

## 1 Nixon's Foreign Policy

TEKS

1(B), 24(B), 24(G), 26(A)

### 2

■ “After a period of confrontation, we are entering an era of negotiation. Let all nations know that during this administration our lines of communication will be open. We seek an open world. Open to ideas, open to the exchange of goods and people. A world in which no people, great or small, will live in angry isolation. We cannot expect to make everyone our friend, but we can try to make no one our enemy.”

■ —Nixon's First Inaugural Address, January 20, 1969

### 3 Listen

■ President Nixon's greatest achievements took place in the area of foreign policy. Together with National Security Adviser and later Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Nixon changed the direction of American foreign policy. Kissinger was Nixon's most trusted and influential adviser, and the President followed Kissinger's policy of *realpolitik*, in which a nation makes decisions based on maintaining its own strength rather than following moral principles.

### 4

■ “Nixon could be very decisive. Almost invariably during his Presidency, his decisions were courageous and strong and often taken in loneliness against all expert advice. But wherever possible Nixon made these decisions in solitude on the basis of memoranda or with a few very intimate aides.”

■ —Henry Kissinger, *The White House Years*

### 5 Listen

■ Nixon embarked on a policy of **détente** with both China and the Soviet Union, relaxing tensions between the United States and these two nations.

### 6 Listen

■ Nixon took a realistic approach, understanding that China's Communist government was not going to disappear. He also believed that friendlier U.S. relations with China could be a bargaining chip in negotiating with the Soviet Union. In February 1972 Nixon took a trip to China to meet with leaders and discussed ways of solving international problems. He was the first United States President to ever travel to China, and his trip would lead to future diplomatic relations with China.

### 7

■ “The Chinese are a great and vital people who should not remain isolated from the international community.... United States policy is not likely soon to have much impact on China's behavior, let alone its ideological outlook. But it is certainly in our interest, and in the interest of peace and stability in Asia and the world, that we take what steps we can toward improved practical relations with Peking [Beijing].”

■ —Richard Nixon, report to Congress, 1970

### 8 Listen

■ Nixon's next foreign visit was to the Soviet Union, where he and Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev agreed to work together to explore space, ease trade limitations between the two nations, and conclude a weapons pact. Viewing arms control as vital, the United

States and the Soviet Union began negotiating the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, **SALT I**, which froze intercontinental ballistic missiles at the 1972 level. The treaty was a triumph for Nixon, showing that arms control treaties were possible and paving the way for future progress.

9 

■ “Perhaps for the first time, the evolving strategic balance allows a Soviet-American agreement which yields no unilateral [one-sided] advantages. The fact [that] we have begun to discuss strategic arms with the USSR is in itself important. Agreement in such a vital area could create a new commitment to stability, and influence attitudes toward other issues.”

■ —Richard Nixon

## 10 Nixon’s Foreign Policy *Begin Taking Notes*

1. What role did Henry Kissinger play in relaxing tensions between the United States and the major Communist powers?
2. What was Nixon’s policy toward the People’s Republic of China?
3. How did Nixon reach an agreement with the Soviet Union on limiting nuclear arms?

## 11 Henry Kissinger

1

Practical Politics

- Kissinger admired the European political philosophy of *realpolitik*, or practical politics. Under this policy, nations make decisions based on maintaining their strength rather than on moral principles.
- Kissinger applied a *realpolitik* approach to his dealings with China and the Soviet Union, which led to better diplomatic relations with both nations.

2

Public Opinion

- Kissinger understood the power of the media and was able to use it to shape public opinion.
- Kissinger’s efforts in ending the Vietnam War and easing Cold War tensions made him a celebrity. He topped a list of most-admired Americans, was often featured on the cover of *Time* magazine, and in 1973 shared the Nobel peace prize.

## 12 Relaxing Tensions

1

Détente

- Although Nixon had built a reputation as a strong anti-Communist, he and Kissinger reversed the direction of postwar American foreign policy by holding talks with China and the Soviet Union.
- Nixon and Kissinger’s greatest accomplishment was in bringing about *détente*, or a relaxation in tensions, between the United States and these Communist nations.

2

Complex Foreign Affairs

- Kissinger understood that foreign affairs were more complicated than just a standoff between the United States and communism.
- The Soviet Union and China, once allies, had become bitter enemies. This development had the potential to reshape global politics.

## 13 A New Approach to China

Easing Relations Between the United States and China

- **Historical Background** — After its Communist takeover in 1949, the United States refused to recognize the People’s Republic of China, viewing the government of Taiwan as the legitimate Chinese rulers.
- **Steps to Ease Relations** — During the early 1970s, relations eased between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. Nixon referred to the nation by name, travel and trade restrictions were lifted, and American table-tennis players visited China, beginning “Ping-Pong diplomacy.”
- **Nixon’s Visit to China** — In February 1972, Nixon became the first American President to visit China. Touring Chinese sites in front of television cameras, Nixon established the basis for future diplomatic ties during his visit.
- **Recognizing the Chinese Government** — The United States decided to join other nations in recognizing the Chinese government. In October 1971, Taiwan lost its seat in the United Nations to the People’s Republic of China.

## 14 Limiting Nuclear Arms

- Nixon viewed arms control as a vital part of his foreign policy. Although he had taken office planning to build more nuclear weapons, Nixon came to believe that achieving balance between the superpowers was a better strategy than an

increasing nuclear arms race.

- In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, known as SALT I. In this treaty, both nations agreed to freeze the number of certain types of missiles at 1972 levels.
- SALT I demonstrated that arms control agreements between the superpowers were possible. However, it did not reduce the number of weapons that either nation possessed, nor did it halt the development of conventional weapon technologies.

15 

## 16 Nixon's Foreign Policy—Assessment

Which of these definitions best describes *realpolitik*?

- (A) An understanding of the power of the media to shape public opinion
- (B) A push to end the arms race
- (C) A relaxation in international tensions
- (D) A political policy that advocates national strength above moral issues

What effect did Nixon's 1972 visit to China have on American foreign policy?

- (A) It began the practice of "Ping-Pong diplomacy."
- (B) It established the basis for diplomatic ties with China.
- (C) It eased relations with the Soviet Union.
- (D) It resulted in a freeze on certain types of nuclear weapons.

## 17 Nixon's Foreign Policy—Assessment

Which of these definitions best describes *realpolitik*?

- (A) An understanding of the power of the media to shape public opinion
- (B) A push to end the arms race
- (C) A relaxation in international tensions
- (D) **A political policy that advocates national strength above moral issues**

What effect did Nixon's 1972 visit to China have on American foreign policy?

- (A) It began the practice of "Ping-Pong diplomacy."
- (B) **It established the basis for diplomatic ties with China.**
- (C) It eased relations with the Soviet Union.
- (D) It resulted in a freeze on certain types of nuclear weapons.

## 18 QUIZ

- Put your name, date, and period on a piece of binder paper – number it 1 to 10.

- Make sure to *title* the quiz.

- Complete the quiz.

- QUIZ

## 19 Work

Look over your notes from today.

1. Answer the 3 questions from today's lecture.
2. In five sentences, write a brief summary of what we went over in class today. Use the **highlighted key terms** in your summary!
  - Title the paper the same as the Lecture Notes.
  - Make sure to put your Name, Date, and Period in the upper right hand corner of your page.
  - Turn this in at the *beginning of class tomorrow* – put it in the hand-in/collection basket.
  - Worth 25 out of 100 points for this week's Daily grade.



ERROR: undefined  
OFFENDING COMMAND:

STACK: