

# Cold War Gallery Set # 10

## A New Strategy : Vietnamization

- When President Richard M. Nixon took office in January 1968, he asked the American people to stop fighting with one another. He wanted to find a peaceful solution at home and in Vietnam. President Nixon hoped to accomplish this without admitting defeat. His plan included three actions.
- 1. Reform the selective service process.
- 2. Convince the South Vietnamese army to take a more active role in the fighting, so the American forces could become less involved. This plan was called *Vietnamization*.
- 3. Increase the bombing of North Vietnam to encourage the Communists to begin peace talks.

- Fewer Americans were called into service through the reformed selective service program. College students were no longer given deferments. Nineteen-year-olds were the only age group called for service. A lottery using birth dates for the draft began. Because fewer Americans were called into service, there were fewer protests. Nixon planned to eventually end the selective service program. American troops started coming home from Vietnam in June 1969. Americans provided additional training for the South Vietnamese army soldiers before pulling out of Vietnam. In January 1969 there were more than 540,000 American soldiers in Vietnam. Almost two years later there were 334,000 soldiers there. By 1971 only 60,000 American troops remained. Nixon increased the bombing campaign instead of using ground forces. Enemy supply routes were targeted. Bombs were also dropped in Cambodia and Laos where enemies were hiding out. The Nixon administration kept the bombing of Cambodia a secret

## Easing the Cold War

- When President Richard M. Nixon took office in January 1969, he pledged to work for world peace. Many people wondered how an anti-Communist crusader such as Nixon would carry out his promise. However, Nixon did work to improve relations with Communists in the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. He traveled behind the iron curtain, visiting several countries in 1969.
- Nixon appointed Henry Kissinger as his national security adviser. Kissinger, a Harvard University professor, and Nixon believed that negotiations, not threats or force, would bring about peace in the world. Nixon's foreign policy was known as *détente*. He worked to ease international tensions and replace confrontation. Détente might work if no one country became too powerful. Nixon believed that a *balance of power*, or sharing the power among nations, would create a more stable and safer world.
- Nixon knew that he had to build a relationship with the People's Republic of China in order to get the Soviet Union to cooperate. The Soviets would be afraid of a Chinese- American alliance. The United States had cut off all diplomatic relations with China after the Communists took control of mainland China in 1949. In the fall of 1970, Nixon announced that he wanted to visit China during his lifetime. An American table-tennis, or Ping-Pong, team was invited to visit China in April 1971. The United States reopened trade with China a week later. Some called this "Ping-Pong diplomacy." American and Chinese officials held secret talks, and Henry Kissinger made a secret trip to China.
- President Nixon and his wife, Pat, went to Beijing, China, in February 1972. The trip made news all over the world. Trade relations and cultural exchanges increased. Seven years later, the United States and China established full diplomatic relations. In May 1972, Nixon made another historic trip, this time to Moscow, the capital of the Soviet Union. The Soviets wanted to prevent a Chinese–American alliance, slow the expensive arms race, and improve relations with the United States. They also wanted access to technology and to purchase grain from America. The two nations signed the landmark Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) during Nixon's trip to Moscow. It lessened the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. It limited the number of certain types of nuclear missiles each country was allowed to have. The treaty did not end the arms race, but it slowed it down. The two nations agreed to work together in trade and science. A new atmosphere of cooperation between the two countries began.

# Watergate

<https://youtu.be/IHnmriyXYeg>