# 1 THE PRESIDENCY OF RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON

Presented by:

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2 Richard Milhous Nixon

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■Elected November 05, 1968 -

- ■After the Democratic Disaster
  - PRFK killed June 1968
  - Dem. Convention Chicago = Violence, Unrest
  - Dem. split H. Humphrey & E. McCarthy
- ■Wallace (Independent) takes votes away
- ■Law & Order
- ■Secret Plan to End Vietnam?
- 4 Inauguration
- 5 Nixon Issues?
  - Anti-social
    - Mean
    - Vindictive
    - Chip on his shoulder
    - Not well liked
    - Experienced
    - Loyal
  - Preferred advice from 'his staff' not Cabinet
    - Staff loyal to Him
      - ■Not Constitution or U.S.
      - ■H. R. Haldeman Chief
      - ■John D. Ehrlichman Attorney
      - ■John Mitchell Attorney Gen.
      - ■H. Kissinger NSA, Sec. State
    - Kept him isolated
      - ■Only hear good . . .
      - ■"Berlin Wall"
- 6 What makes a "President?"

■What is the president's job?

- ■What are the characteristics you like in a person?
- ■What characteristics make a "good president?"
- Explain what you think makes a good president (at least 3 qualities).
  - Explain why these qualities would make that person a good president?
- 7 Objective
  - Understand the domestic issues that Richard Nixon faced during his presidency
- 8 Slow Inflation (Nixon Domestic)
  - Inflation is when the cost of most goods increases faster than average wages do
  - Deficit Spending
  - ■Wage and Price Freezes Voluntary
  - ■OPEC Embargo Sent Inflation Up
    - Embargo was retaliation for US involvement in Mideast conflict... leads to... ??
    - ■Gas .25 to .65/gal; Unemployment +9%
- 9 Law & Order (Nixon Domestic)
  - ■Silent Majority Average American was tired of protesters
    - ■Protesters = Drugs, crime, declining moral values
    - ■Law and Order v. Protesters Tension
      - □Kent State
      - Columbia University & Hard Hats
    - ■FBI & Justice Dept target protest groups and leaders
      •Elvis offers his help
- 10 Southern Strategy (Nixon domestic)
  - Slow down civil rights measures
    - ■Hoped to increase support of Southern Whites
    - ■Disregard African American voters
  - ■Slow down integration
    - Opposed Busing
    - ■Did Not support extending '65 Voting Rights Act
    - ■Cut funds to Civil Rights program Housing
    - ■Gave funds to schools still segregated
- 11 New Federalism (Nixon Domestic)
  - ■New Federalism States get more money directly but have to

fund their own social programs

- Cut back New Deal/Great Society Social programs
  - ■Welfare = "Welfare cheaters"
- ■Reduce Government spending?

•Military expenditures increased +10%

## 12 Supreme Court (Nixon Domestic)

■Nixon appointed 3 Justices & 1 Chief Justice

- ■Chief Justice Warren Burger Moderate
- ■J. Harry Blackmun Conservative
- J. Lewis Powell, Jr. Conservative
- J. William Rehnquist Conservative

■Shifted The Court to the Conservative side

■Not friendly towards the Social Movements

#### 13 Watergate (Nixon Domestic)

- ■The beginning of the end or standard operating procedure?
- ■More to come later

## 14 Objective

■Understand the Foreign Policy issues that President Nixon encountered in his Administration

## 15 Realpolitik (Nixon Foreign)

■Kissinger (NSA, Sec. of State) idea that foreign policy should be not on moral principles but on maintaining strength

- ■To maintain/attain U.S. superiority in world
- Establish military bases, & political connections throughout the world

## 16 Vietnam War (Nixon Foreign)

- ■1969 Vietnamization = troop reduction
- ■Cambodia Bombings Kent State
- ■1973 Kissinger set up peace talks
- ■End of American involvement in Vietnam
  - ■All U.S. troops out by end of 1974
  - ■South Vietnam falls to Communists in 1975

# 17 Detente (Nixon Foreign)

■Relaxing or easing of tension between U.S. & U.S.S.R.; &

■ U.S. & Peoples Republic of China

- ■Kissinger's influence -
  - They were commies deal with it
- ■Played one against the other -
  - Keep them guessing

## 18 China (Nixon Foreign)

- ■1949 1970 US act if China doesn't exist
  - •25% of worlds Population TOO Big to ignore
- China and USSR not on good terms
- ■Nixon Recognizes China 1970; visits 1972
  - ■Set up formal relations
  - ■This put USSR on edge, wondering?
  - ■U.S. & China now on speaking terms
    - □Part of Cold War Tension

# 19 Chairman Mao Zedong & President Nixon

#### 20 USSR (Russia) (Nixon Foreign)

- ■Nixon visited U.S.S.R.
  - China now wondering
- ■Agreed to work together on space, trade & weapons
  - ■SALT I signed Limited some Nuclear Weapons
    - •No limit on warheads actual bomb part
- ■Showed willingness to work w/ea. other
  - Cold War Tensions are reduced

# 21 President Nixon & General Secretary Brezhnev 22 Nuclear Weapons (Nixon Foreign)

- SALT I Limits ICBM & SLBM (1969 1972)
  - ■Results in ABM Treaty
- ■Shows Gov't concern for Nuclear threat
  - ■Leads to change in Nuclear technology
    - Proze total number of ICBM's, but could replace old ones
    - Size doesn't matter
      - More powerful smaller warheads
- ■SALT II (1972) More reductions
- ■Both SALT I & SALT II
  - ■Never Ratified by U.S. Senate
- ■1982 President Reagan START talks

## 23 Middle East (Nixon Foreign)

■USA supports Israel in 1973 Arab - Israeli War

- Israel v. Syria and Egypt over territory
- □Israel wins quickly (6 day War?)
- ■OPEC (Arab members) Oil Embargo
  - Embargo- to stop selling or providing a certain product or trade with another group or nation
  - ■Gas prices increase 250% overnight Fourfold in a few months
  - ■Leads to inflation in U.S.
  - ■OPEC and U.S. now see the political power of oil
- 24 Gas Lines
- 25 South and Latin America (Nixon Foreign)
  - Realpolitik leads to support of pro-U.S., anti-Communist leaders
    - •Many Leaders Not Democratically Elected
    - •Most are Dictators, use military & fear to keep power
    - Supplied by U.S. Gov't
      - Military or Secretly
    - U.S. Businesses Benefit, as do Dictators (not people)
      - Stroesner Paraguay; Pinochet Chile & more...
- 26 Watergate I The Crime
  - ■June 1972 5 are arrested breaking in
    - ■Appears to be a robbery but nothing stolen?
  - ■Washington Post Investigates
    - ■Bob Woodward & Carl Bernstein
  - ■April 1973 Nixon/Whitehouse no connection
  - ■May 1973 Congressional Investigation
  - ■June 1973 John Dean (Counsel to the President) "spills his quts"
- 27 The Scene of the Crime
- 28 Watergate II It's all on tape!
  - ■July 1973 Nixon has tapes?
    - ■Aug '73 Nixon says you can't have them
    - ■Oct '73 Nixon gives edited (cut) versions
    - ■Jan 74 Executive Privilege?
    - ■April 1974 Nixon gives edited transcripts
  - ■July 1974 Supreme Court orders all the tapes to be handed over to the Special Prosecutor

- ■Aug 1974 Nixon delivers tapes (18.5 min. gap)
- ■Aug 9, 1974 Nixon resigns
- 29 The Recorders
- 30 Watergate Significance
  - President approved of crime -
    - ■Break-in find out, info plant bugs, on Democrats
      - <sup>a</sup>Was to promote his re-election
      - Illegal campaign funds used
      - Also broke into Daniel Ellsberg's Psychiatrist's office ~9 months prior (Pentagon Papers)
  - President involved in cover up obstruction
    - ■Law and Order President?
  - ■Revealed shady side of politics
  - ■What else don't we know about?
  - ■Reinforces distrust of Gov't & politicians
- 31 Private Citizen