

A black and white photograph of Richard Nixon standing in the open door of an airplane. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He has his arms raised in a V-shape, waving. The background shows the interior of the airplane and the exterior of the fuselage.

Nixon and the Cold War

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Background

- Republican
- Devoted his career to being an opponent against communism
- Preferred dealing with foreign policies over domestic affairs
- Secretive and preferred controlling foreign policies by himself
 - Though he was secretive, he did work together with his Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, Henry Alfred Kissinger





Road to Election 1968

- During Nixon's campaign, the current administration had already begun to negotiate with Vietnam during the Paris Peace Talks
 - Agreements were made to stop the war in Vietnam
- Nixon centered his campaign around the promise to end the war
 - However if the war stopped, Nixon's campaign would not be effective
- Days before the election, South Vietnam suddenly backed away from the agreement and the war continued
 - This brought negative views towards the Johnson Administration and Democratic Party
 - This helped Nixon win the election, as it supported his promise to end the war
 - This "coincidence" paved the way for Nixon's presidency, as it was centered around secretive and questionable methods to aid the war

Nixon's Plan for Peace

- “Remarks on the Situation in Vietnam”
 - Speech he broadcasted to the entire nation on November 3, 1969
 - Outlines goals for peace with foreign countries
- Improve relationships with the Chinese
- End disagreements with the Soviets
- Withdraw from war in Vietnam

Vietnam

- War was raging as Nixon started his presidency
 - He proposed multiple nuclear threats which made him be perceived as a “madman”
- Ultimately, he didn’t actually use any nuclear weapons, but he did bomb several regions
 - He bombed Cambodia
 - He bombed the Ho Chi Minh trail to destroy the trail and cut off communist supplies
- At this point, there seemed to be no end to the war
 - Eventually, Nixon used his relationship with China and the U.S.S.R to put pressure on North Vietnam
- A lot of Nixon’s actions were controversial
 - Led to the largest anti-war protests ever seen in history



China

- Main Goal in China: End Chinese Isolation
- Nixon took advantage of the tension between the Soviet Union and China (the two greatest communist powers at the time)
 - Took advantage of this by sending out diplomatic feelers to China
- Soon to follow, Nixon was sending Kissinger on secretive meetings with Chinese Officials
 - Through this Nixon found the opportunity to launch a diplomatic opening with China
- This resulted in the Beijing Summit
 - Wanted to use the success with China to better relations with the Soviet Union
 - The primary goal was to prevent communism
 - Was also the first president to visit China after it had become the Republic of China



Detente with the Soviet Union

- Soviets feared a positive relationship between China and the U.S.
 - Success of Triangular Diplomacy
 - Used the good relationship with China to gain the interest of the Soviets
 - Used the competing countries to put pressure on Vietnam
- They invite Nixon to Russia to meet the Soviet Premier (Leonid Brezhnev)
- The Soviets' aim was to create a positive relationship with America
 - (SALT I) Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
 - Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty
 - Goal to restrain nuclear weapons



Vietnamization

- In a last hope to help end the war Nixon resorted to “Vietnamization”
 - “Vietnamization”- Method of training and arming South Vietnam to help defeat North Vietnam
- The goal was to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam
 - Paris Peace Accords signed on January 23, 1973
 - The withdrawal of U.S. ground forces helped end our involvement in the war

Victory for Nixon

- Nixon announced the end of the Vietnam War in January, 1973 in a televised speech
 - Keeping his campaign promise to end the war

<https://youtu.be/wiKulZK-ddI>

