

US History

The Nixon, Ford, & Carter Years

Learning Target:

I can examine how the malaise from the economy carried over to U.S. foreign policy during the 1970s.

4. Foreign Policy

Negative Headlines

- First decisive military defeat in American history – Vietnam
- Global terrorism was on the rise
- Relation with the USSR were quickly deteriorating
- America unable to stop its economic dependence on Middle East oil

Terrorism

- 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany – Arab gunmen killed 11 Israeli weightlifters
- Irish Republican Army killed thousands of English and Irish citizens
 - Wanted an independent homeland
- The world seemed to be slipping into anarchy and we could do little to stop it

Soviet-American Relations

- Carter's stand on human rights violations in the Soviet Union led to a decrease in détente
- Carter was very critical of the lack of free speech and ability to criticize leaders in the Soviet Union

Salt II –

- Signed in June 1979
- Further limited the number of nuclear warheads held by each superpower
- Signed but never ratified due to Soviet/Afghan war

Soviet/Afghan War –

- Caused Salt II not to be ratified (still followed)
- 1980 Moscow Olympics boycotted
- Halted all US grain shipments to the Soviets

Triumph & Crisis in the Middle East

Camp David Accords

Israel & Egypt –

- Anwar el-Sadat (Egyptian president) met with Menachem Begin (Israeli Prime Minister)
- Met at Camp David with Carter as the peacemaker in the summer of 1978
- Israel agreed to leave the Sinai peninsula and Egypt agreed to recognize Israel (1st Arab nation)
- Rare positive in American foreign policy

Iran Hostage Crisis

Mohammad Reza Shah –

- Shah of Iran who was pro-Western and a reliable supplier of oil to the US
- US overlooked his corruption and harsh repression of the people of Iran because of this.

Revolution in Iran

- January 1979 a revolution was started by both Muslim fundamentalists and liberals who wanted more freedoms
- The shah fled the country as the revolution spread
- Replaced by Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini
 - Fundamentalist Islamic leader who wanted Iran to be a strict Islamic state
 - Aggressively anti-Western

The Shah & the United States

- October 1979 Carter let the Shah in the US due to health problems
- Angry Iranians seized the American embassy on Nov. 4, 1979 and took 52 hostages
- Hostages held for 444 days

Rescue Attempt

- April 1980 Carter authorized a risky commando rescue mission
- Several helicopters broke down in the desert and 8 US soldiers were killed in the failed attempt

The Release of the Hostages

- July 1980 the shah died and in September Iraq invaded Iran
- These two events led Iran to negotiate a release to the hostages minutes after Reagan took office