

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide

ORIGINS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Focus Question: Why did the United States become involved in Vietnam?

As you read, describe the Vietnam policies of Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

U.S. Policy in Vietnam		
Truman/Eisenhower	Kennedy	Johnson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

CHAPTER 16
SECTION 1

Section Summary
ORIGINS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

READING CHECK

Who were the Vietcong?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *ensure* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle any words in the surrounding sentences that could help you learn what *ensure* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize Why did the United States help France in Vietnam?

France had controlled Vietnam as a colony since the 1800s. After World War II, however, a strong independence movement took hold. The movement was led by **Ho Chi Minh**, who had been fighting for Vietnamese independence for 30 years. Ho Chi Minh had fled Vietnam in 1912. During his travels around the world, he embraced communism and had formed ties with the Soviet Union.

The United States became involved in Vietnam for several reasons. First, it wanted to keep France as an ally. To ensure French support in the Cold War, President Truman agreed to help France regain control over Vietnam. Second, both Truman and Eisenhower wanted to contain the spread of communism. They believed in the **domino theory**. This idea held that if Vietnam fell to communism, its closest neighbors would follow. Communism would then spread throughout the entire region.

Despite billions of U.S. dollars in support, France lost its hold on Vietnam. In 1954, French troops were trapped at a military base at **Dien Bien Phu**. After 56 days, the French surrendered. At a peace conference in Geneva, Switzerland, France granted independence to Vietnam. The Geneva Accords divided the country into North Vietnam and South Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh’s communist forces took power in the north, and an anticommunist government, supported by the United States, ruled in the south.

The United States channeled aid to South Vietnam through the **Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)**. However, a communist rebel group was determined to undermine the government. Communist guerrilla fighters, called **Vietcong**, were supplied by communists in North Vietnam. They attacked South Vietnamese government officials and destroyed roads and bridges.

In 1961, President Kennedy began sending U.S. troops to South Vietnam. President Johnson increased U.S. involvement after North Vietnam attacked a U.S. destroyer patrolling the Gulf of Tonkin. Congress passed the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**, which gave Johnson the authority to use force to defend American troops. This resolution gave the President the power to commit U.S. troops to fight without asking Congress for a formal declaration of war.

Review Questions

1. What was the domino theory?

2. How did the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution expand the powers of the presidency?

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

U.S. INVOLVEMENT GROWS

Focus Question: What were the causes and effects of America's growing involvement in the Vietnam War?

As you read, fill in the outline with details about the escalation of the American war effort.

I. "Americanizing" the War

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

II. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

III. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

CHAPTER 16
SECTION 2
Section Summary
U.S. INVOLVEMENT GROWS

READING CHECK

Which group in Congress opposed the war in Vietnam?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *doctrine* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the surrounding sentences that could help you learn what *doctrine* means.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details Why did President Johnson raise taxes?

In February 1965, President Johnson took the United States deeper into the Vietnam War by ordering a large bombing campaign called Operation Rolling Thunder. Despite massive and sustained airstrikes, communist forces continued to fight. Johnson then ordered more troops to fight them on the ground. This more active strategy came primarily from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and General **William Westmoreland**, the American commander in South Vietnam.

In addition to conventional bombs, American pilots dropped napalm and sprayed Agent Orange. **Napalm** is a jellied gasoline that covered large areas in flames. Agent Orange is an herbicide that destroys plant life. It was used to disrupt the enemy’s food supply.

When the U.S. troops fought on the ground, it was rarely in large battles. The Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army fought with guerilla tactics in the jungle, trying to wear the United States down because they knew they could not win a traditional war. They followed Ho Chi Minh’s doctrine, which stated that fighting should never be on the opponents’ terms. Communist forces used hit-and-run attacks, nighttime ambushes, and booby traps. It was also difficult for the U.S. troops to know which Vietnamese person was a friend or an enemy.

By 1967, the war had become a stalemate. By 1968, more than 30,000 Americans had been killed in Vietnam. Despite the many times Johnson asserted that victory was near, each year yielded little progress. Troop morale began to fall.

The costs of the war had also grown each year, straining government finances. Government spending had lowered the unemployment rate at home, but it had also led to rising prices and inflation. President Johnson was forced to raise taxes, and social programs at home had to be cut.

The war was being questioned in Congress, as well. In 1967, Congress was divided into two camps: hawks and doves. **Hawks** supported the war and believed they were fighting communism. **Doves** questioned the war on moral and strategic grounds. They were not convinced that Vietnam was a vital Cold War battleground.

Review Questions

1. Why did President Johnson commit more troops to fight on the ground in Vietnam?

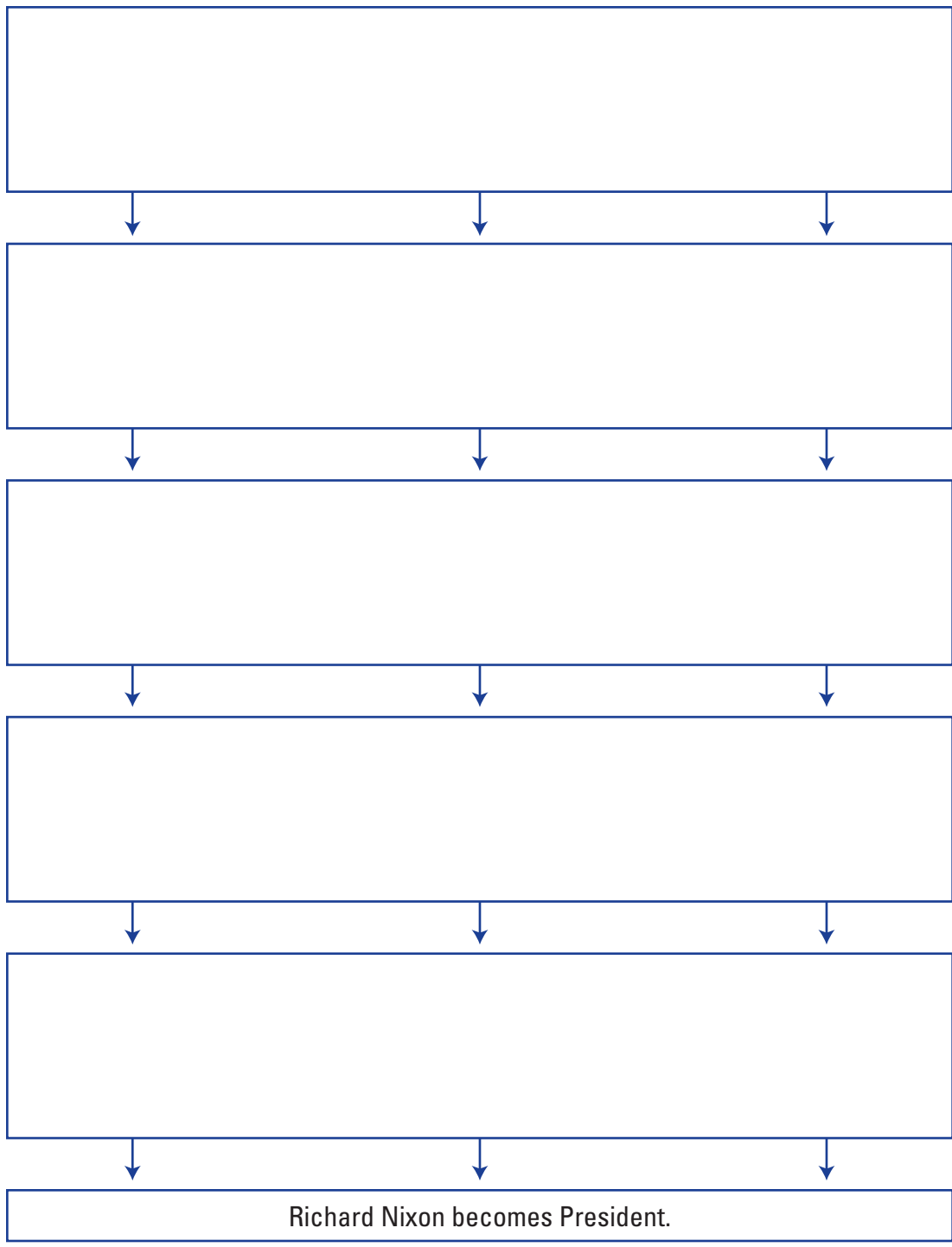
2. What tactics did the communist forces use against U.S. troops in Vietnam?

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide
THE WAR DIVIDES AMERICA

Focus Question: How did the American war effort in Vietnam lead to rising protests and social divisions back home?

Note the events leading up to the 1968 election.



CHAPTER
16
SECTION 3

Section Summary

THE WAR DIVIDES AMERICA

READING CHECK

Why did the Tet Offensive shock Americans?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *deferments* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the surrounding sentences that could help you learn what *deferments* means.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence How did the protests at the Democratic National Convention in 1968 help Richard Nixon?

The war in Vietnam divided Americans and opened a deep emotional rift in American society. To provide enough soldiers for the war, the government drafted young men into service. Some of these **draftees**, however, thought that the selection method was unfair. Draft boards were allowed to grant deferments to college students and men who worked in certain occupations. The result was that most of the men who served in Vietnam came from working-class and poor backgrounds. The number of African Americans in Vietnam was also disproportionately high.

College campuses became centers of antiwar sentiment. The **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)**, formed in 1960 to fight racism and poverty, became a leading antiwar group. College students and police clashed during antiwar demonstrations. Nightly television coverage of the war fueled opposition to the conflict. The differences between war accounts given by journalists and the optimistic progress reported by the government created a **“credibility gap.”**

Because of the government’s reports on the war, the public was greatly surprised by the **Tet Offensive**. This major offensive by the North Vietnamese Army showed that the enemy was still strong. The United States repelled the offensive, but after these attacks, American leaders seemed less confident of a quick end to the war.

Meanwhile, the 1968 presidential campaign began. Senator **Eugene McCarthy**, the antiwar Democratic presidential candidate, made a surprisingly strong showing in an early primary election. Democratic senator **Robert Kennedy** also announced his candidacy for President. Soon thereafter, Johnson announced that he would not run for another term as President.

The spring and summer of 1968 saw violence at home. First, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. Then, Robert Kennedy was assassinated after winning the California primary. In August, major protests erupted at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Police clashed with antiwar protesters in the streets outside the convention center. The chaos and civil disorder helped Republican Richard Nixon win the presidency in 1968. Nixon promised to achieve “peace with honor” in Vietnam.

Review Questions

1. Why did some people think that the draft system was unfair?

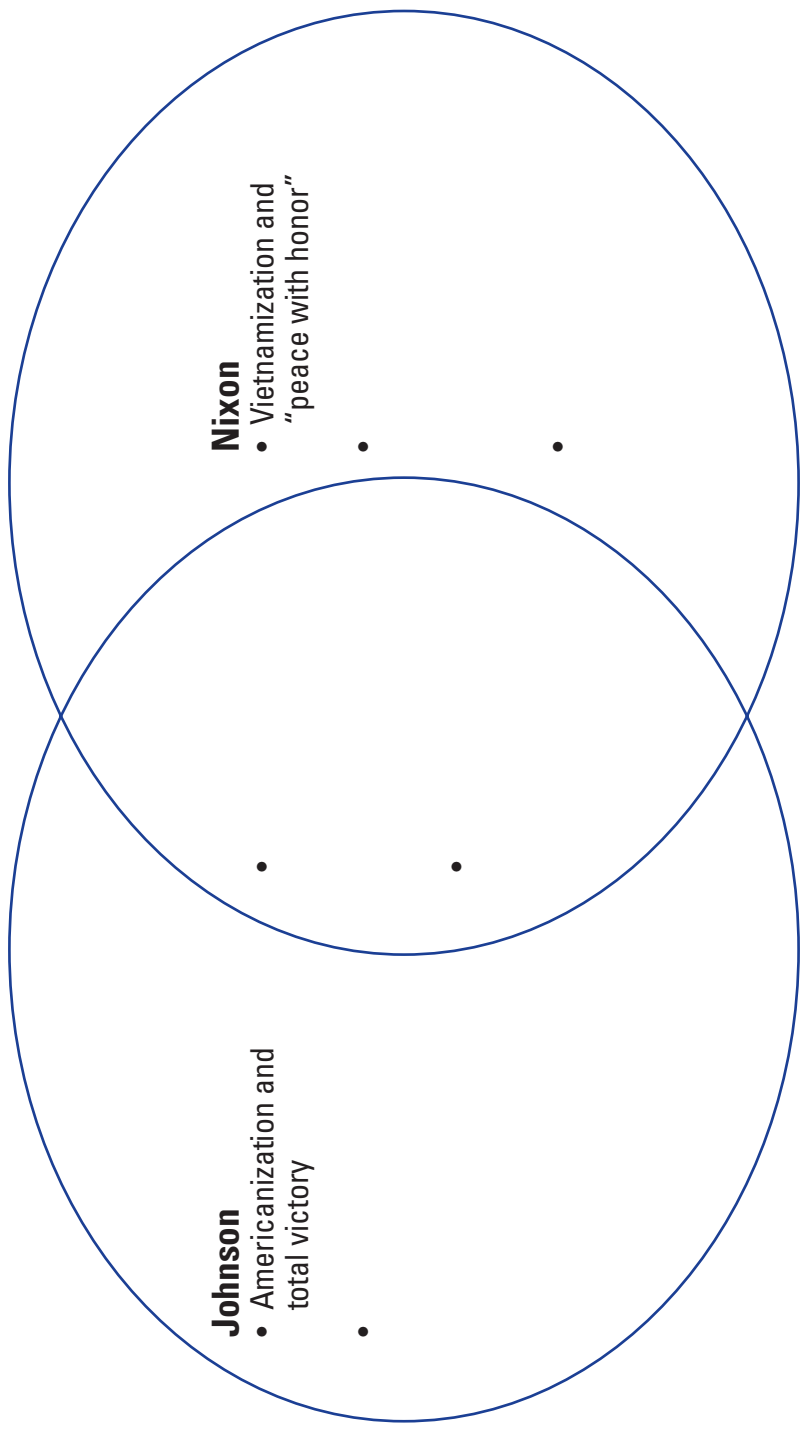
2. How did television play a role in the Vietnam War?

CHAPTER
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SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide
THE WAR'S END AND IMPACT

Focus Question: How did the Vietnam War end, and what were its lasting effects?

A. Note the similarities and differences between Nixon's Vietnam policy and that of Lyndon Johnson.

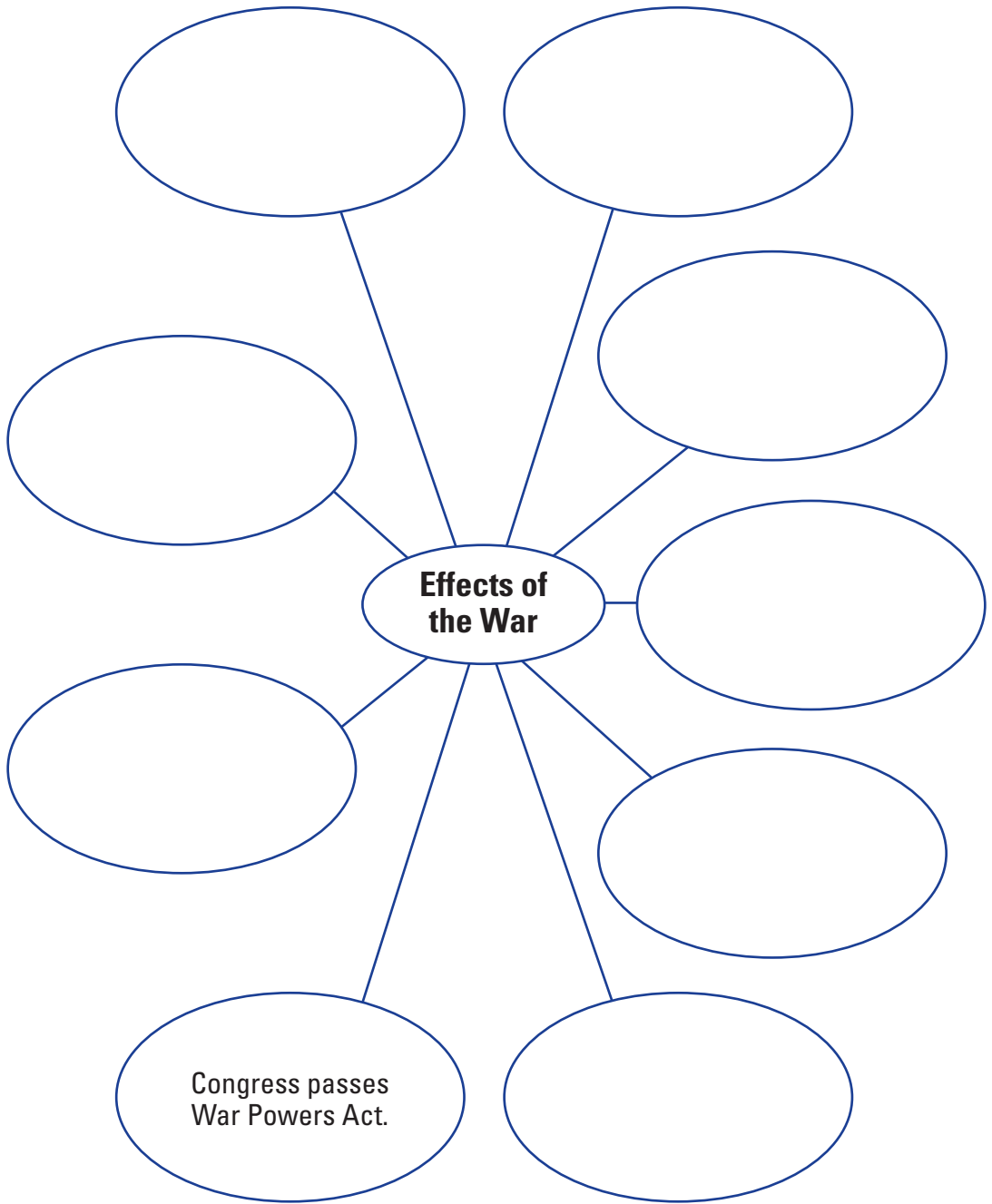


CHAPTER
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SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide
THE WAR'S END AND IMPACT

Focus Question: How did the Vietnam War end, and what were its lasting effects?

B. As you read, use the concept web below to identify the effects of the Vietnam War.



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SECTION 4

Section Summary

THE WAR'S END AND IMPACT

When Nixon became President, he believed that a peace deal could be negotiated with North Vietnam. When these negotiations stalled, however, Nixon gradually began to pull American troops out of Vietnam. He believed that the South Vietnamese Army should fight on its own and called this approach **Vietnamization**. He hoped that American supplies to the South Vietnamese Army would be sufficient for the army to secure and hold South Vietnam.

In 1970, however, Nixon ordered a ground attack on communists in Cambodia, which angered antiwar activists at home who claimed that Nixon was widening the war, not ending it. Protests erupted on many college campuses. At **Kent State University**, members of the National Guard fired into a group of protesters, killing four. This led to demonstrations on other campuses, including Jackson State in Mississippi, where two students were killed.

Other events also outraged the public. American troops killed over four hundred unarmed Vietnamese in the village of **My Lai**. The **Pentagon Papers** showed that the government had been dishonest with the public and with Congress about the Vietnam War.

American bombing finally induced the North Vietnamese to resume negotiations. In January 1973, the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Vietcong signed the **Paris Peace Accords**. American troops would withdraw from South Vietnam, and North Vietnamese troops would remain in South Vietnam. The war was over for the United States, but fighting continued in Vietnam. The Soviet-supplied North Vietnamese Army defeated the South Vietnamese Army, and Vietnam was united under a communist regime.

More than 58,000 American troops and over 2 million Vietnamese had been killed in the Vietnam War. Turmoil troubled Southeast Asia for many years afterward. After the difficult experience in Vietnam, Americans were less willing to intervene in the affairs of other countries. Americans had less trust in their leaders, as well. In 1973, Congress passed the **War Powers Act**, which restricted the President's authority to commit American troops to foreign conflicts. The fear of "another Vietnam" would affect American foreign policy for decades to come.

Review Questions

1. What was Vietnamization?

2. Why did the Pentagon Papers outrage Americans?

READING CHECK

How many American troops were killed in Vietnam?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *induced* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the underlined sentence that could help you learn what *induced* means.

READING SKILL

Recognize Effects What was one effect of the Vietnam War on American foreign policy?

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 5**Note Taking Study Guide****NIXON AND THE COLD WAR**

Focus Question: How did Richard Nixon change Cold War diplomacy during his presidency?

As you read, describe Nixon's Cold War foreign policies in dealing with China and the Soviet Union.

Nixon's Cold War Strategies	
China	Soviet Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normalization of relations will drive wedge between China and Soviet Union.••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diplomacy with China will create Soviet fear of isolation.••

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 5

Section Summary

NIXON AND THE COLD WAR

During his years as President, Richard Nixon fundamentally reshaped the way the United States approached the world. His leading adviser on national security and international affairs, **Henry Kissinger**, helped him.

In foreign affairs, Nixon and Kissinger shared the idea of **realpolitik**, a German word meaning “real politics.” According to this idea, a nation’s political goals around the world should be defined by what is good for the nation instead of by abstract ideologies. Nixon and Kissinger argued that a flexible, pragmatic foreign policy would benefit the United States in many ways.

Nixon had built his career as a strong opponent of communism. Therefore, his first bold move, to normalize relations with China, came as a surprise. In the 1960s, the United States still did not officially recognize communist China. Nixon understood that communist China could not be ignored. He tried to accomplish several goals by reaching out to China. First, he wanted to drive a wedge between China and the Soviet Union. Second, China could be a good trading partner. Third, perhaps China could pressure North Vietnam to accept a negotiated peace and end the Vietnam War. In 1972, Nixon traveled to China and met with Premier **Zhou Enlai** and Chairman Mao Zedong. The visit was a historic first step toward normalizing relations between the two countries.

Nixon’s trip to China was met by an immediate reaction from the Soviet Union. Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev invited the President to visit Moscow, where they signed the first **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty**. This agreement froze the deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles and placed limits on antiballistic missiles. The treaty was a first step toward limiting the arms race.

The United States and Soviet Union now implemented a new policy called **détente** to replace the prior foreign policy, which was based on suspicion and distrust. Détente eased tensions between the two nations.

Nixon’s foreign policy changed the nation’s stance toward communism. In the short term, the new relationships he forged helped to end the Vietnam War. In the long term, his foreign policy moved the world closer to the end of the Cold War.

Review Questions

1. Why did Nixon want to normalize relations with China?

2. What was the effect of détente?

READING CHECK

What is *realpolitik*?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *pragmatic* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the underlined sentence that could help you learn what *pragmatic* means.

READING SKILL

Categorize Circle the statement that most accurately reflects President Nixon’s attitudes toward communism.

- If Vietnam fell to communism, its closest neighbors would follow, spreading communism throughout the region.
- A flexible, pragmatic foreign policy would benefit the United States in many ways.
- The United States should support all independence movements, no matter what their political beliefs.