter left office and Ronald Reagan was sworn in.
- Event only served to strengthen the anti-American sentiment in the Middle East.

Iran Hostage Crisis



AP