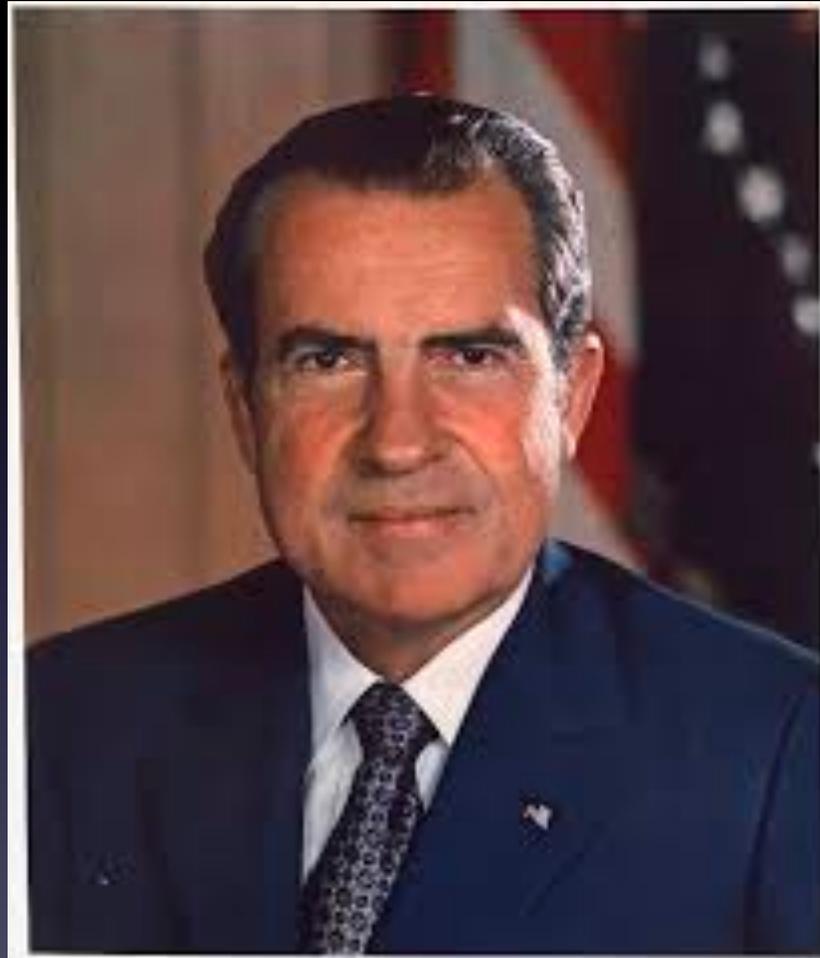


Nixon To Ford

Richard Nixon



Nixon Review

Was President Eisenhower's Vice President from 1952-1960

Loss the presidential election of 1960 against JFK

Wins the presidential election in 1968

Told America he had a secret plan to end the Vietnam War = Vietnamization

Nixon as President

- Nixon could not match his successes overseas at home.
- His presidency was know for a worsening economy, recession-inflation that was called stagflation and a price-and-wage freeze, along with increased federal spending
- Still politically the American society remained divided among the have and have nots or the conservatives and the progressives (caused some by the Vietnam War)

Nixon as President

- Several confrontations on college campuses heightened political tensions, such as the Kent State University
- During his presidency the division between the youth and middle age Americans increased, especially over the Vietnam War
- As well urban crime level rose, causing many to flee to the relative tranquility of the suburbs
- Still Nixon was able to win the 1972 presidential election in one of the country's greatest political landslide victories

The Nixon Scandal



In the summer of 1971, two major newspapers published the Pentagon Papers

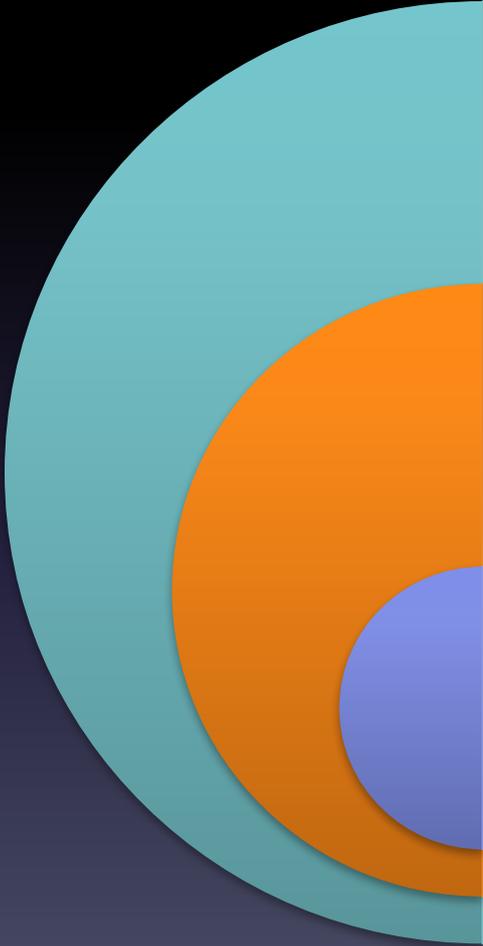
These were top secret governmental study reports of the history of the US involvement in Vietnam

It documented numerous military miscalculations and flat out lies the government had told the American public

Nixon fought very aggressively to prevent the Pentagon Papers from being published and available to the public

Nixon was concerned that if the information was to get out about the US' secret diplomatic negotiations with North Vietnam, the USSR and China that it might destroy his credibility

The Nixon Scandal



The papers were published and Nixon took further action to prevent further and future leaks by creating “plumbers”

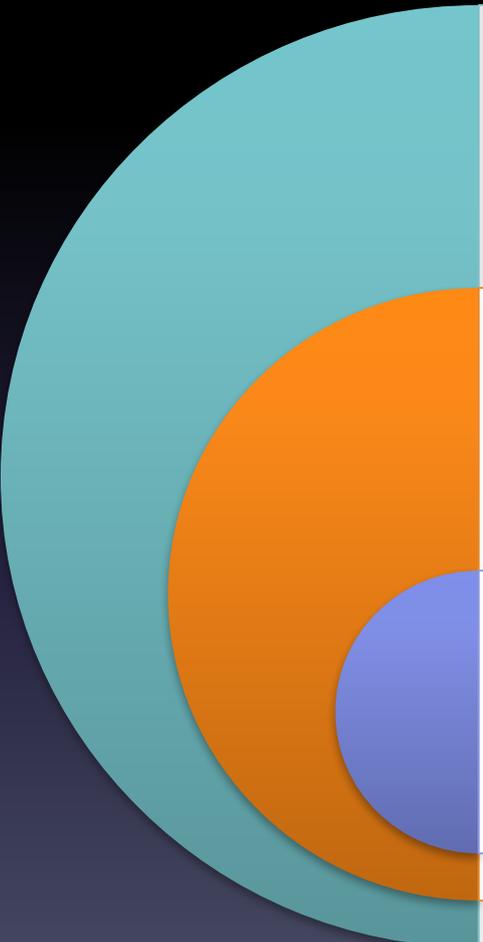
Plumbers undertook such disgraceful projects as burglarizing a psychiatrist’s office in order to gather incriminating information on one government official who had helped release the Pentagon Papers

The plumbers even helped sabotage the 1972 campaigns of several Democratic hopefuls for presidency and botched a burglary at the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Hotel

The Nixon Scandal



The Nixon Scandal



The plumbers were arrested at the Watergate Hotel and the White House began an immediate effort to cover up the scandal

Information did get out slowly about what had occurred and incriminated the president's closest advisors, who quickly resigned but were still tried and convicted of felonies

Eventually it was discovered that President Nixon had secretly recorded all conversation in the White House, including many concerning the incident at the Watergate Hotel

The Nixon Scandal



Left to right: James McCord, Jr., Virgilio Gonzalez, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio Martinez, and Bernard Baker

The Nixon Scandal



The Senate demanded to have the tapes but Nixon refused to turn them over, claiming executive privilege, Nixon lost the battle over the tapes when the Supreme Court ordered Nixon to turn them over to the Senate

Nixon now knew his days were numbered because the tapes would leak out a number of unsavory aspects of Nixon's character

Rather than face impeachment, Nixon was the first president to resign in 1974

His vice president Gerald Ford became president and then almost immediately granted Nixon a presidential pardon, thereby preventing a trial

The Nixon Scandal



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEOGJJ7UKF>

M

America's Next President Gerald Ford



Looks at the Evidence

In pairs you will analyze TWO primary resources on the Watergate Scandal

The primary resources can be found on the class website

You will need to answer the questions using both of the documents

Be prepared to share out and discuss with the class

Discussion Question

What do you think of the idea that Nixon's downfall was due to the fact that he imitated his enemies and put himself above the law?