

Ch 30 Section 5 The End of the War and Its Legacy

President Nixon and Vietnamization

The Pullout Begins

- New president **Richard Nixon** finds negotiations not progressing
 - National Security Adviser **Henry Kissinger** works on new plan
 - **Vietnamization**—U.S. troops withdraw, S. Vietnam troops take over
- “Peace with Honor”**

- Nixon calls for “peace with honor” to maintain U.S. dignity
- Orders bombing of N. Vietnam, Vietcong hideouts in Laos, Cambodia

Trouble Continues on the Home Front

Mainstream America

- **Silent majority**—moderate, mainstream people who support war

The My Lai Massacre

- News breaks that U.S. platoon massacred civilians in **My Lai** village
- Lt. William Calley, Jr., in command, is convicted, imprisoned

The Invasion of Cambodia

- 1970, U.S. troops invade Cambodia to clear out enemy supply centers
- 1.5 million protesting college students close down 1,200 campuses

Violence on Campus

- National Guard kills 4 in confrontation at **Kent State University**
- Guardsmen kill 2 during confrontation at Jackson State in MS
- 100,000 construction workers rally in NYC to support government

The Pentagon Papers

- Nixon invades Cambodia; Congress repeals Tonkin Gulf Resolution
- **Pentagon Papers** show plans to enter war under LBJ
- Confirm belief of many that government not honest about intentions

America’s Longest War Ends

“Peace is at Hand”

- 1971, 60% think U.S. should withdraw from Vietnam by end of year
- 1972 N. Vietnamese attack; U.S. bombs cities, mines Haiphong harbor
- Kissinger agrees to complete withdrawal of U.S.: “Peace is at hand”

The Final Push

- S. Vietnam rejects Kissinger plan; talks break off; bombing resumes
- Congress calls for end to war; peace signed January 1973

The Fall of Saigon

- Cease-fire breaks down; South surrenders after North invades 1975

The War Leaves a Painful Legacy

American Veterans Cope Back Home

- 58,000 Americans, over 2 million North, South Vietnamese die in war
- Returning veterans face indifference, hostility at home
- About 15% develop post-traumatic stress disorder

Further Turmoil in Southeast Asia

- Communists put 400,000 S. Vietnamese in labor camps; 1.5 million flee
- Civil war breaks out in Cambodia; Khmer Rouge seize power
- Want to establish peasant society; kill at least 1 million people

The Legacy of Vietnam

- Government abolishes military draft
- 1973 Congress passes **War Powers Act**:
 - president must inform Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops
 - 90 day maximum deployment without Congressional approval
- War contributes to cynicism about government, political leaders