Gabe Tribbett 21-September-04 Dr. Tinsley History 360

American Presidency: Timeline of Major Events 1945-1980

1945

1945- April 12th- F.D.R. dies from a stroke. **Harry S. Truman** had 82 days as V.P. before being sworn in as 33rd President of the United States at 7:09PM.

- 1945- May- German surrender in WWII
- **1945- July through August** Truman attends the **Potsdam Conference** discussing with Stalin and Churchill (replaced by Clement Atlee, mid-conference) the post war administration of Germany and the demand for the unconditional surrender of Japan.
- 1945- August Truman authorizes dropping of atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- **1945-46-** Nuremberg trials led by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, prosecuting 22 Nazis leaders.
- **1945** San Francisco Conference: **United Nations Charter** is drafted (much of the work done by Andrew Cordier). Truman helped to establish the United Nations.
- **1946- October-** London, England- **United Nations** meet for the first time. (Present site in Manhattan, NY was donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.)
- 1946- Truman establishes the Temporary Commission on Employee Loyalty to facilitate the removal of security risks from sensitive federal jobs. The Republican Congress criticized Truman for not doing enough, and overcoming his veto, passed the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 which made all communists register with the Justice department, which limited their activity. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin began in 1950 a "witch hunt" for communists in the state department and executive branch of which his denounced the administrations of F.D.R., Truman, and Eisenhower of being too sensitive toward communism ("20 years of treason").
- **1947- January** Truman appoints George Marshall as Secretary of State; Marshall devises European Recovery Program, aiding war-torn Europe with \$5.3 Billion.
- 1947- March 12th- Truman Doctrine: in a speech to Congress, Truman announces U.S. support to nations resisting Communism, and he gives provision of aid to Greece. From 1948-9, the US and Britain send 2 million tons of supplies to W Berlin to break a Soviet blockade of the city.
- **1947-** Presidential Succession Act: New law superseding the 1886 Succession Act to place the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate behind the Vice President and ahead of the Cabinet.
- **1947-** Taft-Hartley Act: Passed over Truman's veto, this law curbed labor rights provided by the Wagner Act of 1935. Sponsored by Republican Senators Robert Taft, OH, and Fred Harley, NJ, it outlawed the closed shop, thereby sustaining worker rights not to join a union, gave attorney general power to gain injunction of 80 days for strikes affecting the national health or safety, and barred unions from

contributions to political campaigns.

- 1948- General "Ike" resigns from the military. He had been promoted to Supreme Allied Commander in December 1943 for the invasion of Europe, and then he was promoted to five-star general in December of 1944. (He served as president of Columbia University from 1948-50.)
- 1948- July- Truman wins the nomination as the Democratic Presidential candidate
- **1948-** Israel: With the help of the United Nations, Truman helps to establish recognition of a state of Israel.
- **1948-** November 2nd- Truman wins reelection as President of the United States over Dewey.
- 1948-9- Marshall Plan: (European Economic Recovery) Truman approves of his Secretary of State's, George Marshall, plan to rebuild war-torn Europe through what was called the Marshall Plan. From 1948-52, the United States poured \$13 billion into reconstruction projects leading its economy to unprecedented prosperity.
- **1949- January 20th-** Truman gives his inaugural address.
- 1949- NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the formation was led by the United States (Truman) in order to help fight the spread of communism. (Members: Belgium, Canada, Demark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United States and later Greece and Turkey.) This was a military alliance.
- **1949-** Point Four Program: In outlining his speech to peace and freedom, Truman listed four courses of action his administration would take. Point four was "a bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available to underdeveloped areas." This marked the beginning of the U.S. commitment to giving technical assistance to Third World nations in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
- **1949-** Housing Act: Federal funds for slum clearance, urban renewal, an increase in the minimum wage, extension of Social Security, and desegregation of the armed forces. Truman's sections concerning national health insurance and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act failed to pass.

- **1950- July- Korean War begins:** Truman sends American Troops to defend South Korea who was attacked by the North on June 25, 1950. The Korean War lasted from 1950-53.
- **1950-** November 1st- Puerto Rican Nationalists attempt to assassinate President Truman.
- **1950- December-** Eisenhower is selected as **Supreme Commander of NATO**. He assumed responsibility in April of 1951 and resigns in May of 1952 from NATO and the army to assume the nomination for President.
- **1951- April-** Truman calls for the **replacement of General McArthur**. McArthur's advance had been stopped by the Chinese. McArthur called for an all out attack on China, to which Truman feared launching WWIII, and a possible nuclear exchange with the Soviets. McArthur publicly criticizes Truman's leadership, to which Truman does not tolerate the insubordination. General Matthew Ridgway replaces McArthur. Peace talks begin in June of 1951 but last beyond Truman's term.
- **1951-** 22nd Amendment: Ratified constitutional amendment limiting the future presidents to two terms.
- **1952- April-** Due to an impending strike during the Korean War, Truman orders the seizure of US steel mills. The order is eventually negated by the Supreme Court, *Youngstown Sheet and Tube*

Co. v. Sawyer, stating that Truman has exceeded his constitutional authority.

- **1952-** In July, Taft of OH, was the frontrunner for the Republican nomination for President however, Eisenhower's supporters attack his credentials and Eisenhower eventually wins as the Republican candidate for President.
- **1952- October- H Bomb**: The United States detonated the first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. Truman had authorized its development.
- **1952- November** 4th Eisenhower wins the Presidential election against Adlai Stevenson. (Inaugural address given January 20, 1953).
- 1952- December- Eisenhower keeps his promises and travels to Korea to revive stalled peace talks.
- **1953- January 20th- Truman retires** to private life. As early as 1949, Truman had decided not to run for a third term, citing that he desired the reinstitution of the "two-term tradition" that had been broken by F.D.R., but this was not disclosed until March 1952.
- **1953- July- Armistice signed:** An armistice ending the Korean War was signed at Panmunjom, which separated the two Koreas by a demilitarized zone at the 38th Parallel. This ceasefire gave the UN credibility of being able to help resist aggression and that modern warfare could occur without the use of nuclear weapons.
- 1954- Domino Theory: Eisenhower refuses French request for support in Vietnam expressing concern however that the spread of communism had consequences, citing, "you have a row of dominoes set up and you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences." This idea of communism spreading was given the term "Domino Theory." The U.S. also signed the Southeast Treaty Organization alliance with Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand, in the event of communist aggression. He did however provide advisors to S. Vietnam's Diem regime.
- **1954-** Fall of Senator McCarthy: An end to the witch hunts as McCarthy failed to produce evidence for the public criticisms he gave. The senate voted 67-22 to censure him. Many criticized Eisenhower for not directly confronting him, however later publications cite that Eisenhower had worked behind the scenes to bring down the "communist witch hunter."
- **1954-** Brown v. Board of Education: Supreme Court decision to desegregate schools brought violence to Little Rock, AR. In 1957, Eisenhower had to dispatch troops to the scene of Central High.

- 1955- Truman publishes the first volume of his Memoirs: Year of Decisions
- 1956- Truman publishes the second volume of his Memoirs: Years of Trial and Hope
- 1956- Truman represents the United States in Greece at the funeral of King Paul I.
- **1956- Interstate System:** Eisenhower signed into law a bill authorizing construction of a 42,000-mile interstate highway system, which as of 1981 was about 95% complete. The finalities of the system were to open in 1990, with a total original cost of \$27 billion that ended up being nearly \$130 billion. The original idea of this system is said to have come from General John Pershing in 1918.
- **1956- August-** In San Francisco, Eisenhower is nominated for a second-term keeping running mate Richard Nixon

1956- November 6th- Eisenhower wins defeating Stevenson once again to serve a second term as President. (Inaugural address given January 21, 1957)

- **1956-7-** Eisenhower, desiring to prevent the Soviet Union from taking over power in the Middle East after the Suez Crisis in 1956-7, gives what is know as the **Eisenhower Doctrine**, which states that the U.S. asserts the right to aid any nation from being threatened by communism.
- **1958-** Lebanon: under the Eisenhower Doctrine, Marines are dispatched to support the pro Western government in Beirut.
- **1959-** St. Lawrence Seaway: In 1954 Eisenhower signed into law the St. Lawrence Seaway Act providing for joint construction, with Canada, of waterway improvements to open the Great Lakes to ocean-going vessels.

- 1960- Truman publishes Mr. Citizen
- **1960-** Shortly before an East-West summit in Paris, an American U-2 spy plane was shot down in Soviet airspace. This incident strained US-Soviet relations for many years, as Eisenhower sought to hand over the Presidency to successor, John F. Kennedy. U.S. spy plane pilot, Powers, was exchanged for a Soviet spy, Abel in 1962.
- **1960-** Civil Rights Act: provided federal sanctions against local officials obstructing the registration and voting rights of blacks.
- **1960-** John F. Kennedy wins the Democratic nomination for President.
- **1960-** November 8th- J.F.K. wins the Presidency of Richard M. Nixon (Inaugural address- Jan. 20, 1961)
- **1961-** Fidel Castro seized power of Cuba in 1959 and took control of US property, Eisenhower put a tight embargo on Cuba, severing relations by 1961.
- **1961- January 20th- Eisenhower retires** to private life.
- **1961- March-** Peace Corps: The Peace Corps were established as an agency of the State Department to enlist volunteers for teaching and technical manpower in underdeveloped countries. Kennedy appointed his brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver as its first director. Some 85,000 volunteers served in the 20 yrs following its formation.
- 1961- April 17th- Bay of Pigs: 1,500 exiles trained by the U.S. were to invade Cuba at Cochinos Bay (Bay of Pigs) and begin an uprising to overthrow Fidel Castro. The rebels thought U.S. support would come in case of heavy resistance however none arrived and they were captured. The U.S. paid Cuba \$53 million in food and medical supplies for their release. The invasion had been planned by the Eisenhower administration but had been authorized and executed by Kennedy who took full responsibility for its failure.
- 1961- May- Space Program: President Kennedy gave the initiative that the U.S. should put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. During his administration, the U.S. National Aeronatuics and space Administration, NASA, had undertaken Project Mercury. In May of 1961, Alan Shepard, Jr. became the first American in Space, and in February 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth.
- **1961- August- Alliance for Progress:** Kennedy sought to build on F.D.R.'s "Good Neighbor Policy" by establishing the Alliance for Progress in which the U.S. would provide billions of dollars to

Latin America. The Alliance Charter was signed at the Inter-American Conference at Punta del Este, Uruguay.

- **1961- August- Berlin Crisis:** Berlin once again became the focus of the East-West tensions as a wall was erected separating the city. Kennedy threatened war to keep the West free, however the wall appeared to be built solely on Eastern soil in order to keep the Easterners in.
- **1961-** 23rd Amendment: A Constitutional amendment is ratified giving the residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in Presidential elections.
- **1962- July-** Southeast Asia: The United States and representatives of 13 nations agreed at the Second Geneva Conference to ensure the independence and neutrality of Laos. Events in Vietnam were much more difficult. Due to a Diem regime attack on Buddhist demonstrators in Hue, May 1963, Kennedy decided to support a military coup in November of 1963 led by Minh, which ended in Diem's murder. During the Kennedy Administration, the number of U.S. military advisors in Vietnam grew from less than 1,000 to more than 16,000. Still Kennedy refused to commit combat forces to the area. Many feel that Kennedy intended to end U.S. involvement shortly after a safe reelection in 1964.
- **1962-** Steel Price Rollback To combat inflation the Kennedy administration established a voluntary wageprice guideline that it hoped labor and management would honor. 1962, Steel workers agreed to a contract without a raise in wage, assuming that steel companies would not raise prices. Soon after, many companies raised their prices. Kennedy was furious and in April of 1962 denounced the corruptive act. Under administration pressure, the companies, following the lead of Bethlehem Steel, rolled back their prices.
- **1962- October-** Cuban Missile Crisis: U.S. intelligence learned that the Soviet Union was constructing offensive nuclear missile bases in Cuba, which were capable of striking the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. as well as much of Latin America. The Soviets protested the weapons as being defensive only, however satellite images indicated otherwise. On Oct. 22nd, in a television addressed, Kennedy condemned the Soviet Union for lying about the buildup of these weapons and ordered a quarantine of Cuba turning away any ships containing offensive weapons. He then warned the Soviet Union that any attack from Cuba on any western nation would be regarded as a Soviet attack. Finally after many tense days, Khrushchev agreed to dismantle the offensive weapons in exchange for a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba. By the end of 1962, the U.S. confirmed the removal of the weapons.
- **1962-** Civil Rights Movement Beginnings: Black student James Meredith enrolls at the all-white, University of Mississippi, under the protection of the National Guard, as Governor Barnett tried to stop this. Similarly in 1963, Governor Wallace attempted to stop desegregation of the University of Alabama. Meanwhile "Freedom Riders" journeyed throughout the South in attempt to desegregate public facilities.
- 1963- April- Birmingham, Alabama, violence erupted as Civil Rights Activists led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. protested segregation in the city. In August 1963, Rev King led 200,000 peaceful demonstrators to march on Washington, D.C. Kennedy sought to answer the black appeal for civil rights as he put into action in November of 1962, orders to end discrimination in government housing, established the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity, and appointed several blacks to prominent federal positions. He also called for suits to be brought against schools resisting desegregation. In November of 1963, he shows support on public television for blacks.
- **1963- July-** Nuclear Test Ban Treaty: United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union agreed to end atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. Eventually over 100 additional countries ratified the

treaty, with notable exceptions of Red China and France.

- **1963-November 22nd- J.F.K. is assassinated.** At 2:39 PM, Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as President of the United States.
- 1964- August- L.B.J. is nominated for reelection in Atlantic City.
- **1964-** August- Johnson condemns N. Vietnam's attack of the open seas in the Gulf of Tonkin of which the U.S. retaliated. Congress drafted the Tonkin Resolution giving the U.S. authority to defend itself using all necessary means. The number of U.S. forces in Vietnam reached 180,000 by the end of 1965, 400,000 by the end of 1966,f 470,000 by late 1967, and peaked at 550,000 by 1968.
- **1964-** November 3rd- L.B.J. wins reelection over Barry Goldwater. (Inaugural address Jan. 20, 1965)
- **1964-** May- Johnson announces his platform of a "Great Society" which encompassed war on poverty, civil rights legislation, Medicare and Medicaid, environmental protection, and consumerism.
- 1964- War on Poverty: Program: Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created Office of Economic Opportunity which funded the Job Corps (training to disadvantaged youth), VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) which was a domestic Peace Corps, The Work-Study Program which provided jobs for students from low-income families, Work Experience Program (child daycare for poor families), and Community Action Program (Head Start for toddlers, Upward Bound for disadvantaged high school students, and Foster Grandparents-elderly folks who befriended institutionalized children).
- **1964-** Civil Rights Act: act barring discrimination in employment as well as in hotels, restaurants, and other public facilities.
- **1964-** 24th Amendment: Ratified constitutional amendment outlawing the poll tax.

1965

1965- Voting Rights Act: Johnson's proudest achievement, outlawed discrimination through literacy tests and authorized the federal government to promote voter registration which resulted in higher minority voting.

1965- Dominican Republic: Johnson dispatches Marines to the Dominican Republic following a military coup. Johnson claimed the intervention necessary to protect American lives there.

- **1965-** Medicare and Medicaid: Medicare funded through Social Security provided hospital insurance and medical insurance for those 65 or younger. Medicaid provided medical and hospital benefits for the poor of any age.
- **1965-** Water Quality Act: required states to establish water quality standards subject to the approval of the Interior Department.
- 1965- Clean Air Act: required states to establish clean air standards concerning auto emissions.
- **1966-** Clean Water Restoration Act: provided federal matching funds to states for the construction of sewage treatment plants.
- **1966-** Fair Packaging and Labeling Act: required that contents and net quantity be listed on a package

label.

1966- National Traffic Safety Act: led to the adoption of mandatory safety standards for all cars from the 1968 model year.

1966- Highway Safety Act: established a national highway safety program and required states to adopt similar local ones.

1967- Wholesome Meat Act: extended federal meat inspection standards to all processing plants, including those solely engaged in intrastate commerce.

- **1967-** Air Quality Act: created an advisory board to assist states in setting and enforcing quality standards.
- **1967-** 25th Amendment: Ratified constitutional amendment providing for Presidential appointment, subject to congressional approval, to fill vacancies in the vice presidency, as well as detailed procedures for in the event of a Presidential disability.
- **1968-** Civil Rights Act of 1968: barred discrimination in the sale and rental of housing and stiffened the penalties for civil rights violations.
- **1968-** Tet Offensive: N. Vietnam launch attack in January of 1968, and Johnson stuck between the "credibility gap" of promise vs. performance decides not to bomb northern N. Vietnam and chooses not to run for reelection in order to "devote full energy to achieve peace." In response, Hanoi agreed to negotiate and Peace Talks began in Paris. Meanwhile, the long peace talks helped to spur an even deeper anti-war movement in the U.S.
- **1968-** Pueblo Incident: In January North Korean forces seized the "Pueblo", a U.S. electronicintelligence-gathering vessel. U.S. claimed ship was in international waters, N. Korean said that it wasn't. U.S. issued formal apology in order to get 82-member crew back, then immediately repudiated apology.
- 1968- August- Richard Nixon receives the Republican Presidential nomination, had also received in 1960
- **1968-** November 5th- Richard Nixon wins election over Hubert Humphrey. (Inaugural address 1-20-69)
- **1969- January 20th- Eisenhower retires.**
- **1969- March 28th- Eisenhower dies.** He suffered a heart attack in office, and two in November of 1965, one in March 1968, one in June 1968, and two in August of 1968. In February of 1969, in his weakness he contracted pneumonia, and eventually died of congestive heart failure.
- **1969- July 20th-** Apollo 11 lands on the moon, and Neil Armstrong achieves J.F.K.'s mission of landing a man on the moon.
- **1969-** Nixon slowly decreases the number of troops in Vietnam, as the war expanded into Cambodia and Laos (policy critics dubbed this "widening out" the war). S. Vietnamese troops were trained to take over as U.S. troops withdrew from the war. President Nixon called for the Nixon Doctrine, which set an initiative for less troops in the Asia.
- **1969-** Environmental Quality Policy Act: required filing an environmental impact statement for each new federal program.

- 1970- April 30- Attack on Cambodia fails President Nixon justified the raid as necessary to protect the dwindling forces in S. Vietnam. This drew a firestorm of protest at Kent State University in OH where National Guardsmen fired into a crowd of 2,000 students, killing four and wounding nine. 1971 Congress repeals the Tonkin Resolution.
- **1970-** Seabed Treaty: The U.S. and Soviet Union and other nations agree with effect from 1972 to ban nuclear weapons from the ocean floor. Also the Chemical Weapons Treaty of 1971, the U.S. and Soviets agree to effect from 1972 to destroy stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and ban their further development.
- **1970-** Law Enforcement Bills: Nixon strengthens law enforcement with the Organized Crime Control Act, Drug Abuse Control Act, and the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act.
- 1970- Environmental Protection Agency is established to monitor, regulate and control pollution
- 1970- Water Quality Improvement Act: curbed water pollution from nuclear power plants and offshore oilrigs and tankers. National Air Quality Standards Act of 1970 restricted auto emissions. Resource Recovery Act of 1970 encouraged recycling.
- **1971- Wage Price Controls:** 1971-3, to combat inflation, Nixon imposed a freeze on wages and prices, replaced after 90 days with a complex system of controls. Most of these were removed by 1973.
- 1971- October- New China Policy: President Nixon set aside his longstanding hostility toward Communist China by supporting Peking's admission to the United Nations, while trying in vain to persuade the world body to permit Taiwan a seat as well. In February of 1972, he undertook a "journey of peace" where he visited China.
- **1971-** 26th Amendment: Constitutional Amendment ratified lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.
- 1972- Richard Nixon is nominated once again for President
- **1972-** Bombings of N. Vietnam: Nixon authorizes bombings of North Vietnam as retaliation for offensive attacks across the demilitarization zone. The main obstacle to complete U.S. withdraw from Vietnam were the prisoners of war held in N. Vietnam.
- **1972-** SALT Agreement: May of '72, Nixon and Brezhnev (Soviet) sign agreements at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks limiting antiballistic missiles and strategic ballistic missiles.
- **1972-** Revenue Sharing: Nixon's administration adopted this program to give back billions of dollars to state and local governments.
- 1972- Water Pollution Act: Passed over Nixon's veto, called for federal funding for local water treatment plants. Consumer Product Safety Act of 1972: created the Consumer Product Safety Commission to regulate commerce safety.
- 1972- June 17- Watergate begins: five agents on the committee to reelect Nixon were arrested in acts of burglarizing the Democratic Headquarters at the Watergate Complex in Washington D. C., Nixon is tied to the scandal, and eventually tried in an impeachment trial.
- **1972-** November 7- Nixon wins reelection over George McGovern (Inaugural address- 1-20-73)
- 1972-December 26th- Harry S. Truman dies
- **1973- January- US withdrawals from Vietnam**: US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and N.Vietnam Rep. Le Duc Tho signed a peace agreement in Paris in January of 1973 citing

the withdrawal of US forces, release of prisoners and a cease-fire with continued US advisor support for the South Vietnamese and US aid to reconstruct the war-torn N. Vietnam (this last provision was never carried out.). The Vietnam War cost US 58,000 lives, 304,000 wounded, and \$110 billion.

- **1974- July- Impeachment Proceedings:** Nixon is nearly impeached but decides to resign to save himself further disgrace concerning his involvement in the Watergate scandal.
- **1974- August 9- Nixon Resigns as President:** Facing almost certain impeachment, Richard Nixon resigns. **Gerald Ford is sworn** in on August 9. Nixon dies April 22, 1994.
- 1974- September- Ford fully pardons Nixon. Ford also issues Clemency for all draft evaders and deserters during the Vietnam War era, after oath of loyalty and two years of service. Ford has WIN campaign (Whip Inflation Now), but is unsuccessful during the recession.
- 1974- Ford request support for Vietnam: Congress denies it and Communism wins out.
- **1974-** Ford signs legislation for the creation of the **Energy Research and Development Administration**, and converts the Atomic Energy Commission into the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, as well as imposing a duty on oil in 1975 to help curb oil consumption.
- **1974- October- Campaign Reform Law:** limited individual campaign contributions and provided public funding.

1975

- **1975- May- Mayaguez Incident:** American Vessel captured near Cambodia. Rescued by U.S. forces two days later, along with all 39 crewmembers, but suffer 41 casualties in rescue.
- 1975- Helsinki Agreement: US, Soviets, and 35 nations agree to ease East-West tensions.
- **1975-** Consumerism Bills: Fair Credit Billing Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedure Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act.
- **1975- Extension of the Voting Rights Act**: Approved a seven-year extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and extended the benefits to Spanish speaking and other minorities.
- **1975- September Assassination attempts:** Sept 5, Lynette Fromme 26, a follower of mass-murderer Charles Manson failed to assassinate Ford. Sept 22, Sara Jane Moore 45, a political activist and one time FBI informant also failed to assassinate Ford.
- 1976- Jimmy Carter wins the democratic nomination; he had announced his running in 1974
- 1976- November 2nd- Jimmy Carter wins over Gerald Ford (Inaugural address Jan. 20, 1977)

1977- January 20th- Ford retires

- 1977- Carter Pardons Draft Evaders: this pardon did not extend to wartime deserters.
- **1977- Deregulation**: legislation signed by Carter providing for deregulation of cargo airlines ('77), commercial airlines ('78), natural gas prices ('78), and the trucking industry in ('80).
- 1977- Carter signed a ban on dumping raw sewage into the ocean, the Strip Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, and the Alaska Land Act of 1980 setting aside 104 million acres for

national parks and wildlife areas. As well as signing legislation making **food stamps** free to those who need them. Also made a call for **human rights** around the world.

- **1977-** Panama Canal Treaty: Treaty between the US and Panama that would issue a relase of the canal and one to the Panama on December 31,1999. The Senate ratified the treaty after long debates for a year and a half.
- **1978-** Carter calls for decontrol of natural gas prices, fuel conservation measures, and requirements of business to convert from oil or gas to coal.
- **1978-** Camp David Accords: Middle East peace process, Egyptian Prime Minister Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin to Camp David to discuss peace. For 13 days in Sept of 1978, they hammered out a Framework for Peace in the Middle East and a Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel. Formal peace treaty by March 1979 ending a 31 year state of war, and returning Sinai to Egypt. , completed stages by 1982.
- **1979-** Three Mile Island- A nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania has a major accident. Carte appoints a committee to investigate.
- **1979-** The US withdrew its forces from Taiwan and began diplomatic relations with China, recognizing Peking as the legitimate govt.
- **1979-** Afghanistan: in response to the slaying of US Ambassador Adolph Dubs, President Carter cut off all humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, and later that year the Soviets invaded Afghanistan marking the beginning of a 9 year insurgence backed by the Soviets. In 1980, Carter mounted global protest getting UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the land and suspended sales of high technology and grain to the Soviets, as well as joining 63 nations in boycotting the Olympic games in Moscow. President Reagan lifted the grain embargo in 1981.
- **1979- June-** President Carter and Soviet President Brezhnev signed the second treaty negotiated at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. The SALT II treaty was never ratified as the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in December of 1979.
- 1979- November 4th- American Hostages in Iran: 1979-81, Iranian militants seized the US embassy in Teheran, taking 60 American hostages. For their safe return, the militants demanded the return of Shah Reza Pahlavi, to be returned from NY to stand trial in Iran. All white male healthy hostages (52) were kept for over a year, nearly causing a war against the Islamic revolution in Iran. This conflict contributed to the 1980 defeat of Jimmy Carter. November '79 Carter suspended oil imports and froze Iranian assets in the U.S. In December '79, UN security council called for the release, and Carter expelled 183 Iranian diplomats from the US. Eventually Carter put sanctions on Iran (April 1980) and didn't allow US passage to Iran, except for journalists. A failed raid to rescue the hostages took place in April of '80, and in November of '80 a deal was struck with the Iranian government who had been given the hostages by the militants. They left Iran on January 20, 1981, after 444 days of captivity as Ronald Reagan became President.

- **1980- January 20th** Carter Doctrine: Warning to the Soviet Union in Carters January 1980 "State of the Union" address that any Soviet attack on the Persian Gulf would be seen as an attack on the vital assets of the United States and would be repelled using any necessary forces.
- **1980-** November 4th- Ronald Reagan wins election as the 40th President of the United States over Jimmy Carter. (Inaugural address Jan. 20, 1981) 1981- January 21- Carter Retires

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