

# Chapter 30

## From the "Age of Limits" to the Age of Reagan

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### Politics and Diplomacy after Watergate (pgs. 838 - 841)

How did American presidents following Nixon attempt to recover from the disaster of Watergate?

Ford and Carter, the two presidents who served after Nixon, took different approaches in recovering from US economic and political turmoil: Ford relied more on the policies of his predecessor; Carter, on the other hand, seems to have been more strong-minded and fought for his bold ideals.

How did Gerald Ford attempt to recover the nation's prosperity in the aftermath of Watergate?

- Major setback emerged immediately due to poor decision to completely pardon Nixon
  - Led many to suspect collusion between Nixon and Ford
  - Immediate decline in popularity
- Economic policies relatively unsuccessful
  - Attempted to curb inflation by calling for voluntary efforts of people, rejecting idea of price/wage controls
  - Struggled with recession intensified by energy crisis
    - \* **Arab oil embargo** of 1973 led to extreme increase in price of oil
- Political policies often simply continuations of Nixon administration
  - Signed **SALT II**, arms control accord desired by Nixon
  - Secretary of state **Henry Kissinger** required Israel to return parts of Sinai to Egypt
  - Heavily questioned by both right and left: faced challenge from conservative **Ronald Reagan** for party nomination
    - \* Democrats united before **Jimmy Carter**, praised for candor, piety; beat Ford in narrow victory

**Gerald Ford attempted to recover from the damage done by the Nixon administration by making new economic and political strides but was ultimately unsuccessful due to his close ties with and similar strides to Nixon.**

What changes in policy did Carter make following the Ford presidency and were they more successful?

Another research question very long for one line.

- Known for extreme intelligence and bold promises; Congress passed few promised reforms
- Devoted to improvement of economy amidst recession through modified energy use
  - Oil prices rose during final years of presidency; interest rates rose to highest in American history
  - Gave "**malaise**" speech after 10 days at Camp David (presidential retreat) describing American **energy crisis** and potential solutions
    - \* Criticized for blaming of American people for state of nation
- Focused on **human rights**, criticizing many other nations (including the Soviet Union) for violations
- Frequently dealt with more traditional concerns
  - Returned **Panama Canal** to Panamanian government
  - Greatest achievement was **peace treaty** between Egypt and Israel
    - \* Encouraged dialogue between Egyptian president and Israeli PM at Camp David
      - Helped to mediate disputes
    - \* Leaders later returned to sign **Camp David accords**
  - Tried to improve relationship with China, promoting Deng Xiaoping's overtures
  - Completed SALT II w/ USSR started by Ford, limiting missiles and nuclear warheads for both nations
- When Iranian people rebelled against US-promoted government and the shah fled to the US for health care, 53 hostages taken at American embassy
- Carter retaliated against USSR invasion of Afghanistan with Olympic withdrawal and cancellation of SALT II
- Carter finally fell out of popularity due to domestic economic troubles, international crises

**Democrat Jimmy Carter focused on energy use, human rights, and peace between disparate nations; he strongly stood by US traditional ideals and rebuked nations seeking to disrupt those ideals. In all, Carter seemed to have been more popular than Ford among the people: he voted in for president rather than promoted by virtue of rank.**

Do you want fill much more than a page

No problem.

More?

No problem.

### Last question

This is the end?

Yes.