



The Watergate Scandal

Outcomes: Nixon and Watergate

Nixon and Watergate

1. Nixon – The Man (1913-1994)

a. Self-Made Man

b. Political Path

- i. 1946 – First elected to Congress
- ii. 1950 – Won election to U.S. Senate from California
- iii. 1952 – Became Vice President under Eisenhower
- iv. 1960 – Lost Presidential Election to JFK (1st ever TV debate, close election)
- v. 1963 – Lost bid to become Governor of California (all washed up?)
- vi. 1968 – Won Presidential election over Hubert Humphrey of MN (close election)

Nixon vs. JFK Debate



Nixon and Watergate

2. Presidency (1969-1974)

a. Foreign Policy Successes led to Popularity

- i. Ended the Vietnam War (Great Peacemaker) **Setback** = Cambodia invasion
- ii. “Normalized” relations with China (Result of trip in Feb. 1972)
- iii. Summit meeting with Leonid Brezhnev of Soviet Union (May 1972) (SALT)
- iv. Détente reached with the two Communist powers

Nixon and Watergate

- b. Plans for reelection (CRP formed)**
 - i. Committee to Re-elect the President**
- c. 1972 – Landslide reelection over George McGovern (Lost only 1 state)**

Watergate



Nixon and Watergate

3. Watergate (senseless and unnecessary)

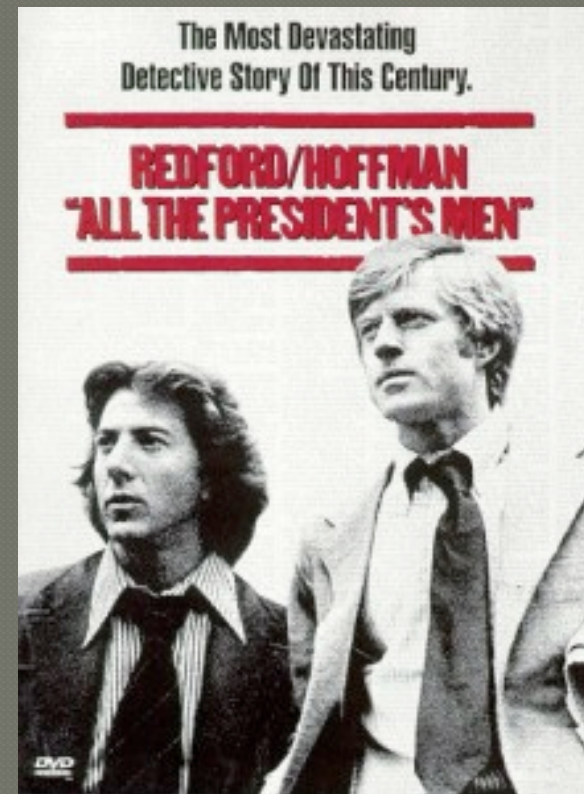
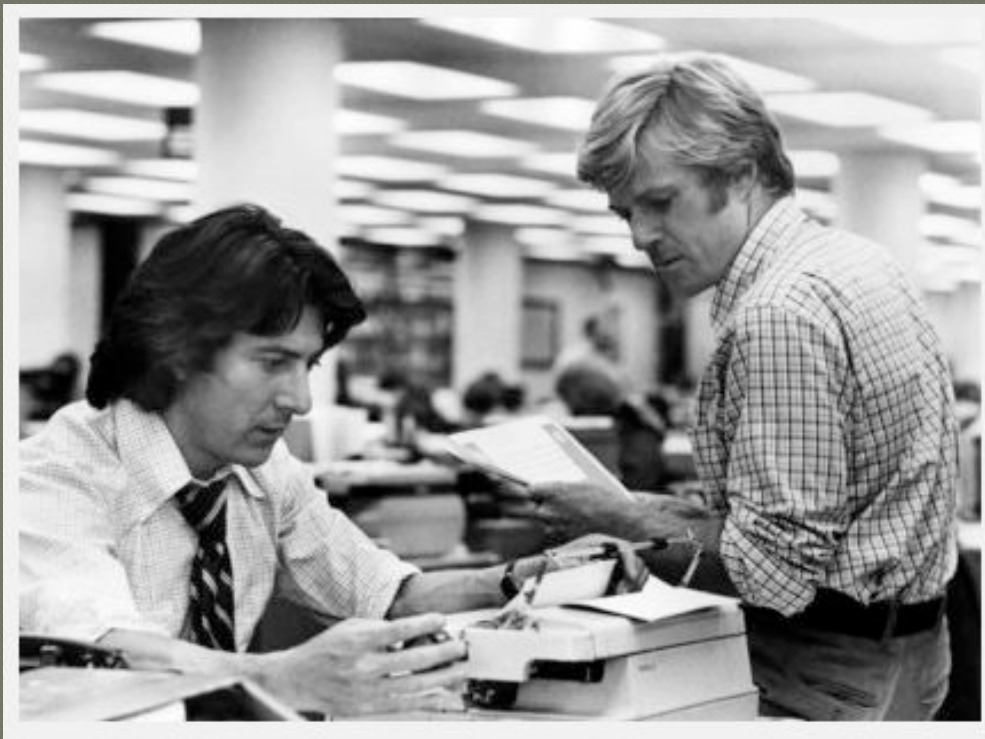
a. Background (June 17, 1972)

- i. 5 arrested for breaking into Democratic campaign headquarters
 - 1. Watergate Hotel and Office Complex, Washington D.C.
 - 2. All employed by CRP
- ii. 2 others implicated and arrested (both members of CRP) – a link to the White House
- iii. Reporters B. Woodward & C. Bernstein (Wash. Post) kept suspicion alive

Woodward & Bernstein



All the President's Men



Nixon and Watergate

a. The Cover-Up

- i. CRP & Nixon deny any involvement in a “conspiracy”
- ii. Nixon didn't order burglary, but did order the cover-up
 - 1. Evidence destroyed and hush money paid to “Plumbers”
 - 2. Tried to use the CIA to stop the FBI's investigation
- iii. Jan. '73 – burglars given jail terms & investigation began
 - 1. Senate Committee formed to investigate '72 election
 - 2. Chairman: Sam Ervin (Senator from North Carolina)
 - 3. Special Prosecutor: Archibald Cox

Players

SAM ERVIN



ARCHIBALD COX



Nixon and Watergate

c. Fall From Power

- i. May, '73: **Watergate hearings begin**
- ii. Alleged crimes: illegal campaign financing, political espionage, and misuse of the IRS to harass political enemies.
- iii. June, '73: John Dean testified that Nixon was involved & offered clemency to those who would take the blame
- iv. July, '73: Oval Office Audio Tapes were discovered (All conversations since '71)
- v. Fight over tapes --> Nixon cites "Executive Privilege" vs. Cox's subpoena

Important Testimonies

JOHN DEAN



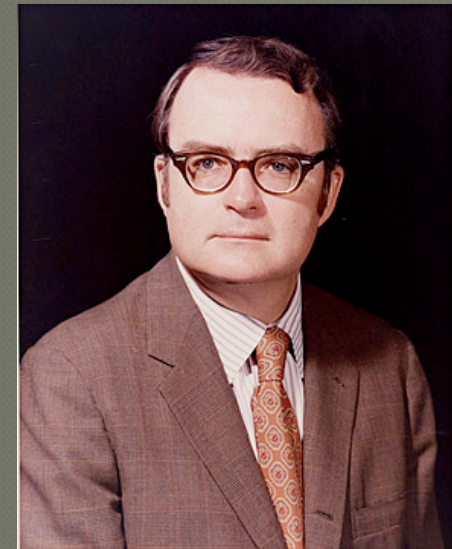
ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD



Nixon and Watergate

- vi. Oct. 21, '73: “**Saturday** Night Massacre” (Firings)
 - 1. Cox is **replaced** by Leon Jaworski as Special Prosecutor
- vii. House began “**Impeachment**” proceedings against Nixon for “Obstruction of Justice” and misuse of power (1st step in removal process).
- viii. Oct. 23, '73: Nixon gave up most written **transcripts**
- ix. Nov. '73: 2 tapes lost + 18 min **gap** (admission of **guilt?**)
- x. July, '74: In an 8-0 vote, the **Supreme Court** ordered all tapes be handed over
- xi. Tapes destroyed Nixon (proved involvement in cover up since June **23**, '72)

The Saturday Night Massacre



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- xii. House Judiciary Committee approved 3 articles of **Impeachment**
1. **Obstruction of Justice**
 2. **Abuse of Power**
 3. **Contempt of Congress**



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4. Resignation

- a. Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974
- b. Gerald Ford became President due to 25th Amendment



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5. Impact & Consequences

- a. Ford Granted Nixon a “full pardon” making Nixon immune to criminal prosecution
- b. Costly for Ford & Republicans
 - i. Ford committed “Political Suicide” (proven by '74 and '76 election results)
 - ii. Became known as the “Caretaker President”
- c. Disrespect for government & its leaders to this day

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- d. Changes occurred in government:
 - i. More rules/restrictions on campaign financing
 - ii. More “watch-dog” groups formed to watch the government (accountability)
- e. Hope for the U.S. --> The system worked & the Constitution survived.