Unit 11 Glossary (Nixon/Watergate/1970’s)

**26th Amendment**- Ratified in 1971, lowered the official voting age to 18, thereby allowing a greater percentage of U.S. citizens to participate in the process of government.

**Afghanistan**- (1979-1989) Following a military coup in April 1978, the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan took power. The party was driven by sectarian disputes and, in December 1979, the Soviet Union intervened in support of Babrak Karmal who was installed as president. Military conflict ensued between the Afghan army and opposition Mujahedi forces, who were themselves factionalized. The Soviet Union became involved, committing thousands of troops to action. This failed, however, to secure stability for the new communist regime and security beyond the area around the capital, Kabul, was never established. Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan was a key factor leading to the end of detente and to more hostile relations between Moscow and the United States in the first half of the 1980s. The large number of Soviet casualties also had a profoundly radicalizing impact on politics in the Soviet Union itself after the election of Mikhail Gorbachev as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in March 1985 and the introduction of perestroika. In line with Gorbachev's policy of ‘new political thinking’, the Soviet Union announced a timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan which was completed in 1989. The Afghan communist regime fell in 1992.

**American Indian Movement (AIM)**- Founded in 1968, the American Indian Movement (AIM) is an organization dedicated to the Native American civil rights movement. Its main objectives are the sovereignty of Native American lands and peoples; preservation of their culture and traditions; and enforcement of all treaties with the United States. Despite the straightforwardness of its stated objectives, AIM's reputation had been seriously harmed by well-publicized and controversial incidents of law-breaking, vandalism and violence, resulting in the organization's peak and decline within a few years. Significant historical events include AIM's hostile occupation of Alcatraz Island (1969); the "Trail of Broken Treaties" march on Washington, D.C. (1971); occupation of Wounded Knee (1973); and the Pine Ridge shootout of 1975, which resulted in the controversial arrest and imprisonment of the most famous AIM member, Leonard Peltier. Following these events, the organization's visibility and viability as a political force greatly declined.

**Camp David Accords**- Agreements between Israel and Egypt, signed on September 17, 1978, that led in the following year to a peace treaty between those two countries. This was the first such treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors. The treaty was brokered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter between **Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin** **and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat** and officially titled the “Framework for Peace in the Middle East,” the agreements became known as the Camp David Accords because the negotiations took place at the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland. Sādāt and Begin were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1978 for their contributions to the agreements.

**Cesar Chavez**- (1927-1993) An American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist. He and Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, later the **United Farm Workers union (UFW)**. Chavez was one of the best known Latino American civil rights activists in the 1970’s. He used aggressive but nonviolent tactics for the farm workers’ struggle and gained nationwide support. The UFW grew to be the bargaining agent for 50,000 field workers in California and Florida and led to numerous improvements for union laborers. His slogan “Si, se puede” (Spanish for “Yes, one can”) was widely popular and a slogan still used today amongst the Hispanic community. His birthday, March 31st is a state holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas.

**Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP)**- The Committee to Re-elect the President, abbreviated as CRP, later nicknamed CREEP, was a fund-raising organization for President Nixon's 1972 election campaign. Many of its members were later indicted with criminal charges relating to their actions within the CRP.

**Credibility Gap**- A political term that came into wide use during the 1960s and 1970s. At the time, it was most frequently used to describe public skepticism about President Lyndon B. Johnson and his administration's statements and policies on the Vietnam War. Today, it is used more generally to describe almost any "gap" between the reality of a situation and what politicians and government agencies say about it.

**Détente**- French word meaning the easing of strained relations, especially in a political situation. The term is often used in reference to the general easing of the geo-political tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. This policy of détente began in 1971 when President Nixon wanted to “thaw out” or “un-freeze” the Cold War. Détente ended when the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan which led to the United States’ boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

**Earth Day**- Began and organized in 1970, it is an observance of the need to protect the Earth’s environment, promote ideas of ecology, encourage respect for life on earth, and highlight the growing concern over pollution of the soil, air, and water every year on April 22nd.

**Energy Crisis**- The 1970s energy crisis was a period in which the economies of the major industrial countries of the world, particularly the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand were heavily affected and faced substantial petroleum shortages, real and perceived, as well as elevated prices. The two worst crises of this period were the 1973 oil crisis, caused by the U.S. production peak in 1971, and the 1979 energy crisis caused by the Iranian Revolution. The crisis led to stagnant economic growth in many countries as oil prices climbed. Though there were genuine issues with supply, part of the run-up in prices resulted from the perception of a crisis. The combination of stagnant growth and price inflation during this era led to the coinage of the term *stagflation*.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**- An independent federal agency, created in 1970, that sets and enforces rules and standards that protect the environment and control pollution.

**Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**- A twice-proposed but never ratified amendment to the Constitution that would prohibit denial or abridgement of rights on the basis of sex. First proposed in 1923, the amendment was passed by Congress in 1972 but failed ratification by the requisite number of states. It was a major rallying point of the women’s movement.

**Feminism**- The women's liberation movement was the collective struggle for equality, most active during the late 1960s and 1970s, that sought to free women from oppression and male supremacy. The women's liberation movement consisted of women’s liberation groups, advocacy, protests, conscience-raising, feminist theory and a variety of diverse individual and group actions on behalf of women and freedom.

***Gideon v. Wainwright***- (1963) U.S. Supreme Court case that unanimously ruled that state courts are required under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to provide counsel in criminal cases to represent defendants who are unable to afford to pay their own attorneys. The case extended the identical requirement that had been explicitly imposed on federal courts under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

**Dolores Huerta**- (b.1930) Huerta is the co-founder and Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW). The mother of 11 children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, Huerta has played a major role in the American civil rights movement. (see Cesar Chavez)

**Human Rights**- The election of Democrat Jimmy Carter as President in 1976 brought a new emphasis, based on Carter’s personal ideology, to U.S. foreign policy. Carter believed that the nation’s foreign policy should reflect its highest moral principles, a definite break with the policy and practices of the Nixon Administration.

**Impeachment**- A formal process in which an official is accused of unlawful activity, the outcome of which, may include the removal of that official from office as well as criminal or civil punishment.

**La Raza Unida**- Translated, “the race united”. La Raza was an American political party centered on Chicano nationalism. During the 1970’s La Raza campaigned for better housing, work, and educational opportunities for Mexican-Americans. La Raza is also a civil rights movement that tries to procure equal rights under the law for Hispanic Americans as legal citizens and bilingual education. This organization works to educate people about Latino cultures and to try and eradicate discrimination.

**National Organization for Women (NOW)**- Founded in 1966, one of its founders was Betty Friedan, it was a major feminist organization. It was formed when the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission failed to enforce a clause in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender. NOW has worked to promote occupational opportunities for women and has supported legislative proposals that would guarantee women equality with men.

**New Federalism**- President Richard Nixon promoted the idea of new federalism which was a policy plan to turn over the control of some U.S. federal programs to state and local governments and institute block grants and revenue sharing.

**Richard M. Nixon**- (1913-1994) Nixon was the 37th President of the United States from 1969-1974, succeeded in ending American fighting in Vietnam and improving relations with the U.S.S.R. and China. But the Watergate scandal brought fresh divisions to the country and ultimately led to his resignation.

**Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in 1960 to coordinate the petroleum policies of its members, and to provide member states with technical and economic aid. It is an organization consisting of the world's major oil-exporting nations. These countries hold the majority of the world’s crude oil reserves at about 80% and nearly half of natural gas reserves. OPEC is an oil cartel that aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil on the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and that shares the ideals of the organization. As of 2011, OPEC had 12 member countries, including founder members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Venezuela.

**Realpolitik**- *Realpolitik* is a political system that's not based on beliefs, doctrines, ethics, or morals, but rather on realistic, practical ideas. Richard Nixon's diplomacy with China in the 1970's was an example of *realpolitik*. The policy meant dealing with other powerful nations in a practical manner rather than on the basis of political doctrine or ethics, for instance, Nixon's diplomacy with the People’s Republic of China, despite U.S. opposition to communism and the previous doctrine of containment. In this context, Nixon felt diplomacy was important despite Americans’ distrust of communism.

 ***Regents of the University of California v. Bakke***- In 1978, in a two-part decision, the Supreme Court ruled first that Allan Bakke was a victim of reverse discrimination. Bakke, a white applicant, was twice denied admission into the University of California-Davis (UC-D) medical school even though his test scores were higher than the average of minority students who were admitted in compliance with a UCD special admissions program. But the Supreme Court also upheld the right of a school to adopt an admission program which included race or ethnic background as an element. Thus, the court did not overturn “affirmative action,” preferring to take discrimination questions on a case-by-case basis.

***Reynolds v. Sims***- In the early 1960s President John F. Kennedy sought to balance the representation of rural and urban areas in the U.S. House of Representatives by gaining judicial support to reorganize voting districts. Some districts with a few thousand residents had representation equal to cities with hundreds of thousands of residents. Attorney General Robert Kennedy was influential in bringing two cases before the Supreme Court, Baker v. Carr (1962) and Reynolds v. Sims(1964). In landmark decisions, the Supreme Court ruled that the national House of Representatives and all state and local legislative bodies had to be apportioned on a “one-man to one-vote” principle, further supporting equal representation in American government.

**Saturday Night Massacre**- On October 20, 1973, at the height of the Watergate scandal, an event called the "Saturday Night Massacre" took place at the hands of sitting President Richard Nixon. He ordered Attorney General Elliot Richardson to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox. Cox had denied President Nixon's request that instead of turning over recorded conversations he accept summarizations of the Watergate tapes. Rather than execute this order, Richardson resigned his position from the Justice Department in protest. When Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus refused to comply with President Nixon's request, Nixon fired him, although Ruckelshaus had already written a letter of resignation. The order to fire Cox was ultimately carried out by Solicitor General Robert Bork, but much damage had been done. In the immediate aftermath of the event, Richardson and Ruckelshaus held a live, televised press conference in which Richardson declared, "At stake, in the final analysis, is the very integrity of the governmental processes I came to the Department of Justice to help restore." Congress perceived the act of firing Cox as a blatant abuse of presidential power. In the weeks that followed the Saturday Night Massacre, even as the president agreed to turn over the tapes, members of Congress increasingly indicated they would support impeachment against President Nixon. Although Nixon defended his actions in a November press conference-during which he insisted, "I have never obstructed justice" and "I'm not a crook!", there were cries for his resignation. As a result of the Watergate scandal, the Ethics in Government Act was passed in 1978. The act established the Office of Independent Counsel, an independent, special prosecutor who has the authority to investigate alleged crimes and impeachable conduct committed by select government officials.

**Silent Majority**- The U.S. citizens who supported President Nixon's policies but who were not politically vocal, outspoken, or active. They were considered by Nixon to constitute a majority.

**Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty I (SALT I & II)**- Negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union that were aimed at curtailing the manufacture of strategic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The first agreements, known as SALT I and SALT II, were signed by the U.S. and U.S.S.R. in 1972 and 1979, respectively, and were intended to restrain the arms race in strategic (long-range or intercontinental) ballistic missiles armed with nuclear weapons. First suggested by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967, strategic arms limitation talks were agreed on by the two superpowers in the summer of 1968, and full-scale negotiations began in November 1969.

**Gloria Steinem**- (b.1934) An American feminist, journalist, and social and political activist who became nationally recognized as a leader of, and media spokeswoman for, the women’s liberation movement in the late 1960s and 1970s. A prominent writer and political figure, Steinem has founded many organizations and projects and has been the recipient of many awards and honors. She was a columnist for *New York* magazine and co-founded *Ms.* magazine. In 1969, she published an article, "After Black Power, Women's Liberation",which, along with her early support of abortion rights, catapulted her to national fame as a feminist leader.

**U.S. Free Enterprise System**- The U.S. free enterprise system is an economic system in which individuals depend on supply and demand and the profit margin to determine the answers to the four basic economic questions of “what to produce,” “how to produce,” “how many to produce,” and “for whom to produce.” Profit is an improved situation, usually measured in dollars. The quest for improvement financially and materially motivates producers and consumers in the free enterprise system. Government regulation is kept to a minimum. Competition between companies makes it more difficult to answer the questions of what and how much to produce and for whom, but it also makes it harder for one company to monopolize the market.

**War Powers Act**- Sparked by the negative sentiment on the part of the American public toward the Vietnam War, Congress passed the War Powers Act on November 7, 1973, following the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. It required the President to inform Congress within two days of any use of American troops in a foreign country and to withdraw the troops within 60 days if Congress did not support their deployment.

**Watergate**-Watergate was a scandal involving the Richard M. Nixon administration which ended in Nixon’s resignation in 1974. The scandal began following the arrest of five burglars, paid by the Nixon campaign committee, who broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters located in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. Some of Nixon’s staff tried to limit the investigation, actions known as the “cover-up.” Nixon eventually resigned to avoid being impeached on charges that he knowingly obstructed justice, used government agencies to violate the constitutional rights of citizens, and illegally withheld evidence from Congress. Nixon was later pardoned by President Gerald Ford of all wrongdoing related to the Watergate investigation.

***White v. Regester***- (1973) In this litigation challenging the Texas 1970 legislative reapportionment scheme, a three-judge District Court held that the House plan, state-wide, contained constitutionally impermissible deviations from population equality, and that the multi-member districts provided for Bexar and Dallas Counties invidiously discriminated against cognizable racial or ethnic groups. Though the entire plan was declared invalid, the court permitted its use for the 1972 election except for its injunction order requiring those two county multi-member districts to be reconstituted into single member districts.

***Wisconsin v. Yoder***- (1972) Jonas Yoder and Wallace Miller, both members of the Old Order Amish religion, and Adin Yutzy, a member of the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, were prosecuted under a Wisconsin law that required all children to attend public schools until age 16. The three parents refused to send their children to such schools after the eighth grade, arguing that high school attendance was contrary to their religious beliefs. In a unanimous decision, the Court held that individual’s interests in the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment outweighed the State’s interests in compelling school attendance beyond eighth grade.