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APUSH

Period 4

04/26/2021

CH 30-31 Test

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| A | Nixon’s a monarch | Changing presidency, Watergate Coverup,  US V Nixon |
| B | Peace in Vietnam | Vietnamization, “Peace with honor” |
| C | The Silent Majority | The New Right, Vietnamization |
| D | Stagflation, | OPEC, Deindustrialization, dismantling the Great Society |
| E | Visit to Peking, Peace Vietnam | The Nixon Doctrine |
| F | Detente | The Nixon Doctrine, Henry Kissinger, |
| G | Salt Treaty | China Visit, ease tensions, “multipolar” world |
| H | EPA | Ecology growth, Earth Day, Environmental activism |
| I | Watergate Smoking Gun Tape | Ford Pardon, |

THESIS:

Nixon, despite being exposed as corrupt and a liar, was largely effective in fighting many of the challenges of his time, including ending the Vietnam War and easing tensions with the Soviet Union, fighting the inflation of the time, and advancing domestic policy to be mor forward looking.

BODY:

1. Domestic Policy
2. Foreign Policy
3. Watergate Scandal

CONCLUTION:  
Nixon was undoubtably one of the most corrupt and power-hungry politicians in US history, but he was effective in advancing foreign policy to create a more peaceful world, and some of his domestic actions changed the country permanently.

DBQ RESPONSE:

After the liberal 60s and the tumultuous politics within the Democratic Party, Civil Rights Movement, and the failures in Vietnam, Nixon was seen as a return to normal by many Americans. However, his incomplete presidency was just as chaotic. My thesis is that Nixon, despite being exposed as corrupt and a liar, was largely effective in fighting many of the challenges of his time, including ending the Vietnam War and easing tensions with the Soviet Union, attempting to fighting the inflation of the time, and advancing domestic policy to be mor forward looking.

The Johnson Administration left behind an America facing an economic crisis after the Vietnam War. Johnson greatly decreased the poverty rate, but when combined with the war, his Great Society program led to rapid inflation. Nixon attempted to stop this inflation by dismantling the Great Society and pausing all wage and price increases (Doc D). Whether this worked or not is debated, but there was a temporary decrease, until OPEC entered the picture in 1973, causing a hike in oil prices and inflation once more. Nixon’s election was the first of many elected by the so-called “Silent Majority’, a group tired of the radical politics of the past decade and one which was busy with daily lives to interact more in politics (Doc C) and a group which made up the backbone of the “New Right”. They supported Nixon through the “Peace with Honor” campaign to end the War in Vietnam and grew in strength into his second term. The growth in environmental activism such as Earth Day during the Johnson and Nixon Presidencies also resulted in the creation of environmental protection agencies such as the EPA (Doc H). Nixon’s actions doomed dreams of a welfare state, but the start of an environmental branch created good planning for decades to come.

The Nixon administration’s foreign policy was one of de-escalation and peace. Nixon was eager to end the war in Vietnam, but in order to reach a peace agreement, first followed through with Henry Kissinger’s Vietnamization in secret to increase American strength in the region and try for negotiations from a stronger angle (Doc E). As a peace agreement was reached, Nixon was quick to tout his achievements, but the chaos and disorganization of the peace effort left many American POWs in Vietnam, never to be recovered (Doc B). Aside from Vietnam, Nixon created the Nixon Doctrine envisioned a world where America would be not alone in a fight against the Soviet Union, but one where many powers were equal, vying for control(Doc F). He wanted to ease tensions with the Soviets in order to this, and passed the first SALT Treaty in order to reduce Nuclear weapons (Doc G). He also normalized relations with China in a visit to Peking and introduced them into the UN (Doc E). Nixon’s foreign activities were largely a success.

However, Nixon’s domestic and foreign successes were tarnished by his corruption and criminal activities. Nixon’s lead role in the coverup of the Watergate break in was well documented with the Smoking Gun Tapes, and it was indicative that for the first time, a president was clearly guilty of criminal activities (Doc I). Nixon tried to fight back in the court case US Vs Nixon, but even Nixon’s lawyer had to concede that Nixon thought that he had the power of a monarch (Doc A). Nixon resigned, and his successor, President Ford, pardoned him of all crimes.

Nixon was undoubtably one of the most corrupt and power-hungry politicians in US history, but he was effective in advancing foreign policy to create a more peaceful world, and some of his domestic actions changed the country permanently.