

NATION: Americans' View of the Vietnam War

Kent State Students Protest Vietnam War

Kent State University, Ohio,
May 1970

An **antiwar protest** here ended with four students killed. They were shot by National Guard troops. The troops were called in

by the governor to keep order. The troops shot into the protesting crowd of students.

The students were protesting President Nixon's bombing of Cambodia. They say Nixon said

he would take the U.S. out of Vietnam. Instead, he is bombing the country next to Vietnam. The bombs are to kill hiding Vietnamese Communists.

The **Kent State protest** is one of many in cities and universities across the U.S. Many Americans are angry that the U.S. is sending Americans to fight in Vietnam. They say the U.S. should:

- Let the Vietnamese fight their own civil war.

- Not kill people who have not attacked the U.S.

Some young people are protesting the Vietnam War by not going into the armed forces. Instead, they are:

- Burning their **draft cards** [cards the U.S. government gives to men who have signed up for the draft].

- Becoming **draft dodgers**. Draft dodgers are people who run away from the U.S. so they do not have to go into the Army. Most draft dodgers are leaving the U.S. to live in Canada.

Doves and Hawks—Two Sides to the Story

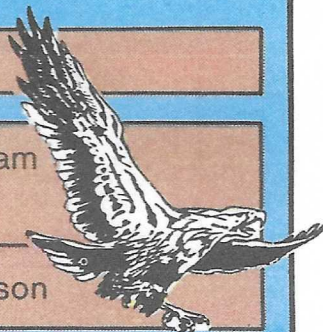
DOVES: Against the Vietnam War



Believed: The U.S. had no right to fight in Vietnam's civil war.

Leading Doves: Eugene McCarthy, Robert Kennedy

HAWKS: For the Vietnam War



Believed: The U.S. had to fight in Vietnam to stop Communism there.

Leading Hawk: President Lyndon Johnson

Martin Luther King Assassinated

Memphis, Tennessee,
April 4, 1968

Black leader **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, is dead. James Earl Ray a white man, shot King when King was in Memphis to lead a nonviolent civil rights march.

Ray believes whites are better than blacks. And King believed whites and blacks are equal.

Now King is dead—blacks have lost their strongest leader. King got blacks and whites to work for civil rights by nonviolent protest. Now blacks are rioting because King has been killed.

Protesters Riot at Democratic Convention

Chicago, Illinois, 1968

Protesters against the Vietnam War are rioting outside the **Democratic National Convention**. Police are hitting and arresting protesters and anyone near them.

The protesters are angry at the Democrats. The Democrats chose Hubert Humphrey, a Hawk, to run for president. Antiwar protesters wanted a Dove like Eugene McCarthy.

This move splits the Democratic Party. Humphrey is the vice-president under Johnson. The antiwar protesters believe Humphrey will carry on the Vietnam War. The split may make it hard for the Democrats to win the election.

Robert Kennedy Killed

Los Angeles, California,
June 5, 1968

Robert Kennedy is dead. Sirhan Sirhan shot Kennedy. Sirhan is an Arab who believes Kennedy was on the side of Israel.

Kennedy was in California running for president. He wanted to be president to end the war in Vietnam.

Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy, was assassinated five years ago.

WORLD: U.S. and North Vietnam Sign Peace Treaty

Cease-Fire in Vietnam: U.S. Troops Come Home

Paris, France, January 1973

The U.S. and North Vietnam have agreed to stop fighting in Vietnam. All U.S. troops are coming home! The cease-fire agreement says:

- North Vietnam's troops can stay in South Vietnam.

- U.S. troops will leave. But the U.S. will keep sending money and weapons to South Vietnam.

The U.S. has been helping South Vietnam since 1955. But, in 1964, the U.S. started sending

troops, airplanes, and ships to fight, too. The U.S. said North Vietnam attacked two U.S. ships in the Tonkin Gulf.

After this attack, Congress passed the **Tonkin Gulf Resolution**. This resolution gave President Johnson the power to send whatever he thought was needed to win the war in Vietnam.

So President Johnson **escalated** [built up] the war. He sent over 500,000 troops to Vietnam. He also had much of North and

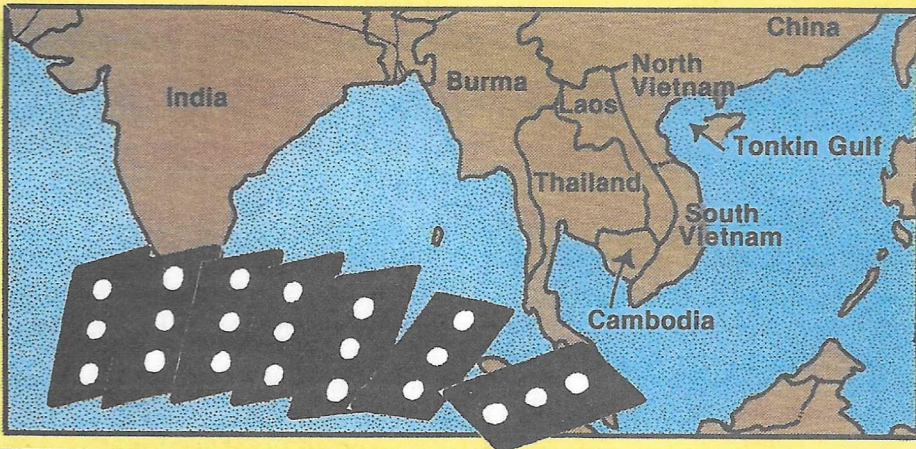
South Vietnam bombed.

So many Americans did not like President Johnson's escalation of the war that Johnson did not run for another term as president.

In 1969, **Richard Nixon** became president. He promised to take U.S. troops out of Vietnam. He planned to train and arm the South Vietnam army. Then the U.S. would leave Vietnam and let South Vietnam fight the war. Nixon called his plan **Vietnamization**.

Domino Theory Pulls U.S. Into War

In 1956, **civil war** [war between two parts of the same country] started in **Vietnam**. Communist North Vietnam attacked South Vietnam. The U.S. was afraid all of Vietnam would fall to the Communists. Then every country close by would also fall to Communists—like dominoes falling. So the U.S. got into the Vietnam War to stop Communism.



Congress Passes War Powers Act Over Nixon Veto

WHAT: The War Powers Act (a law)

WHEN: November 1973

WHAT IT SAYS: A president can send U.S. troops to fight for 60 days. After that, Congress will decide to let the troops keep fighting or bring them back to the U.S.

WHY PASSED: Congress thinks they made a mistake by passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

- The Tonkin Gulf Resolution gave the *president* power to carry on a war.

- The War Powers Act gives *Congress* the power to carry on a war.

How each U.S. president handled the war in Vietnam:

Eisenhower	1953-1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sent weapons and advisers to train Vietnam's troops. 	
Kennedy	1961-1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sent more weapons and advisers. 	
Johnson	1963-1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sent large numbers of U.S. troops to fight. ■ Ordered bombing raids. 	
Nixon	1969-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Began Vietnamization of war. ■ Ordered more bombing and ground attacks to force North Vietnam to sign a peace agreement. ■ Brought U.S. troops home. 	

WORLD: Nixon and Foreign Policy

Nixon Builds Detente Through Personal Diplomacy

Washington, D.C., 1972

President Richard Nixon and his **Secretary of State Henry Kissinger** have declared war on the Cold War. They want to

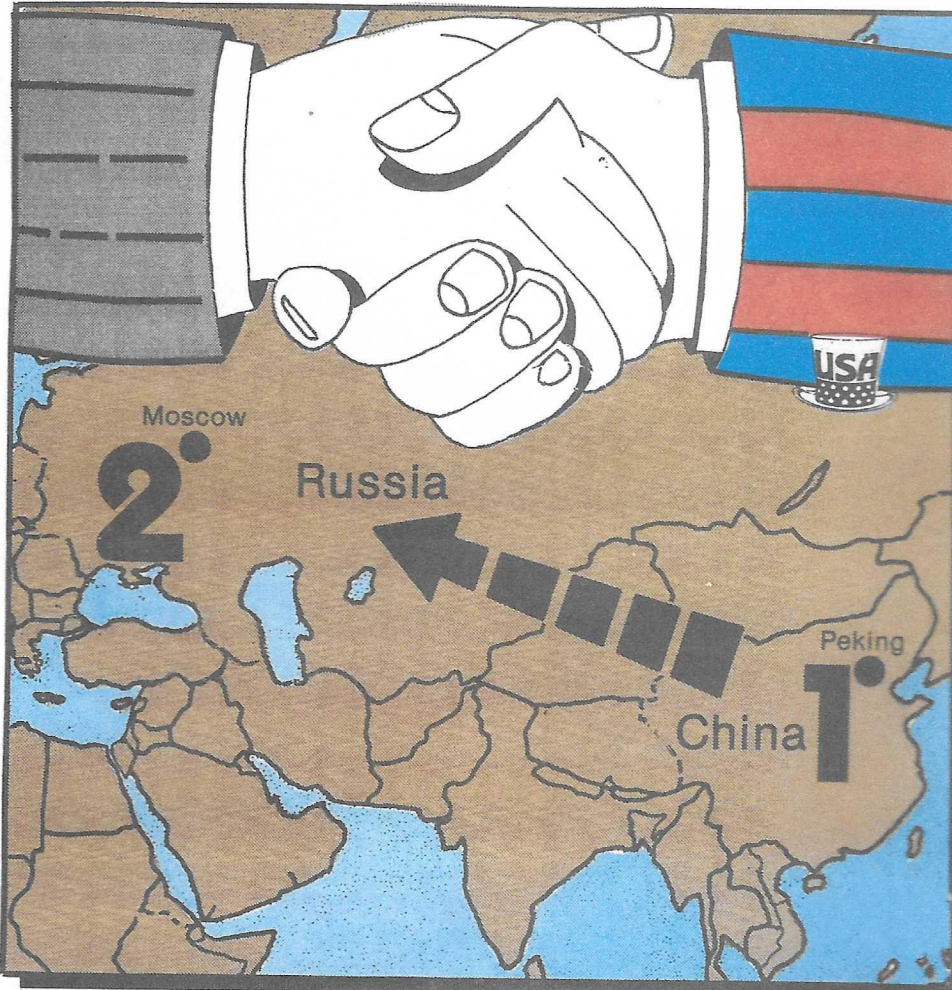
change the bad feelings between the U.S. and Communist countries. They want to replace anger and distrust with **detente**.

Detente means:

■ Lessening bad feelings between countries.

■ Learning to work together.

To build detente between the U.S. and Communist countries, Nixon and Kissinger are using **personal diplomacy**. Personal diplomacy means that Nixon is talking person-to-person with Communist leaders to work out problems.



Nixon and Mao Meet in China

Peking, China, February 1972

Surprising the world, President Nixon is here talking with Chinese leader **Mao Tse-tung**. Nixon is the first U.S. president to visit China. He wants to build detente with Communist China.

Nixon thinks this is a good time to build detente with China. China is afraid Russia will start trouble. So China wants the U.S. on its side.

Russia is afraid of China, too. Nixon plans to visit Russia soon to build detente with Russia, too.

For more on Nixon in China, see photo next page.

Nixon and Brezhnev Sign Salt

Moscow, Russia, May 1972

Nixon's visit to Russia's leader **Brezhnev** is building detente. The two leaders have signed the **SALT I Treaty**. With this treaty, both leaders agree that their countries will stop building up missile supplies for now. (See boxes at right.)

SALT stands for **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks**. In these talks, the U.S. and Russia were looking for ways to slow down the arms race. These talks started in 1969. Both the U.S.

and Russia already have enough missiles to blow up each other three times. Because the U.S.

and Russia are equal in the arms race, Nixon and Brezhnev think this is a good time to sign SALT.

Salt I Treaty Terms On:

Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)

WHAT: Bombs shot from a rocket to go a long way, for example from Russia to the U.S.

SALT SAYS: Both countries must keep the same number of missiles they now have for five years.

Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABMs)

WHAT: Bombs shot from a rocket to stop missiles coming toward a country.

SALT SAYS: The U.S. and Russia each can have only two places from which ABMs can be shot.

NATION: Nixon at Home**A Look at Nixon's Visit to China**

WHAT: China opens door to U.S. president

WHEN: February 1972

WHO: U.S. President **Richard Nixon** meets with Chinese leader **Mao Tse-tung**.

WHY (U.S.):

- To build detente with China.

- To win China's friendship before Russia does.

WHY (CHINA):

- To get U.S. to leave Taiwan so China can have it.

- To win U.S. friendship before Russia does.

WHAT HAPPENED:

1. U.S. does not hand over Taiwan to Communist China.

2. U.S. and China start:

- Trading with each other.

- Sending students, scientists, and artists to each other's countries.



President Nixon tours the Great Wall of China.

Globe-Trotting Nixon Tackles Home Work, Too

Washington, D.C., 1973

Here's a look at some of Nixon's home work:

POLLUTION

What: Dirty air, water, land.

How:

- Smoke from factories and cars pollutes the air.

- Waste water from factories and city sewers pollutes water.

- Garbage pollutes the land.

Pollution Solution, 1970: Nixon sets up the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**. This government agency works to stop people and businesses from polluting air, water, and land.

OIL SHORTAGE

Why: **Oil Embargo, 1973** (Arab countries will not sell oil to the U.S. because U.S. supports Israel.)

Shortage Solution: Nixon asks people to use less gas and oil. He asks scientists to find new fuels so U.S. will not need Arab oil.

Nixon Names Four Justices: Warren Court Is Gone

Washington, D.C., 1971

President Nixon is trying to change the thinking of the Supreme Court. He has named four new justices. Like Nixon, the four new justices seem to think the Supreme Court should follow the Constitution exactly.

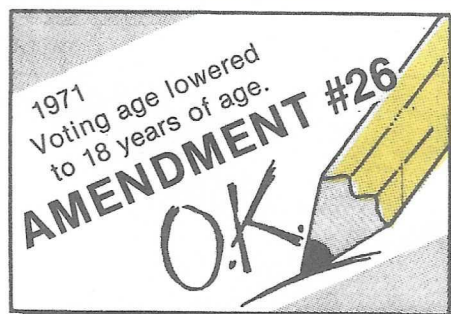
The new justices replace justices retiring from the Warren Court. With Earl Warren as the Chief Justice, the **Warren Court** often followed the Constitution loosely—they read meanings into it.

The nine justices of the Warren Court enlarged the meaning of the Constitution. The court's rulings made sure poor people and minorities could get equal rights. Here are some of the Warren Court rulings:

- Schools must be desegregated.

- Poor people must be given a lawyer if they cannot pay for one.

- People do not have to testify against themselves in court, based on the 5th Amendment.

**South Vietnam Falls to Communists: Last U.S. Troops Come Home**

Saigon, South Vietnam, 1975

North Vietnam has taken South Vietnam. Both countries are now under one Communist government.

All U.S. soldiers have left South Vietnam. But, back in the U.S., the Vietnam soldiers are not treated like heroes. Many feel they are treated like dirt. Americans did not like the Vietnam War. So they want to forget about Vietnam's soldiers.