

The Ford and Carter Years

13 October 1973: Nixon announced Ford as his choice to succeed Spiro Agnew as VP after the corruption during his tenure in office in MD broke



25th Amendment: '67

Line of Presidential Succession

- ★ Vice President
- ★ Speaker of the House
- ★ President *pro tempore* of the Senate
- ★ Secretary of State
- ★ Secretary of the Treasury
- ★ Secretary of Defense
- ★ Attorney General
- ★ Secretary of the Interior
- ★ Secretary of Agriculture
- ★ Secretary of Commerce
- ★ Secretary of Labor
- ★ Secretary of Health and Human Services
- ★ Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- ★ Secretary of Transportation
- ★ Secretary of Energy
- ★ Secretary of Education
- ★ Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- ★ Secretary of Homeland Security*

*The order of this position may change, pending congressional legislation.
Source: thomas.loc.gov.

Never elected
as president

Never elected
as vice
president



“ I am acutely aware that
you have not elected me as
your president by your ballots.
So I ask you to confirm me
with your prayers. ”

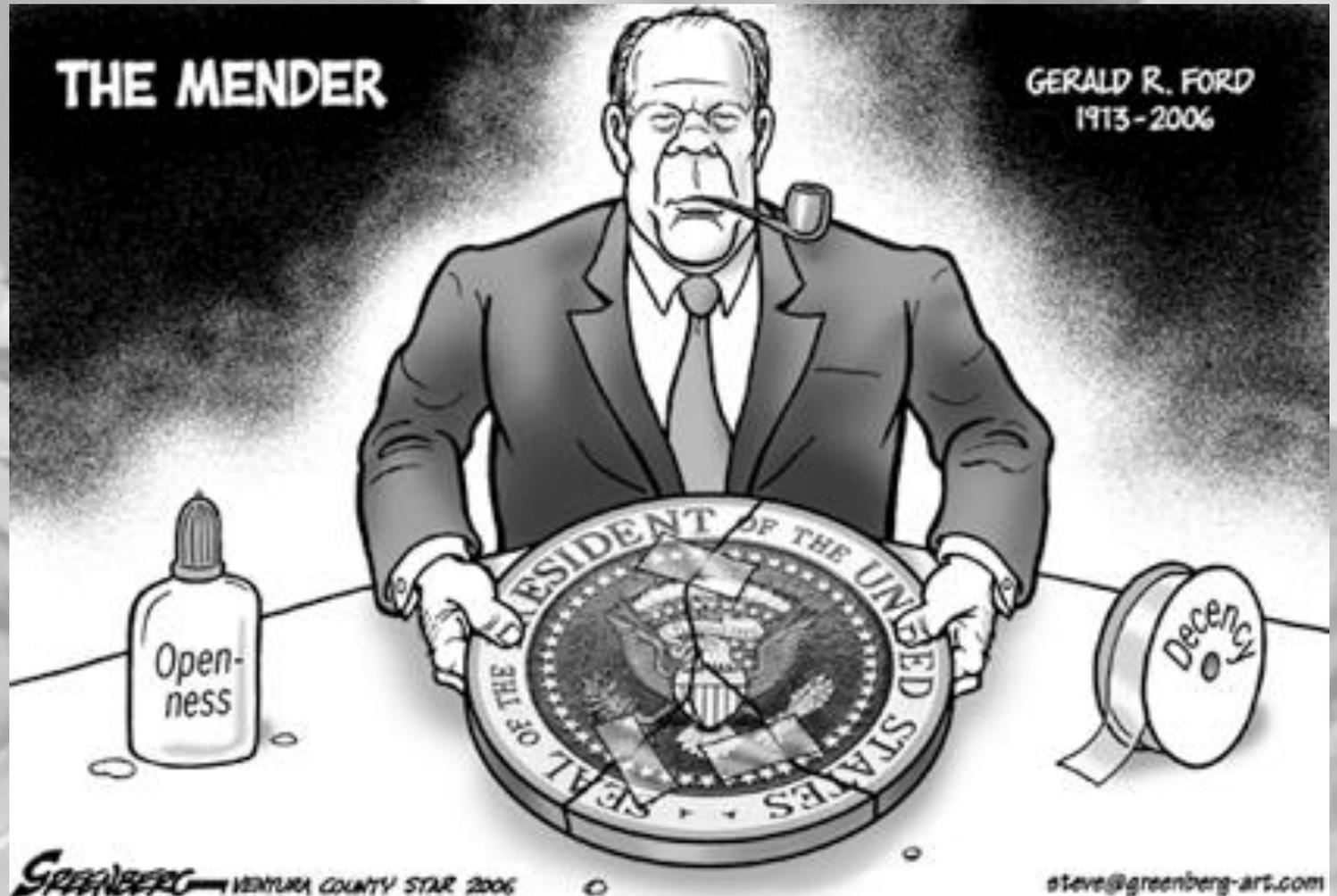
Gerald R. Ford

July 14, 1913 - Dec. 26, 2006

Distrust in govt → voter apathy → Freedom of Information Act ('67)
strengthened with the addition of the Privacy Act of '74 and the Govt in the
Sunshine Act of '76

- Allows citizens to request govt docs to check for accuracy within the executive branch

Promotes TRANSPARENCY → Opens up meetings of many govt agencies to the public



Ford Pardons Nixon

President Ford granted a full pardon to Nixon in '74 for any crime he may have committed

- Heavily criticized decision

Ford as President

In foreign affairs, Ford continued the policy of détente and kept on Kissinger as Secretary of State

- 15 May '75: Battle of Koh Tang as a result of the attempted rescue of the cargo ship—the *Mayaguez*—from the Khmer Rouge



South Vietnam Falls to Communism 29 April '75





1974: Ford attempted a public campaign that urged Americans reduce spending by driving less, carpooling, using less electricity, etc. in order to “Whip Inflation Now”

Caused factories to close →

Consumer demand for goods drops →

Unemployment rises

The Helsinki Accords

1 August 1975, Finland

-35 nations (mostly NATO & Warsaw Pact countries)

-Agreement reached dealing with issues of territorial boundaries, trade and exchange across the “Iron Curtain,” promised to uphold basic human rights and freedoms

-Expansion of the détente policy in the Cold War

→ SALT II

Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty

Refraining from the threat or use of force

Inviolability of frontiers

Territorial integrity of States

Peaceful settlement of disputes

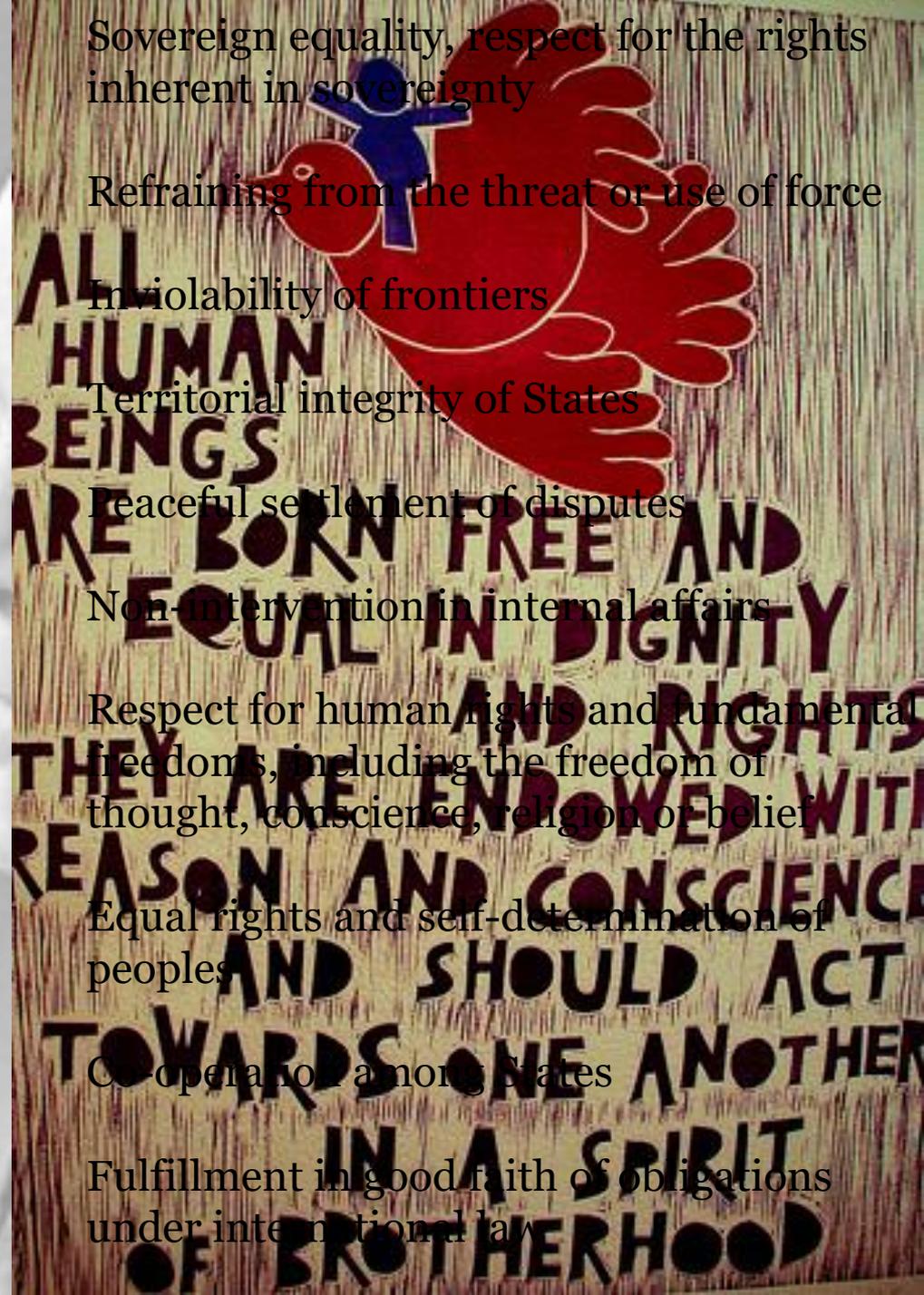
Non-intervention in internal affairs

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

Equal rights and self-determination of peoples

Co-operation among States

Fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law

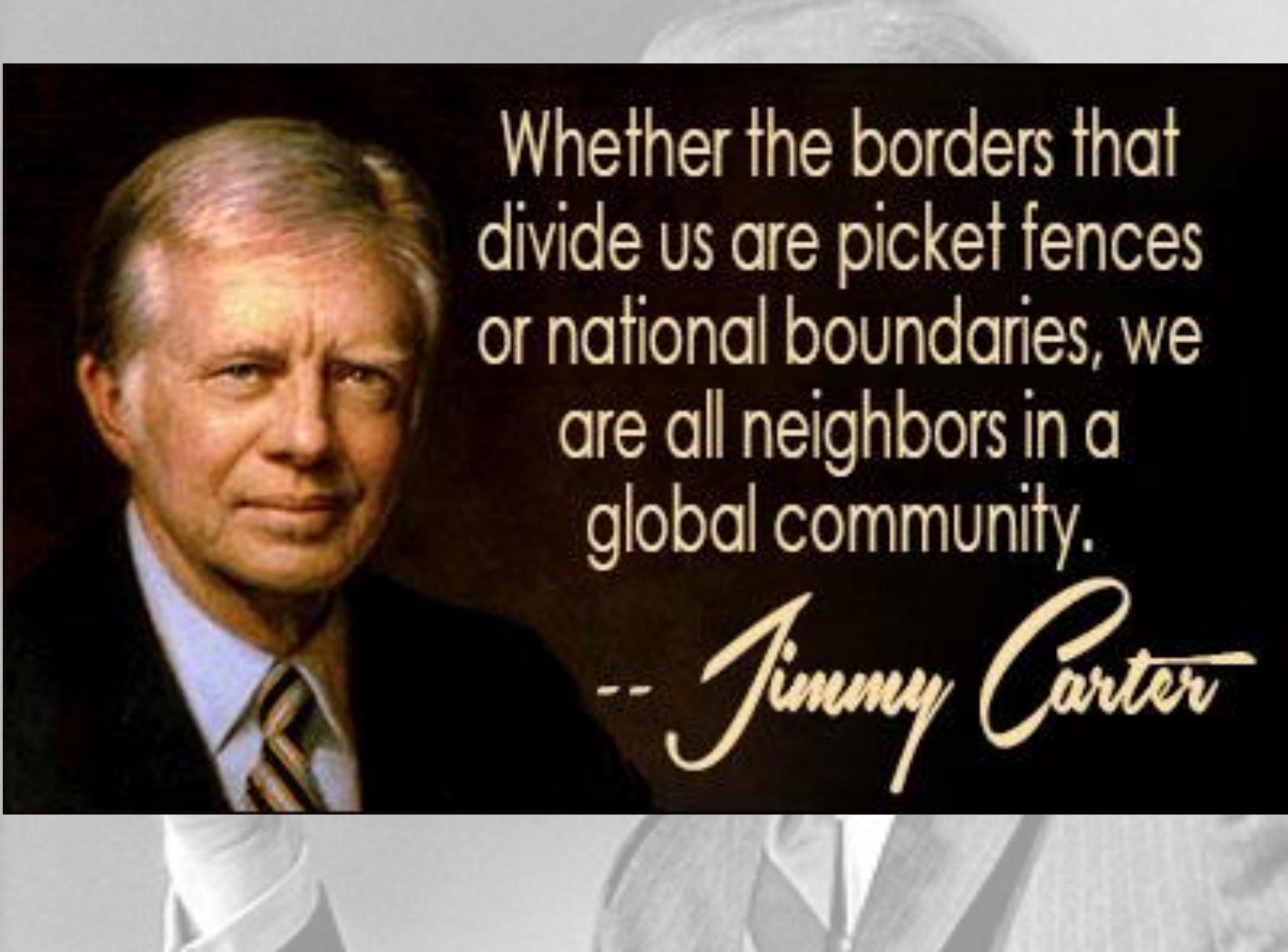


RATIFICATION OF BETRAYAL



LIFE

Leonid Brezhnev: Soviet General Secretary after Khrushchev's removal; in office from 1964-1982



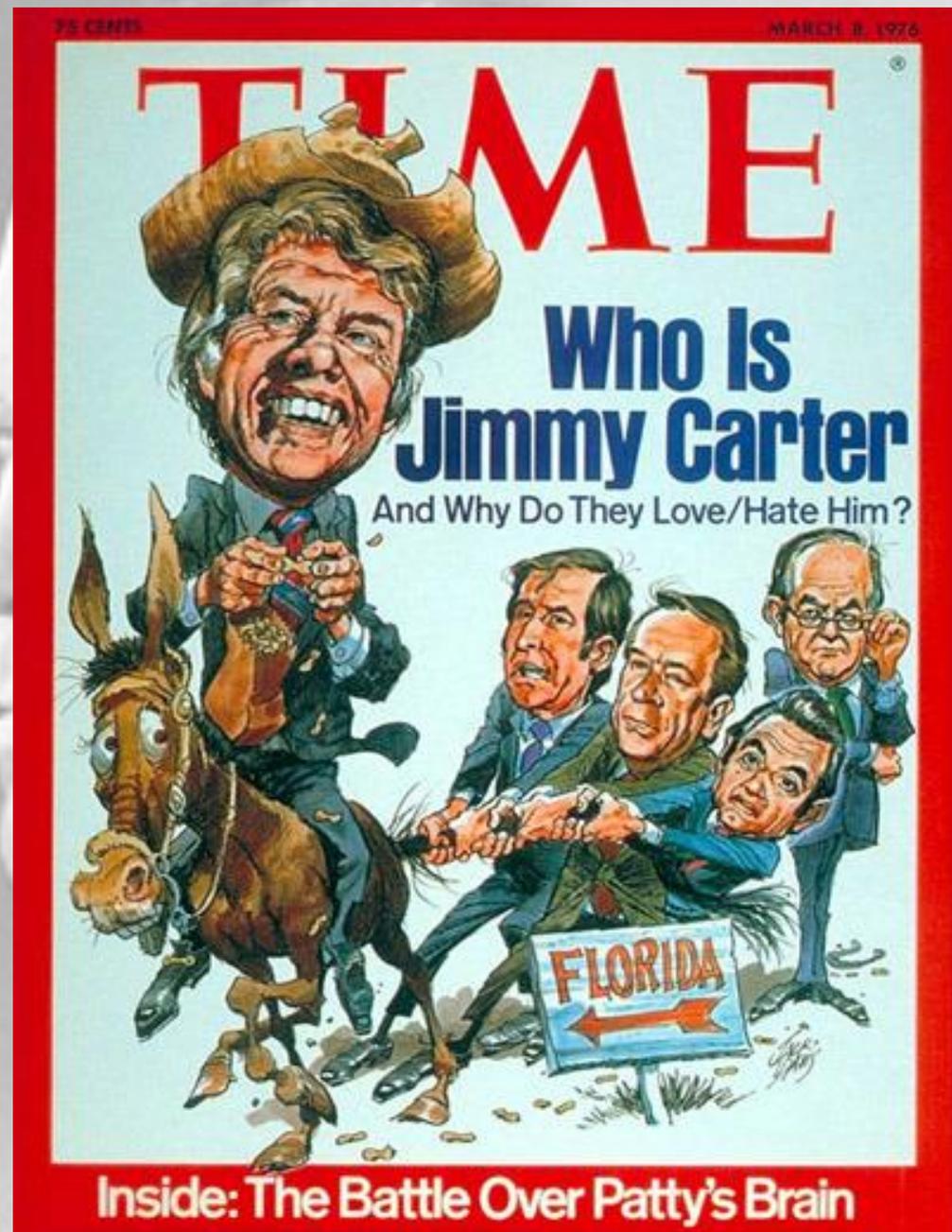
Whether the borders that divide us are picket fences or national boundaries, we are all neighbors in a global community.

-- Jimmy Carter

A political “outsider”
– Worked in his favor during the election,
but not during his
time in office

• Came across as
deeply religious, a
simple, honest “good
ole boy” from the
Georgia

• Passionate about
human rights issues





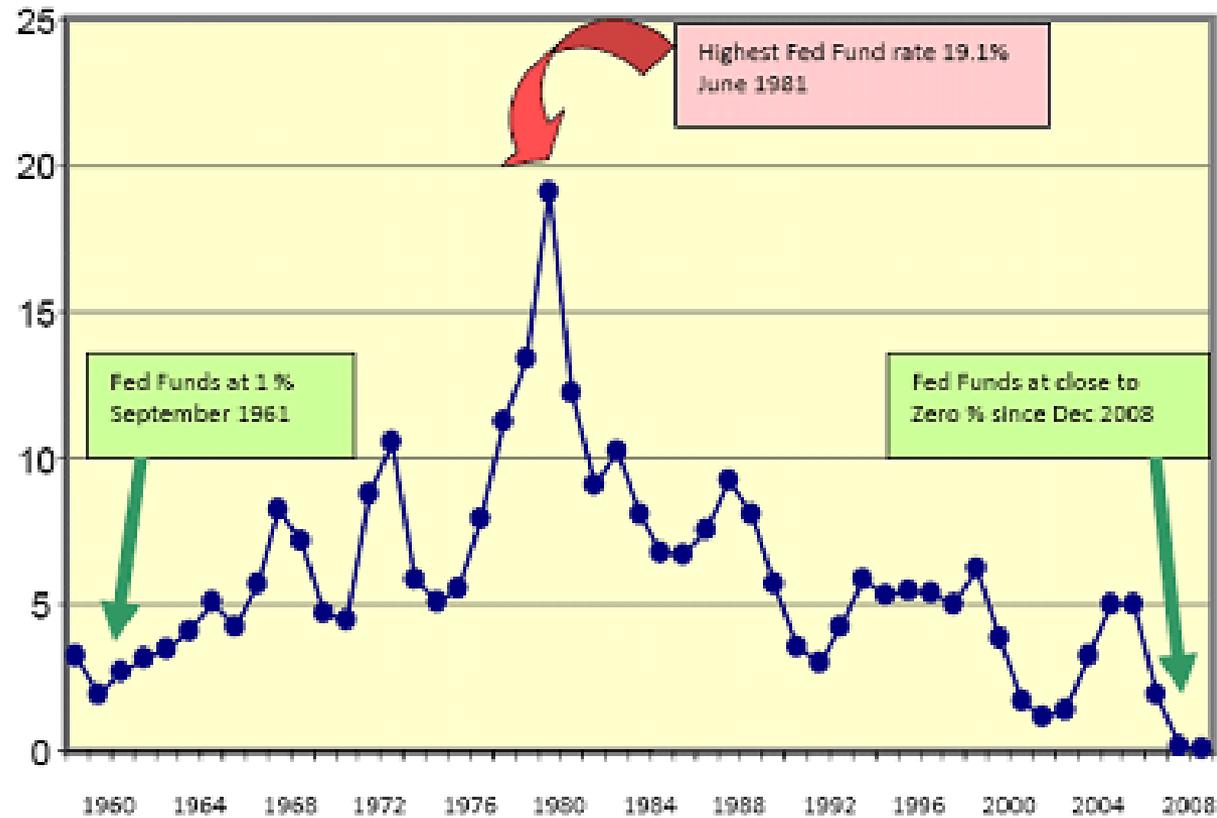
Amnesty Plan '77 – offered a group pardon to men who avoided military service in Vietnam or deserted the military → heavily criticized

Challenges Facing the Nation

The Economy and Energy

- Carter wanted to ease dependence on foreign oil through energy conservation, developing new energy supplies, and loosening gov't regulation of the American oil industry
- Asked Americans to conserve energy
- Promoted the development of alternative energy sources
- Carter and the Federal Reserve began to raise interest rates to try to help with inflation

Fed Funds Rate 1960 to 2010



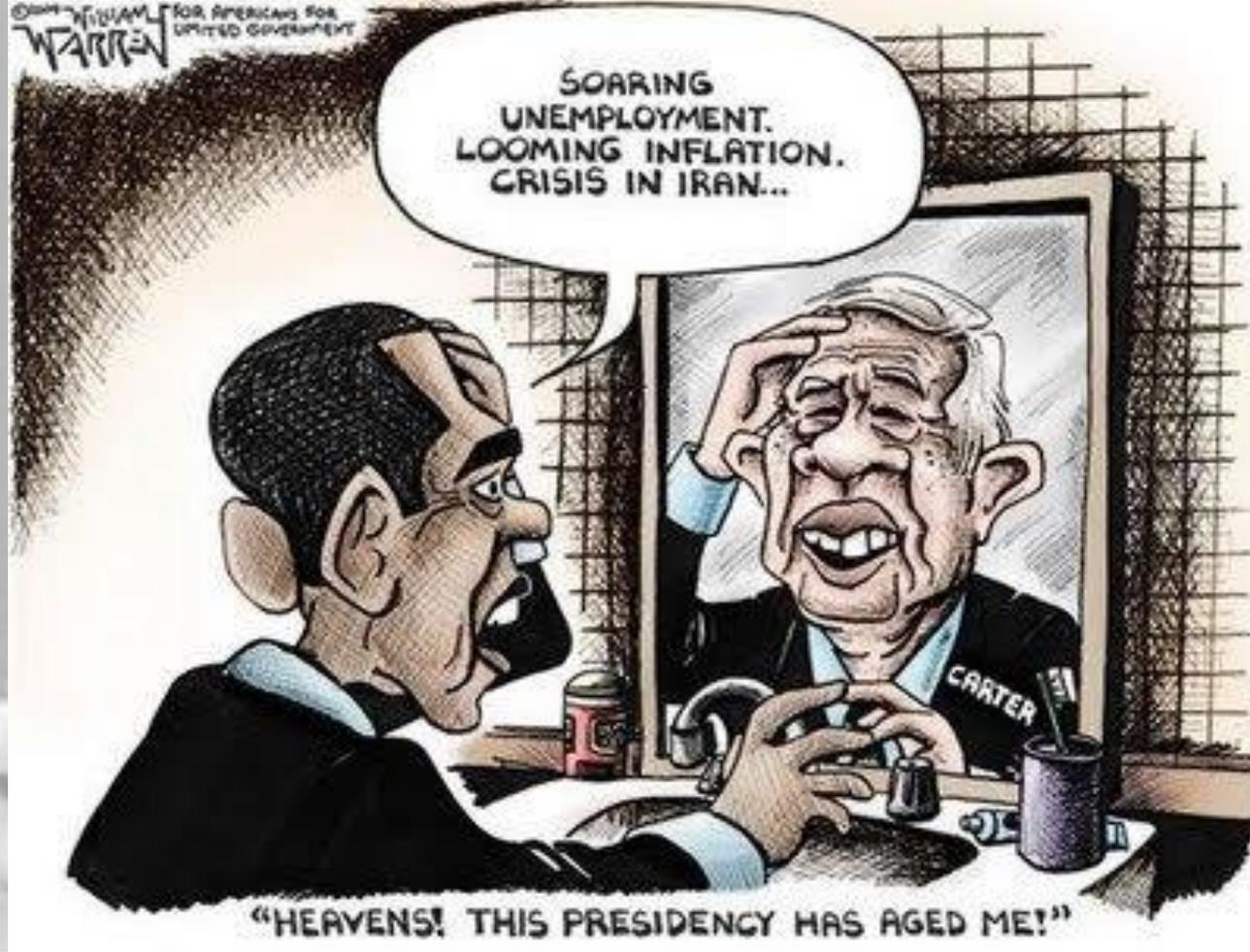
Data Source: Federal Reserve

Chart: © Gramercy Capital Management Corp 2010

Jimmy Carter's Speech on America's Energy Crisis

15 July 1979

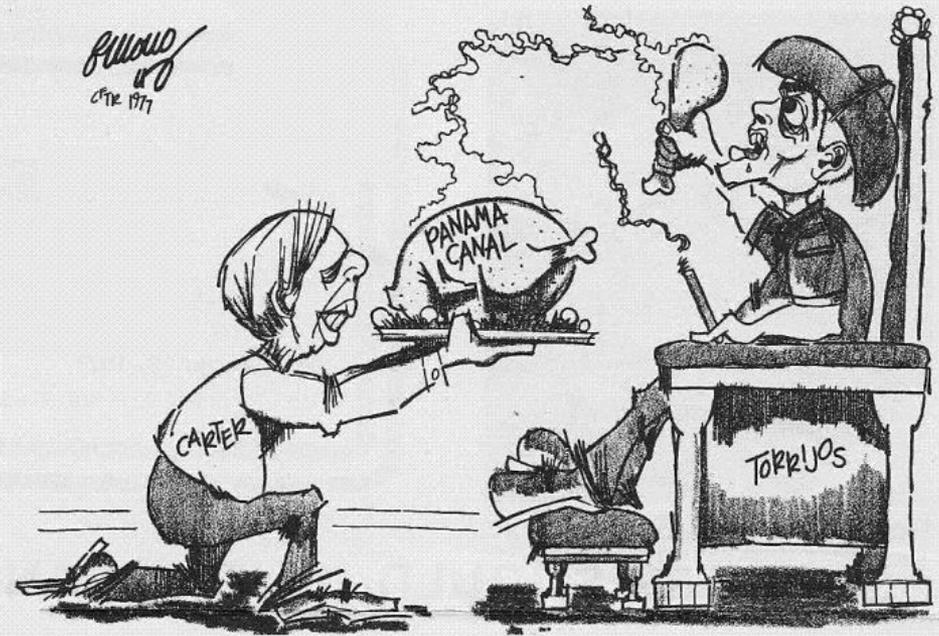
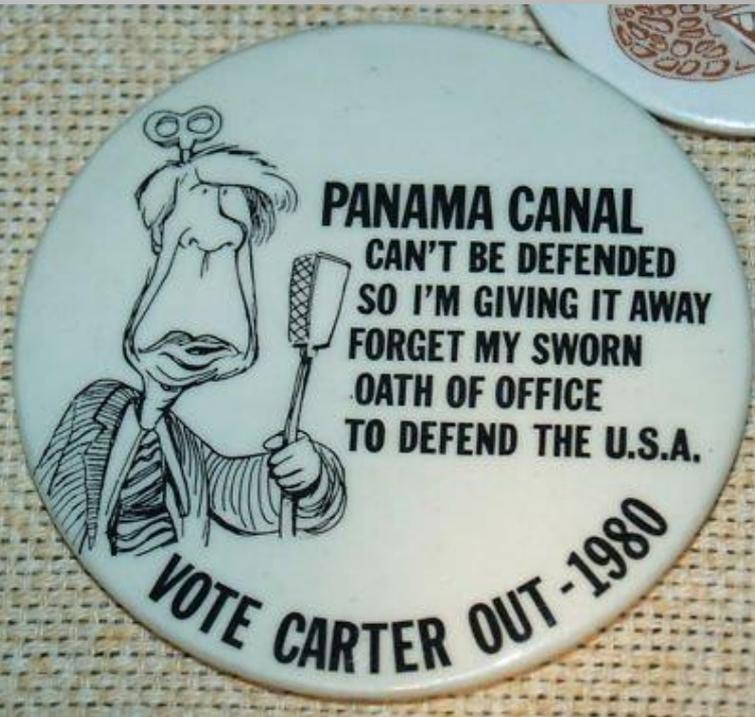




Impact

- The economy added many new jobs to help battle unemployment
- Carter was unable to bring down inflation, in fact, it got worse
- Carter's energy policies were successful at helping reduce American dependence on foreign oil
- American production of renewable energy increased under Carter

Carter's Foreign Policy



Torrijos-Carter Treaties

- American control of the Panama Canal had been a source of conflict between the two countries
- Sept. 1977 agreed that Panama would take control of the canal zone by 2000
- Senate narrowly approved the treaties in '78
- For some Americans, loss of control of the canal represented a decline in American power

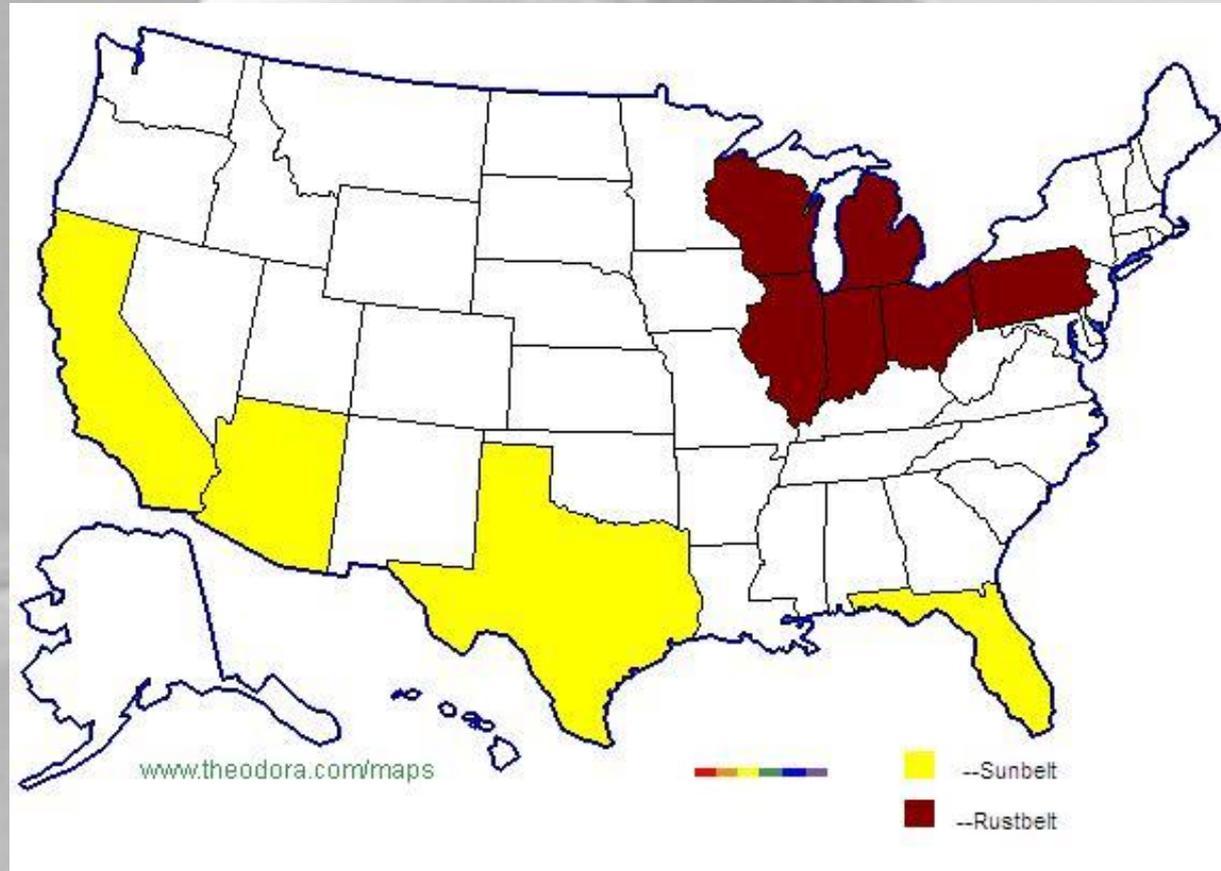
Three Mile Island, PA '79 – nuclear plant almost enters meltdown

- Carter visits with his wife, Rosalynn, to assure the nation that the radioactive gas had been contained
- Govt temporarily stopped building new nuclear power plants



The “Rustbelt”

- Midwestern and Northeastern local economies that had traditionally specialized in large scale manufacturing
- Area encountered several difficulties due to businesses moving to the Sunbelt:
 - Population loss
 - Depletion of local tax revenues
 - Chronic high unemployment



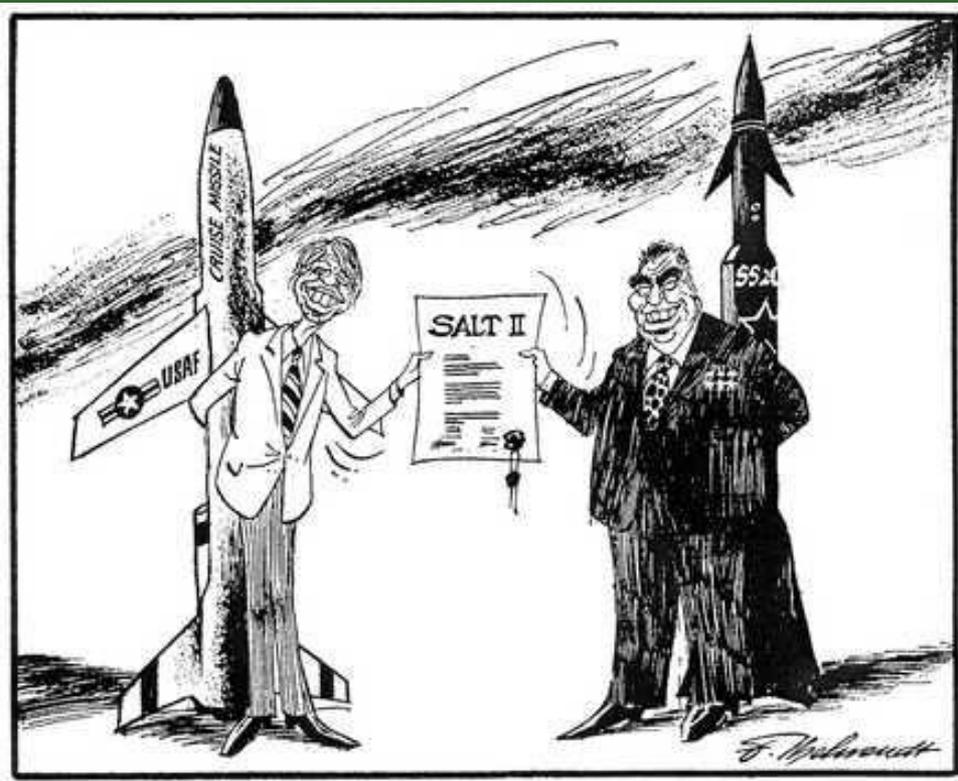
Carter's Cold War Actions

USSR:

- Carter wrote to Brezhnev about his concerns with Soviet human rights issues
- Brezhnev politely said that each country should mind their own business
- Concluded **SALT II** talks in 1979 that further limited ICBMs

China:

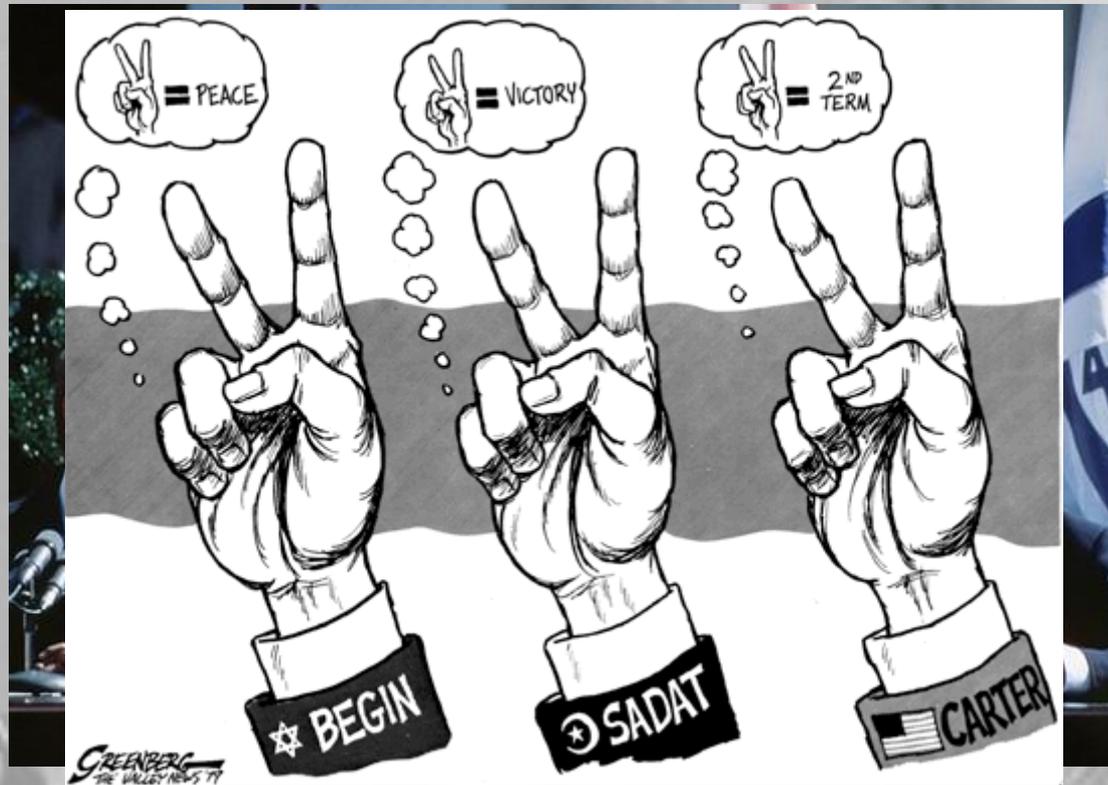
- '79: formally recognized the govt of the Communist People's Republic of China
- Ended recognition of the Republic of China on the island of Taiwan



Carter & the Cold War

- **SALT II Treaty:** never ratified due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- U.S. responds by boycotting the 1980 Olympics in Moscow





Camp David Accords

- Greatest foreign policy achievement in Carter's Admin.
- Conflict between Egypt and Israel continued; Egypt would not recognize Israel and Israel continued to occupy Egyptian territory
- Carter guided Anwar el-Sadat and Menachem Begin to a historic agreement that came to be called the **Camp David Accords**
- Begin and Sadat won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979



Carter receiving the Nobel Prize in 2002 "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development"



35221

SOVIET-AFGHAN WAR, 1979-1988

Mujahideen

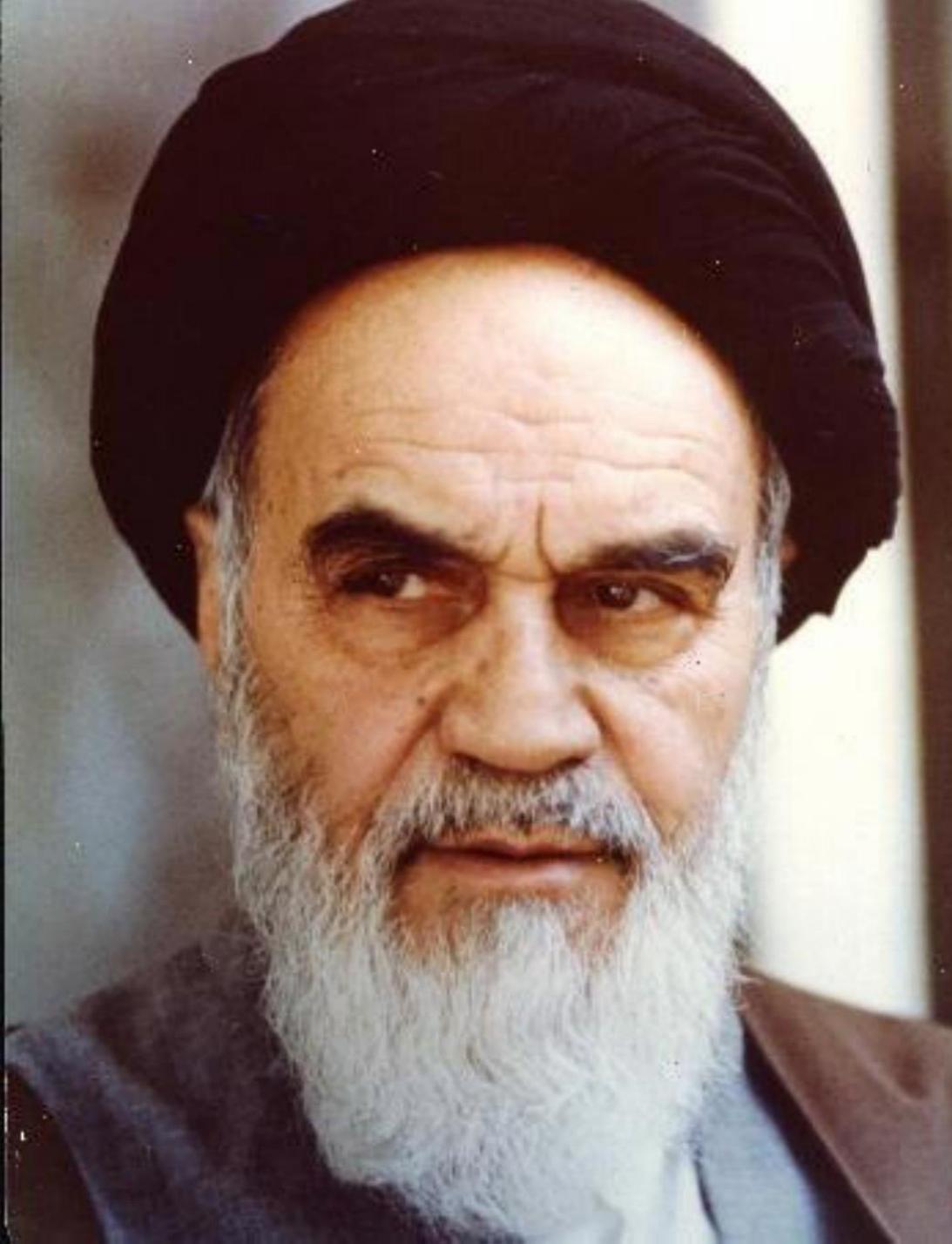
20th
CENTURY
LOCAL
CONFLICTS

1:35
SCALE



Afghanistan

- Soviets invaded Afghanistan to ensure continued communist rule in the country
- The attack threatened U.S.-Soviet relations and called into question Carter's ability to respond to Soviet aggression
- Carter blocked shipment of grain to the Soviet Union and said the U.S. would boycott the 1980 Olympics
- Americans did not like the grain embargo or the Olympic boycott because they seemed to hurt the U.S. as much as the Soviet Union



← Ayatollah
Khomeini



Shah of Iran

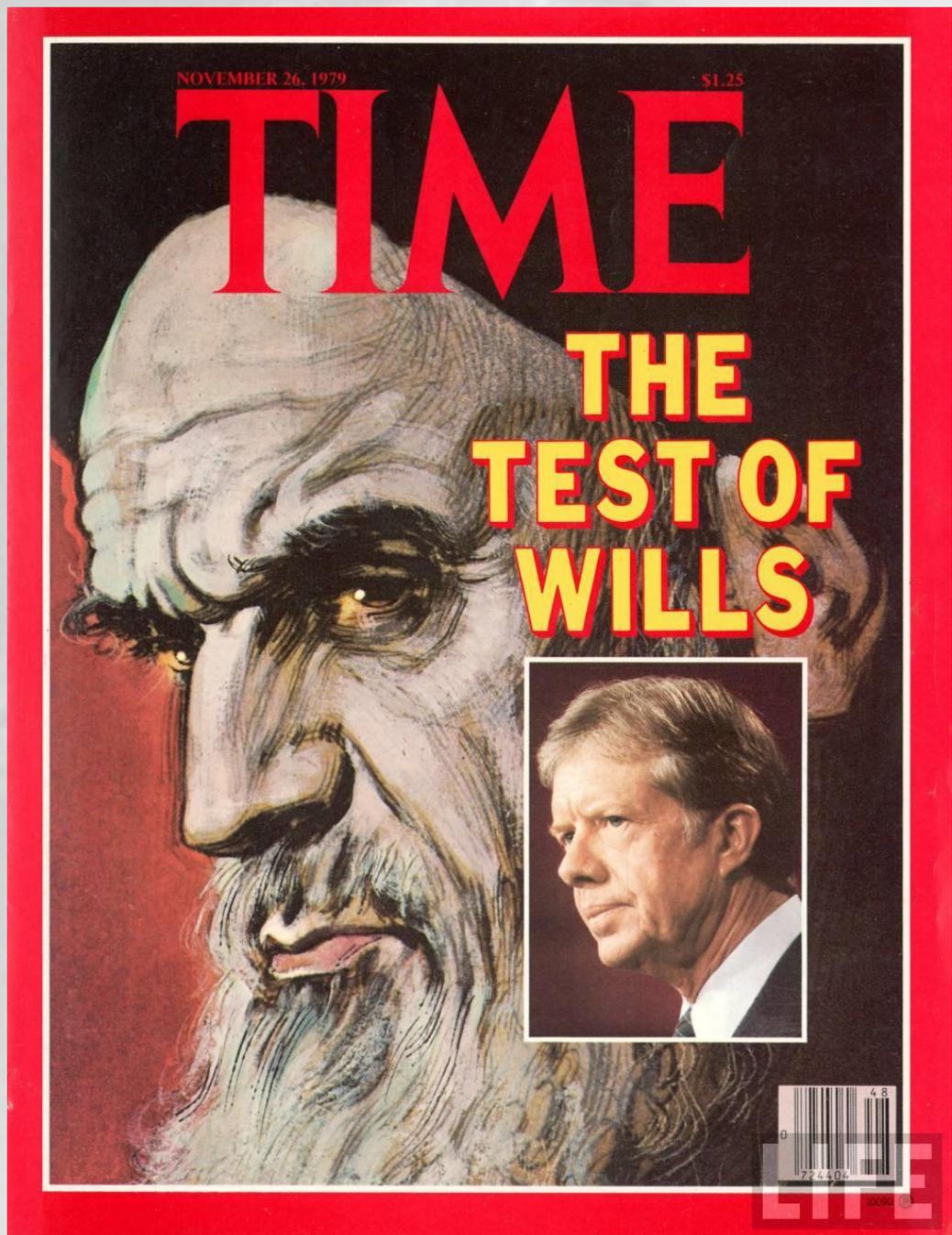


AP/WIDEWORLD

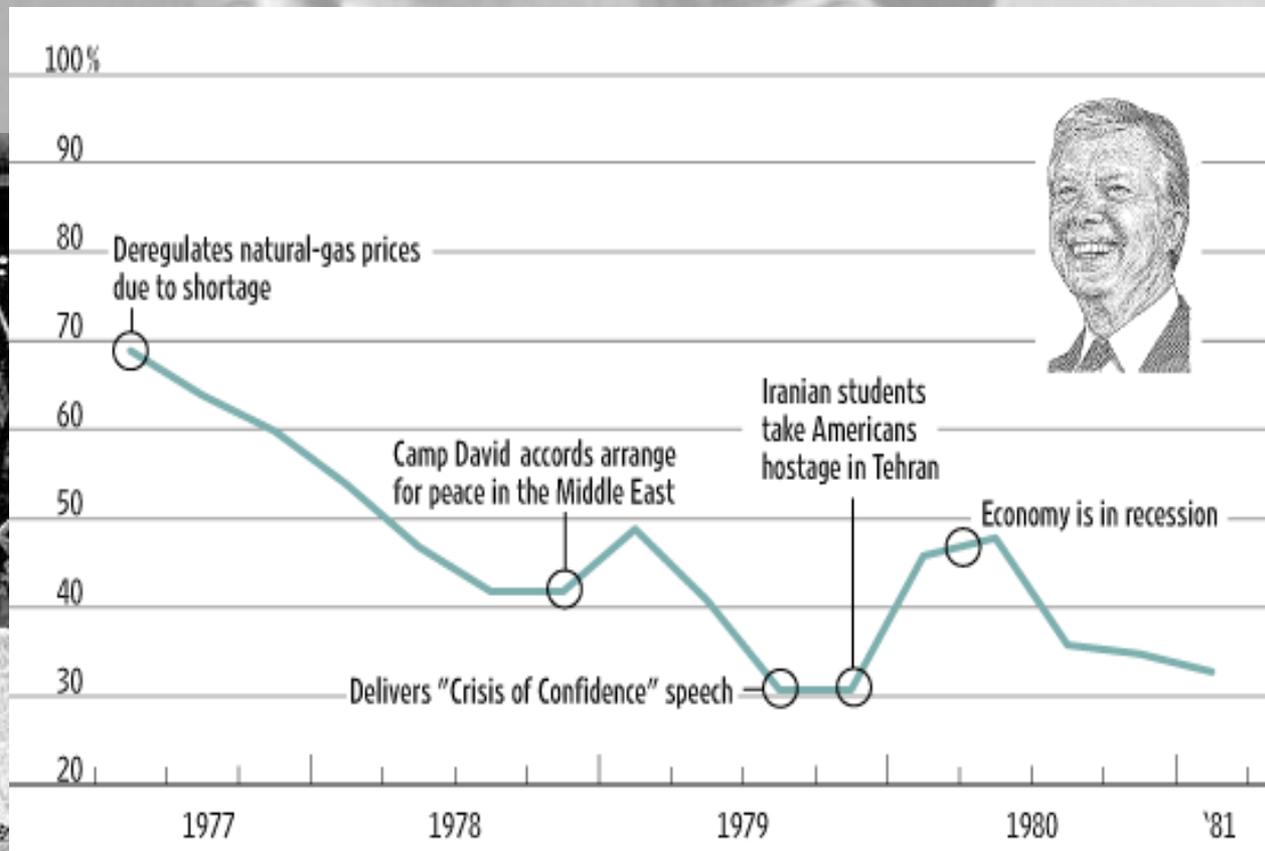
Iran Hostage Crisis

- Ayatollah Khomeini and fundamentalist Muslims seize power in Iran after the ailing Shah seeks medical help in the U.S.
 - U.S. had helped the Shah come to power in years prior with the help of the CIA (builds resentment)
- Revolution rises in the anti-American country
- Student radicals capture American citizens at the U.S. embassy and hold them hostage
- 52 Americans are held for 444 days

- The Iranian Hostage situation dragged on throughout the presidential election year of 1980
- The situation in Iran also drove up gasoline prices so that prices of goods in the U.S. went up and inflation soared
- Many voters held Carter responsible for the problems and the downcast mood of the country



- American morale is low, Carter's public opinion ratings are unsteady
- The U.S. hockey team beat the unstoppable Soviets in the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid → boosts morale
- Carter's administration failed to end the period of *stagflation* that persisted throughout most of the 1970s

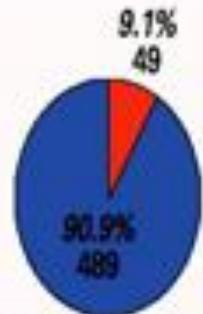
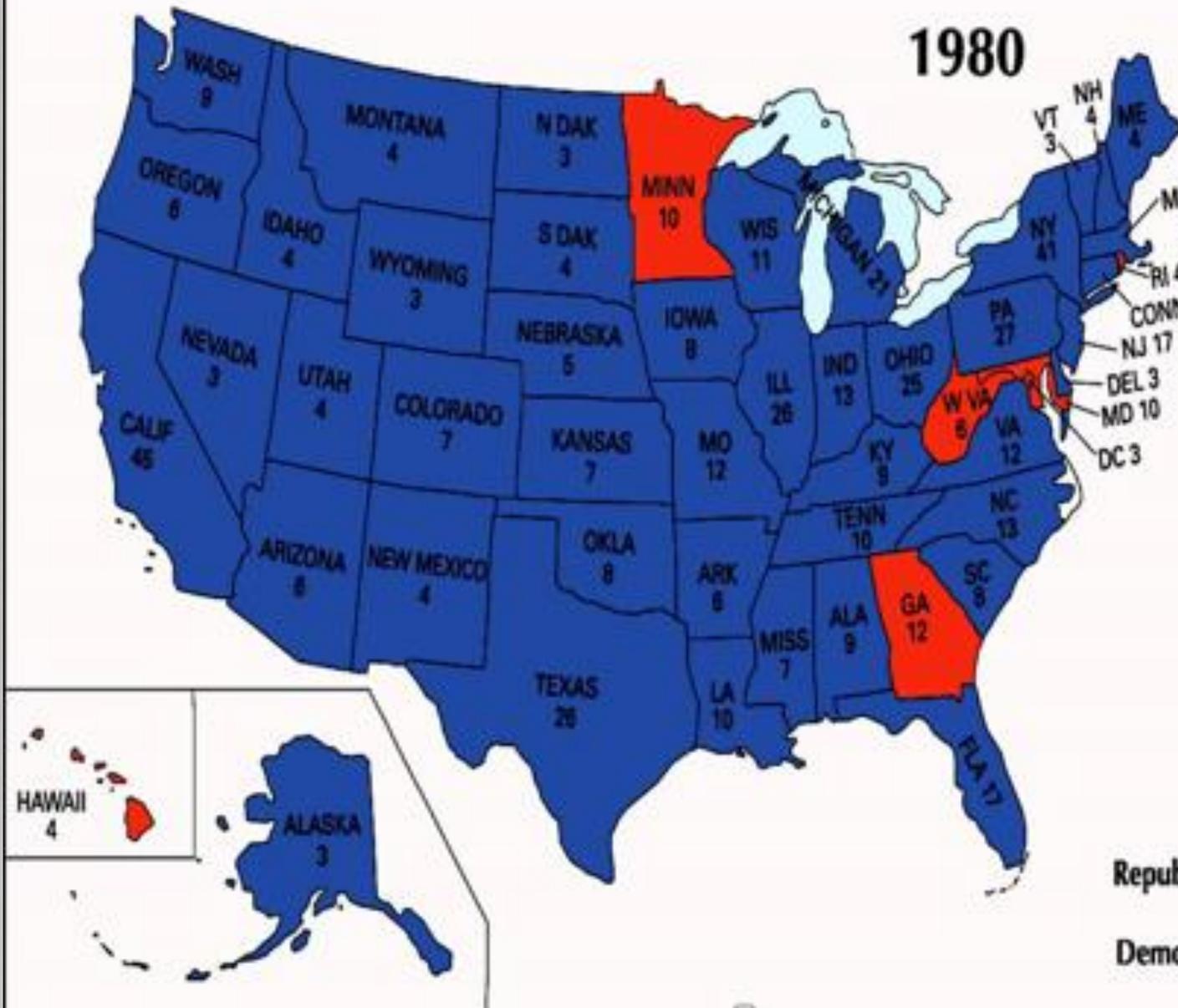


1980 Election



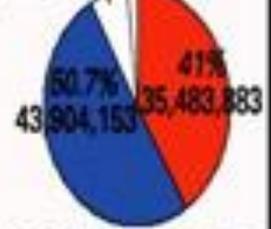
“Are you better off now than you were four years ago?”

1980



ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL: 538

ANDERSON 6.7%
5,720,060



POPULAR VOTE
TOTAL: 86,515,221

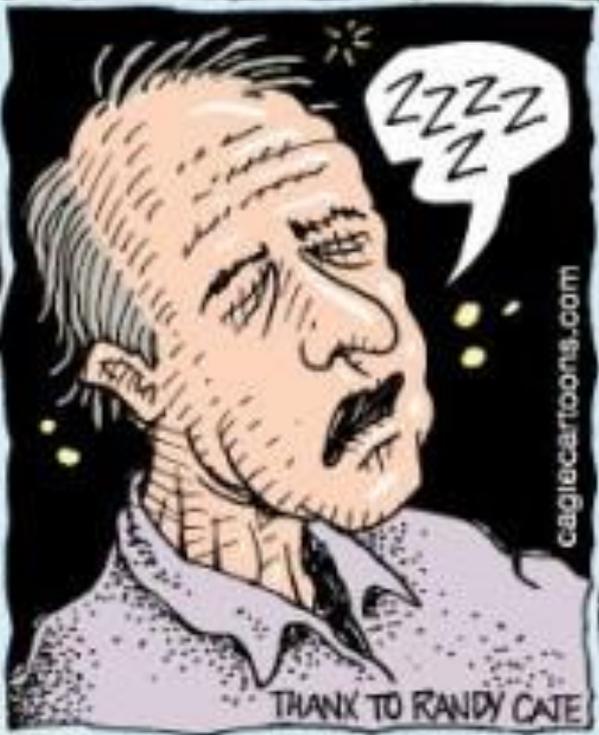
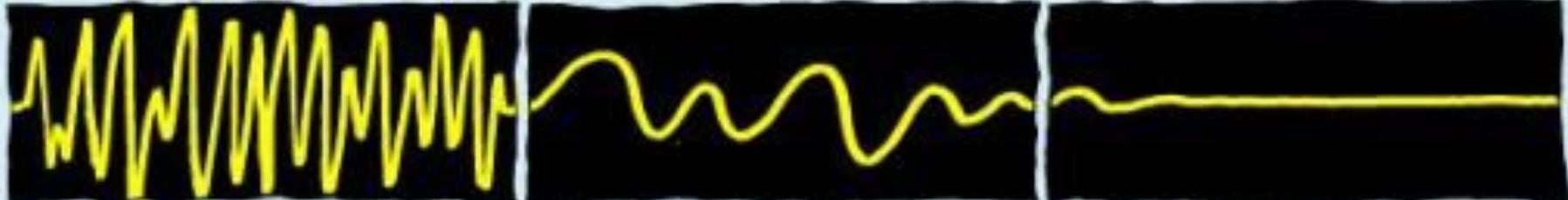
Republican (Reagan) 
Democratic (Carter) 

A brief history of Boomer political involvement...

1968

1985

2011



The "Me Generation" is the baby boom generation during the '70s → "self-realization" and "self-fulfillment" were becoming cultural aspirations among young people, who considered them far more important than social responsibility