



Gerald Ford

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“*Our long national nightmare is over*”

- Ford takes office on August 9, 1974
 - after Richard Nixon resigns over the Watergate scandal
- Becomes 37th President of the United States
- Inauguration speech:
 - “Not an inaugural address, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech--just a little straight talk among friends.”
 - Attempt to win Americans back after the un-charismatic Nixon
 - “I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it”



SALT Treaties (I & II) - Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty

- Goal- to limit the expansion of nuclear weapons
- Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty(ABM)
 - Agreement between the U.S. and USSR
 - Interim Agreement on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms
- Vladivostok Accords (1974)
 - Provided general outline to SALT I successor treaty(SALT II)
 - Negotiations failed as countries differed about size of arsenals
- Salt I: signed by Nixon
- Salt II: signed by Carter



Helsinki Final Act- 1975

- Concluded the Conference on Security and Cooperation
- Issues:
 1. 10 principles covering political/military issues, dispute settlement, border definition
 2. Trade/scientific discovery
 3. Human rights, freedom of speech, immigration
 4. Formal schedule for upcoming meetings and implementations
- **Outcome: Led to greater cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe**

Rise in Tensions

Angola Civil War (1975)

- **3 different factions fight for power, each supported by different countries**
 - **UNITA, MPLA, FNLA**
- **Increases tensions between U.S. and Soviet Union**
 - **Both supported different factions**
 - **US supported UNITA, USSR supported MPLA**
- **Result: Bicesse Accords(1991)**
 - **Mandated multi-party elections**
 - **After MPLA wins elections, UNITA resumes guerilla warfare in protest**
 - **Ends in 2002 when their leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, is killed**



Speeches

- Remarks at the U.N.
 - Call for peace and unity among the nations of the world
 - Addressed global problems such as energy, poverty, and starvation
 - America will take a bigger humanitarian role in the world
- Address to Congress on the economy
 - Must, “whip inflation”
 - 3 goals:
 - Food, Energy, and Enforcement of antitrust laws
- Language
 - Ford faces pressure by conservatives to use the word “détente” (easing strained relations) in regard to the USSR

Legacy

- Angered Americans by pardoning Nixon
 - Attempt by Ford to end discussion about Watergate
 - Re-opened the tension of Watergate, rather than closing it
- 1. Economic Challenges- did not solve
 - a. Challenges included slumping economy
- 2. Faced criticism by both Democrats and Republicans
 - a. Was not re-elected in 1976
 - b. Defeated by Jimmy Carter
- 3. Angola Civil War ended détente
 - a. Raised tensions

Works Cited

- <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/salt>
- <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/speeches/listkey.asp>
- <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/angola>