

President Nixon & Vietnamization

1. President Richard Nixon
 - a. Served in WWII
 - b. Picked as Eisenhower's VP when he was 39
 - c. Won 2nd term in 1972 -> widest margin on record
 - d. After Watergate scandal in '72 ends up resigning
2. Vietnamization
 - a. Strategy to slowly reduce American influence in Vietnam
 - i. Switch control to South Vietnam
 - b. North launched more attacks
 - c. 1973
 - i. Nixon agreed to withdraw all troops in 60 days -> in exchange for cease-fire and American POWs return
 - ii. North promised to recognize South Vietnam's government
 - iii. North broke agreement before troops out
 - iv. Last troops left March 29, 1973
 - d. Saigon fell to North Vietnam April 30th, 1975
 - i. Congress refused to help
 - ii. 58k Americans died & 2 million Vietnamese & civilians
3. Pentagon Papers
 - a. Top secret Department of Defense Study
 - i. Leaked to New York Times
 - ii. Showed govt. new they could not win war & JFK's Administration/CIA had President Diem killed
4. Henry Kissinger
 - a. Secretary of State & National Security Advisor
 - b. Good at diplomatic relations
 - i. Helped with SALT in 1969
 - ii. Helped Nixon meet Mao Zedong (1st president to China)
5. SALT
 - a. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
 - i. Nixon Ford and Carter all worked with Russia to reduce # of long range missiles each had.
 - ii. President Carter signed with Soviet Brezhnev in 1979
6. War Powers Act
 - a. Congress limited president's power to initiate/escalate military actions abroad
 - b. Every president since has fought to get rid of it -> legislative interfering with executive branch