

End of Instruction Notes - Day 6

1968—spring—My Lai Massacre—village supposedly sheltering Viet Cong—US soldiers found only civilians, old men, women, and children. US soldiers shot them any way killing over 175. Hero helicopter pilot Hugh Thompson put his chopper between fleeing Vietnamese and US troops. Lt. Calley was in charge of troops—3 yrs in prison.

President Richard Nixon wins on campaign to end the war. Vietnamization replacing American troops with S. Vietnamese troops to allow for withdrawal of US troops. At the same time Nixon widen the war into Cambodia and bombed Hanoi.

1973—Paris Peace Agreement all parties leave Vietnam and it would remain divided. After US withdrawal fighting continued for 2 years—April 29, 1975 Saigon fell and the North Vietnamese controlled.

1973—Wars Powers Act—requires Pres to notify Congress within 48 hours if troops are sent in, and withdrawn in 60-90 days unless Congress approves for longer.

1970s

Detente—Pres. Nixon was anti communist but he believed we needed to understand the growing role of China, USSR, & Japan. Henry Kissinger, Sec. of State, helped Nixon with détente or the relaxation of tensions between US and 2 major communist countries the USSR & China in interest of world peace

1972—Nixon recognizes the communist gov't of China, visits and opens trade with them

1972—Nixon wins re-election. Watergate Scandal—illegal wiretapping of journalists who had written anti-war articles. 1971 Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers on the Vietnam War to the New York Times. Nixon authorized a special unit “The Plumbers” E. Howard Hunt, G. Gordon Liddy, and John Ehrlichman. They organized a break-in of Ellsberg’s psychiatrist to get dirt on him. The Plumbers then went on to wire tap the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate Building. Break in was to put wiretaps in place. The men were caught. Woodward & Bernstein—reporters uncover the Watergate scandal and cover-up, White House tapes, transcripts requested.

1974—Nixon resigns (the only President to resign from office) Gerald Ford becomes Pres.

1973—Oil Crisis—Israel v. Egypt & Syria War. US backed Israel and this angered the Middle East and OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) they put an embargo on oil to the US causing higher oil prices and shortages

1976—President Jimmy Carter elected

1978—Camp David Accords—Carter negotiates peace treaty between Israel & Egypt. 1st step toward peace in the Middle East