

Chapter 30: The Crisis of Authority

Overview

Opposition to the war in Vietnam became the centerpiece of a wide-ranging political and cultural challenge to traditional American society. During this turbulent era, blacks, women, Hispanics, and Indians organized to assert their rights. Richard Nixon inherited the war in Vietnam, and he did bring it to an end. The cost of Nixon's four years of war was thousands of American lives and many more thousands of Asian lives, plus continued social unrest at home and an enduring strain on the economy. The end of American involvement did not mean that the goal of an independent, noncommunist South Vietnam had been secured. Nixon was more successful in his other foreign policy initiatives, opening meaningful contacts with China and somewhat easing tensions with the Soviet Union. He managed to stake out a solid constituency of conservative voters with his attacks on liberal programs and ideas. However, he never quite decided how to deal with a troubled economy that faced the unusual dual problems of slowed growth and rapidly rising prices. Less than two years after his overwhelming reelection in 1972, Nixon resigned from office under fire from a nation horrified by the Watergate affair and his arrogant misuse of presidential power for personal political purposes.

Vocabulary Terms

New Left	Roe v. Wade	Environmentalism
Students for a Democratic Society	Free-Speech Movement	Rachel Carson
Weathermen	Ecology	Antiwar Rallies
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Anti-draft Movement	Vietnamization
Counterculture	Henry Kissinger	Woodstock
Kent State	Termination	My Lai Massacre
Assimilation	"Peace with Honor"	Fall of Saigon
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)		Multipolar World
American Indian Movement (AIM)	SALT I	Nixon Doctrine
Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968	Salvador Allende	Marielitos
Wounded Knee Occupation of 1973	<i>Chicanos</i>	Arab Oil Embargo
Cesar Chavez	Bakke v. Board of Regents Cali.	United Farm Workers (UFW)
Cultural pluralism	Stonewall Riot	Gay Liberation Movement
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)		Deindustrialization
New Feminism	Watergate	U.S. v. Richard Nixon
National Organization for Women	Equal Rights Amendment	

Focus Questions

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper AFTER you have finished reading the chapter. DO NOT simply Google the questions. This will not aid you in your understanding of the text, reading strategies, or long-term comprehension. Include and **highlight** the vocabulary terms.

1. How was the idea of "melting pot" challenged by minorities?
2. Compare the liberals of the 1930's and the 1960's.
3. Compare the conservatives of the 1920's and the 1970's.

Reading Notes

As you read, write AT LEAST 5 important facts from the section referenced on the left. All vocabulary terms used should be highlighted. If multiple sections are combined, make sure facts and terms are included for both sections.

The New Left	
The Counterculture	
Seeds of Indian Militancy	

<p>The Indian Civil Rights Movement</p>	
<p>Latino Activism</p>	
<p>Challenging the “Melting Pot” Ideal</p>	

Gay Liberation

The Rebirth

Women's
Liberation

<p>Expanding Achievements</p> <p>The Abortion Controversy</p>	
<p>The New Science of Ecology</p>	
<p>Environmental Advocacy</p> <p>Environmental Degradation</p>	

Earth Day and
Beyond

Vietnamization

Escalation

Peace with Honor

Defeat in
Indochina

<p>China and the Soviet Union</p>	
<p>The Problems of Multipolarity</p>	
<p>Domestic Initiatives</p>	

From the Warren Court to the Nixon Court

The Election of 1972

The Troubled Economy

<p>The Nixon Response</p>	
<p>The Scandals</p>	
<p>The Fall of Richard Nixon</p>	