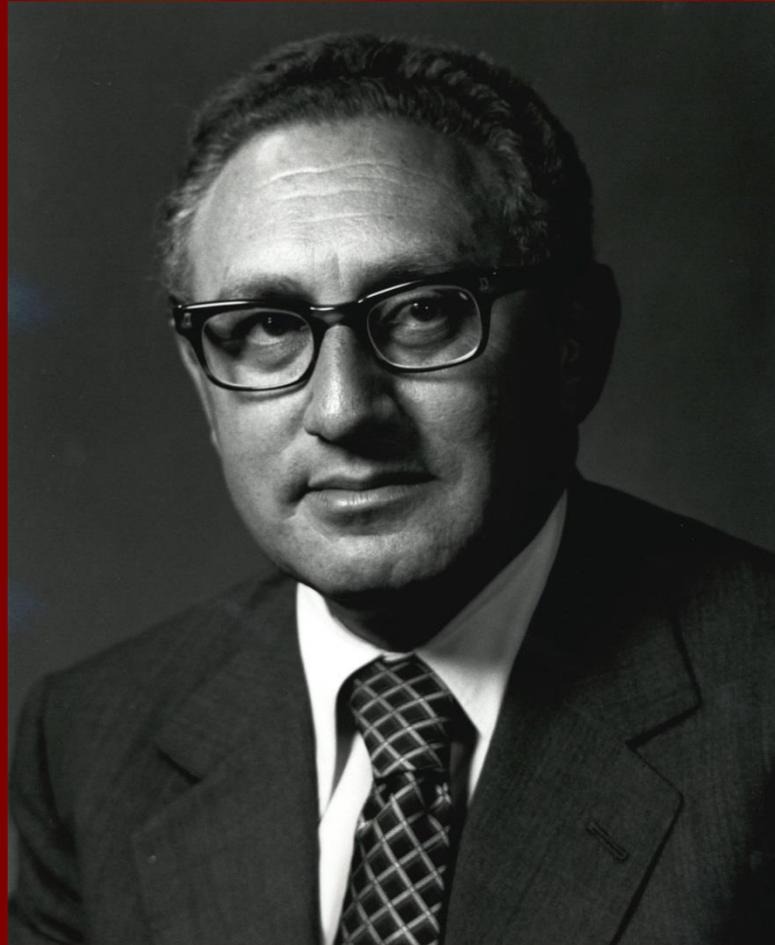


Kissinger as National Security Adviser, 1968-1973

Henry Kissinger and American
Power

Osher Lifelong Learning 2018

Henry A. Kissinger



Nixon and Kissinger



TV appearance

- [19681202CBS 001.mpg](#)

William Rogers, Secretary of State



America in the late 1960s

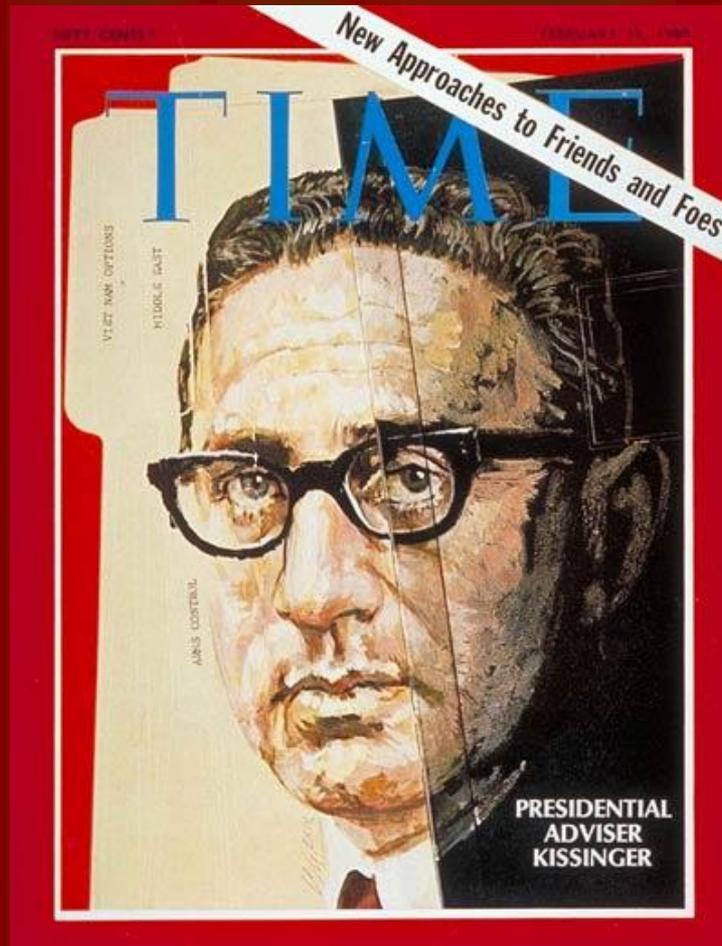
- 1.) Half a million men in Vietnam – no strategy for victory
- 2.) Serious racial conflict and violent polarization at home/despite strong economy
- 3.) Perceived over-extension in foreign policy commitments and defense spending – country turning inward, public support for foreign commitments waning

Nixon's goal: "Peacemaker"

- 1.) Nixon talked about an era negotiation replacing the era of confrontation – compared himself to Woodrow Wilson, - a peacemaker



Kissinger Crafts an Image, 1969-1970 – President's top adviser



The Frustrations of Vietnam, 1969-1970

- 1.) Failure of linkage with Soviets, slow progress with China – the Korea parallel
- 2.) Secret bombing of Cambodia – “madman theory” – when the bombing is revealed, Kissinger goes along with wiretaps of NSC staff and journalists
- 3.) Failure of negotiations with Hanoi
 - Midway conference, Nixon Doctrine, Defense Secretary Laird’s role in Vietnamization, beginning of troop withdrawals – Kissinger’s uneasiness with this strategy
- 4.) Plans for Operation Duck Hook – “savage, punishing blows”

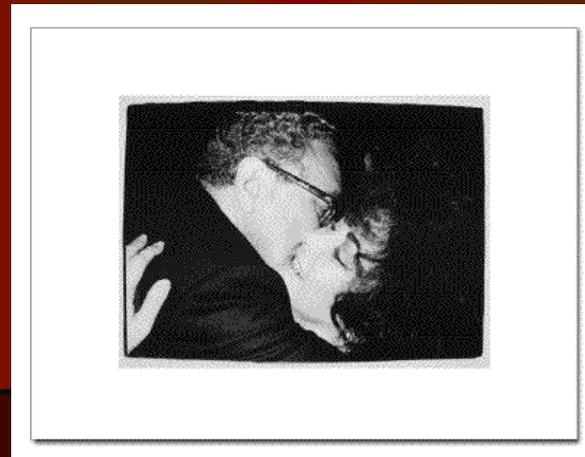
Kissinger and Vietnam

- 1.) Hope for “linkage” – Soviet help in securing a settlement
- 2.) Planning for Operation Duck Hook, escalation of the war
- 3.) Opposition to Vietnamization – the “salted peanuts” memo

The Frustrations of Vietnam, 1969

- 4.) Growth in antiwar sentiment – moratoriums of October and November 1969 –
- 5.) Nixon's - Silent Majority Speech – polarization as a strategy – attacks on the media by Agnew
- 6.) Few protests in December - First draft lottery – December 1969 – buying time for negotiations

Kissinger as "secret swinger"



1970 Nixon strategy: New Realism in foreign policy

- 1.) continued withdrawals – 150,000 – secret negotiations conducted by Kissinger in Paris
- 2.) invasion of Cambodia – May 1970 – domestic reaction – Kent State
- 3.) China – no progress – Mao reverses view after Cambodia

Kent State – May 4, 1970



Other Foreign Policy Frustrations and Achievements

- 1.) Middle East – Continuing Violence, Jordanian Crisis September 1970
- (Kissinger – ““You can’t lose them all.””)
- 2.) Chile – Allende’s Victory – Kissinger’s role in plotting a coup – killing of General Schneider – debate over Kissinger’s responsibility
- 3.) Increasing European Assertiveness, German Ostpolitik
- 4.) Lack of Agreement with Soviets on Arms Control – no summit

Midterm elections – Republican losses

- 1.) Republicans gained two seats in the Senate, but lost 9 in the House – Democratic margin in House elections increased from 1.1 million to 4.5 million
- 2.) Nixon – thought he might be a one-term president; considering end of the war announcement – tells advisers to highlight Kissinger, because of media favoritism
- <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/educational-resources/bob-haldeman-s-audio-diary-entry-on-nixon-s-plans-for-withdrawal-from-vietnam>
- 4.) Kissinger decides to stay
- [19710116CBS 001.mpg](#)

