



MR. POGREBA, PARKER SCHOOL

**UNIT 8: AMERICAN WORLD POWER,
THE VIETNAM WAR, & THE YOUTH
MOVEMENT**

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, 1953-1980

1953-60



34

DWIGHT EISENHOWER (GOP)

A World War 2 hero, Eisenhower was elected in two landslide elections

1961-63



35.

JOHN KENNEDY (DEM)

Elected in one of the closest elections in American history, assassinated in 1963.

1963-68



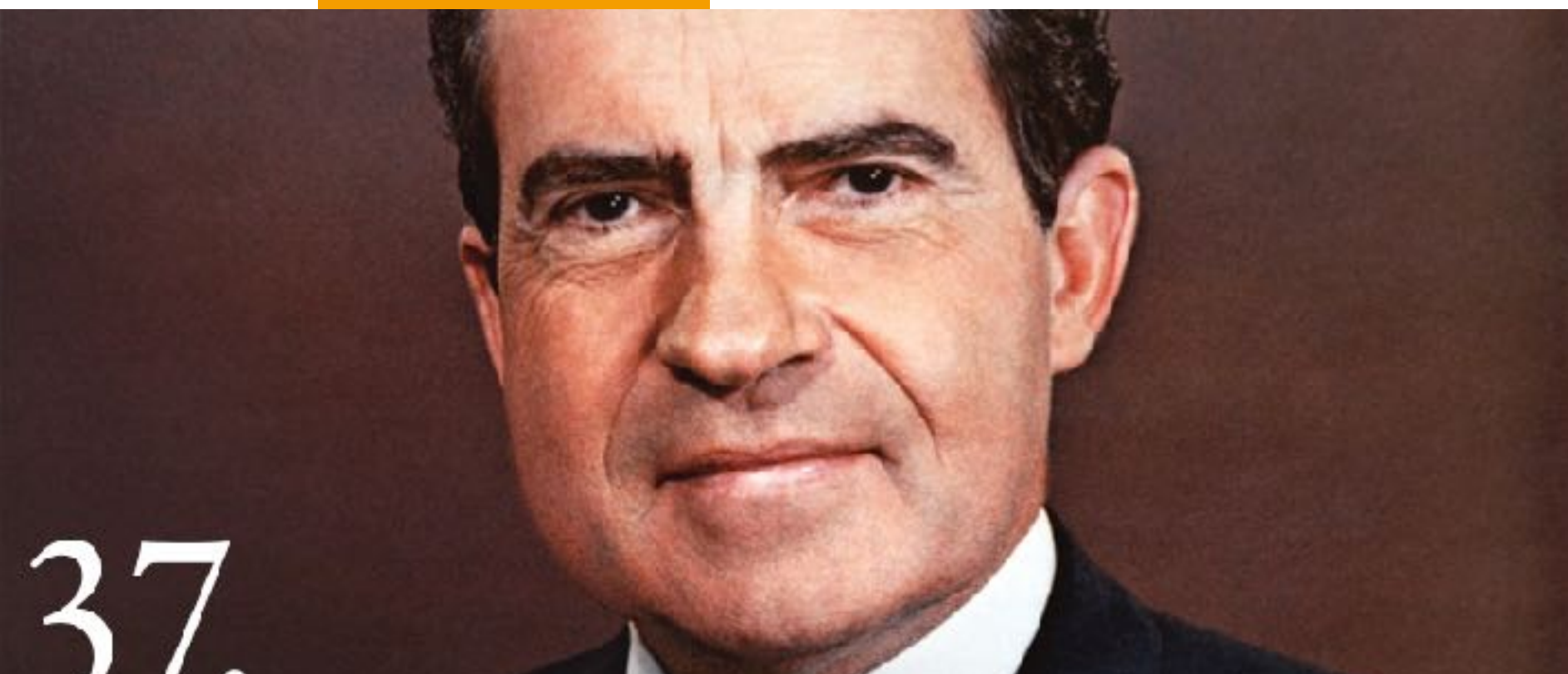
36.

LYNDON JOHNSON (DEM)

Took power in 1963, elected by a wide margin in 1964, decided not to run in 1968.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, 1953-1980

1968-74



37.

RICHARD NIXON (GOP)

Elected by a huge margin in '68 and '72, forced to resign after Watergate.

1974-76



38.

GERALD FORD (GOP)

Former Speaker of the House, he was tapped as VP after Spiro Agnew was forced to resign.

1977-80



39.

JIMMY CARTER (DEM)

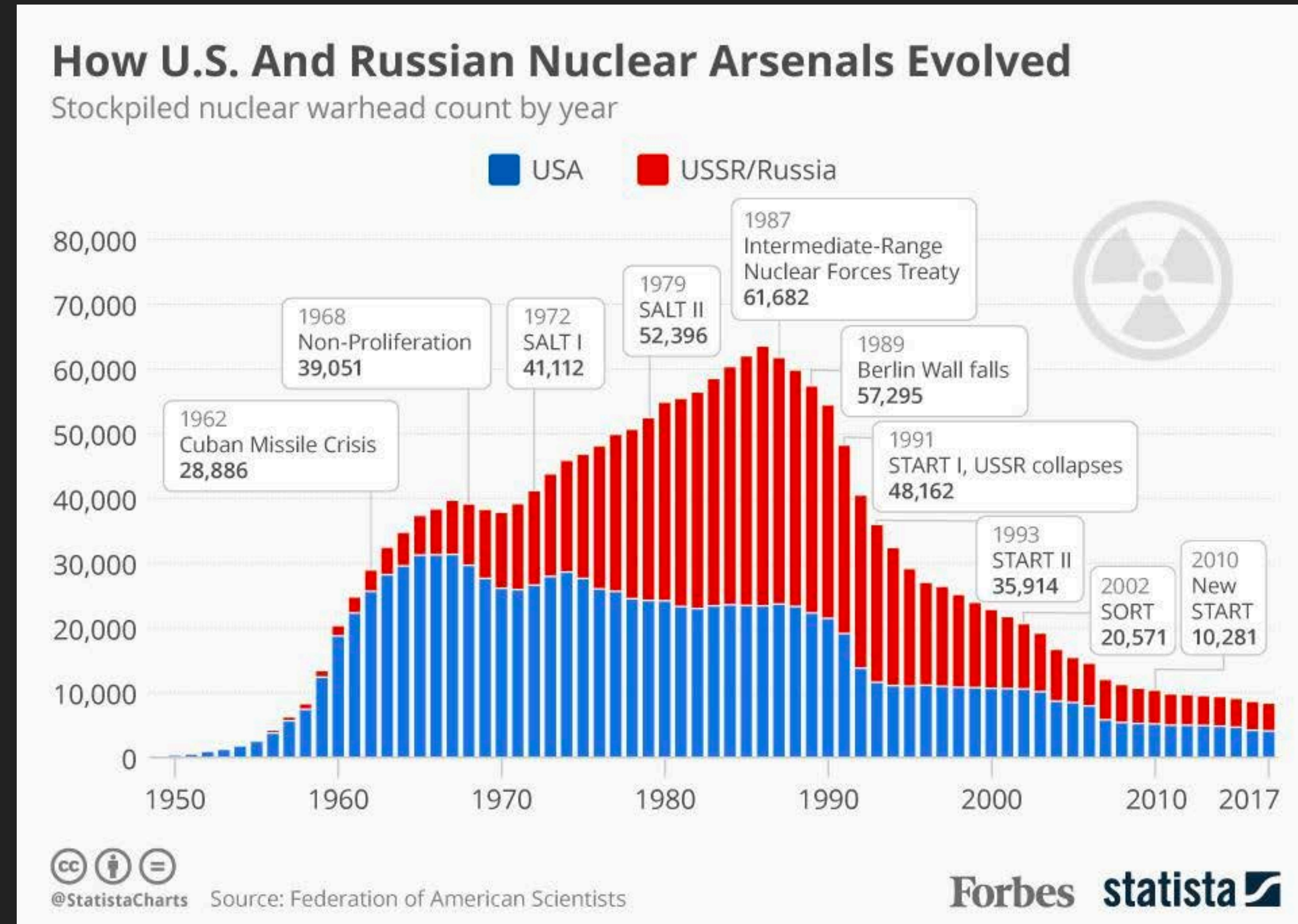
Narrowly defeated Ford as an outsider candidate but lost re-election bid to Reagan in '80.



AMERICAN POWER

FOREIGN POLICY UNDER EISENHOWER

- ▶ The US shifted to a policy of **massive retaliation** using nuclear and air power to avoid huge expenditures and a policy of **brinkmanship**.
- ▶ **The Arms Race** kicks off in full force. In 1949, the USSR tested its first bomb and both nations exploded **hydrogen bombs**.
- ▶ At its peak, the US and USSR had over **61,000 nuclear warheads**.
- ▶ Americans start building **fallout shelters**.
- ▶ The space race kicks off when the USSR launches **Sputnik**, the first satellite.
- ▶ At the end of his term, Eisenhower warned the nation about the power of the **military-industrial complex**.



EVOLUTION OF THE ARMS RACE

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

- ▶ Tensions grew with the Soviet Union through the 1950s.
 - ▶ **Hungarian Revolution (1956)**
 - ▶ **U-2 Incident (1959)**
 - ▶ **Cuban Revolution (1956-59)**
 - ▶ In 1959, Castro takes over Cuba, creating a Soviet satellite 90 miles from the United States.



U-2 SPY PLANE

THE KENNEDY ADMIN (1961-63)

- ▶ Kennedy commits to put a **man on the moon by 1970**. The US spends \$25 billion to achieve it.
- ▶ In Latin American, Kennedy commits \$20 billion for economic development but it often supports authoritarian regimes.
- ▶ **The Bay of Pigs** (1961) was a failed US-backed CIA operation to overthrow Castro.
- ▶ **The Cuban Missile Crisis** (1962) was the closest flashpoint of the Cold War when the US Navy announced a blockade to stop nuclear weapons there.



CAPTURED INVADERS AFTER BAY OF PIGS

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION (1968-1974)

- ▶ Issues the **Nixon Doctrine**, saying that after Vietnam, the US would not supply direct military protection in Asia.
- ▶ In 1972, **Nixon went to China** and opened the door to diplomacy as a hedge against the USSR.
- ▶ American foreign policy was rooted in **realpolitik**, a focus on American power and not world opinion.
- ▶ Nixon attempted to establish a policy of **détente**, a thaw in the Cold War. The **SALT Treaty** was the first effort to limit nuclear arms.



NIXON AND MAO

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ In 1979, Jimmy Carter brokered the **Camp David Accords**, a peace deal between Egypt and Israel that ended the conflict between the two nations.
- ▶ In 1979, the US-backed Shah of Iran was deposed and the **Ayatollah Khomeini**, an Islamic fundamentalist came to power. **American hostages** were held captive at the US Embassy for 444 days.

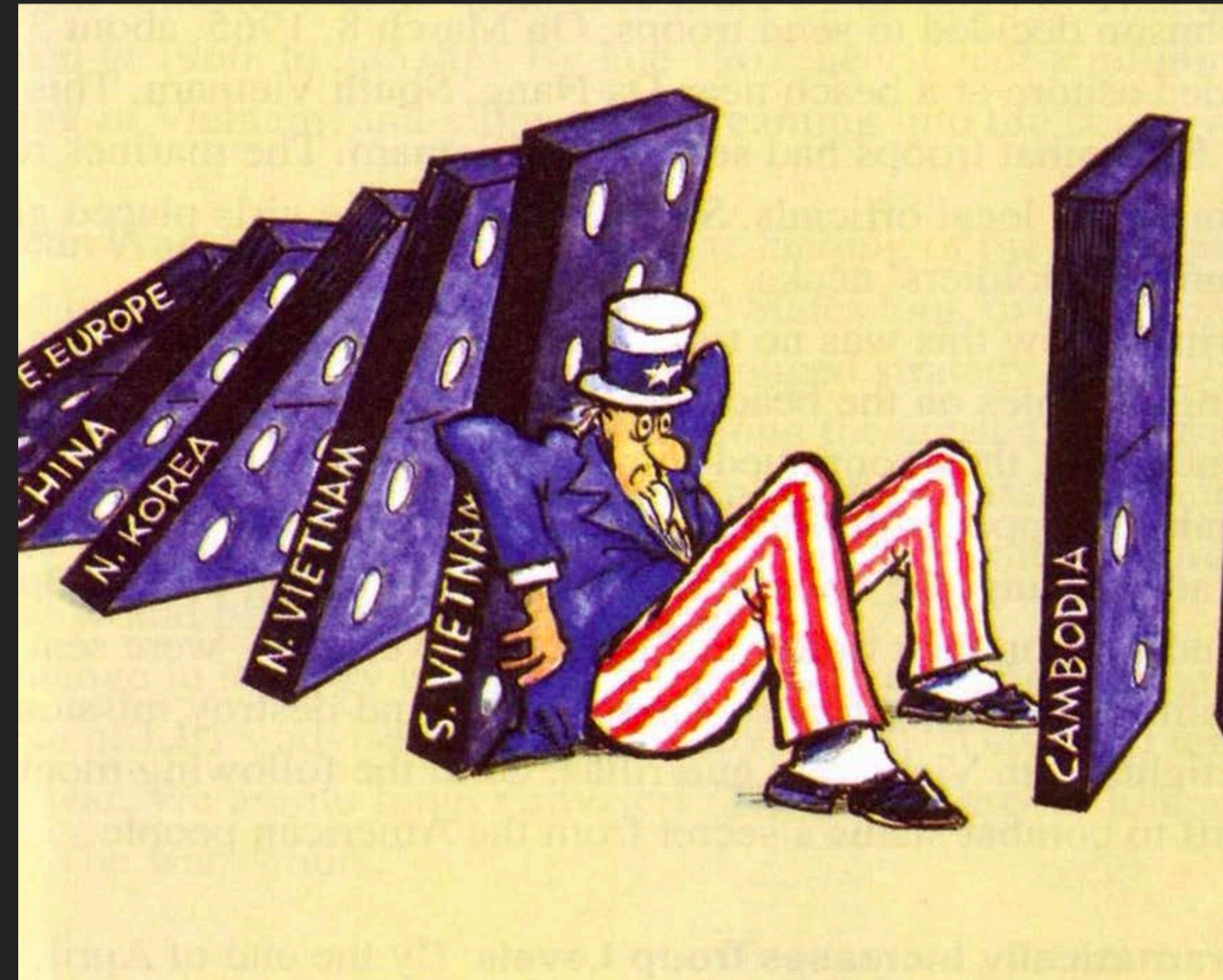




THE VIETNAM WAR

COLONIAL ROOTS OF THE WAR

- ▶ American foreign policy in the early Cold War was dominated by the **domino theory**, the belief that the US needed to check the spread of communism.
- ▶ At the end of World War 2, **Ho Chi Minh** declared an independent Vietnam and began a campaign against French occupation in the North. When French power collapsed, the US began funneling aid and military assistance to the government in the South.
- ▶ By 1963, there were **17,000 American "advisers" in Vietnam**. Kennedy announced he would withdraw troops but he was assassinated before he could.



DOMINO THEORY

JOHNSON ESCALATES THE WAR

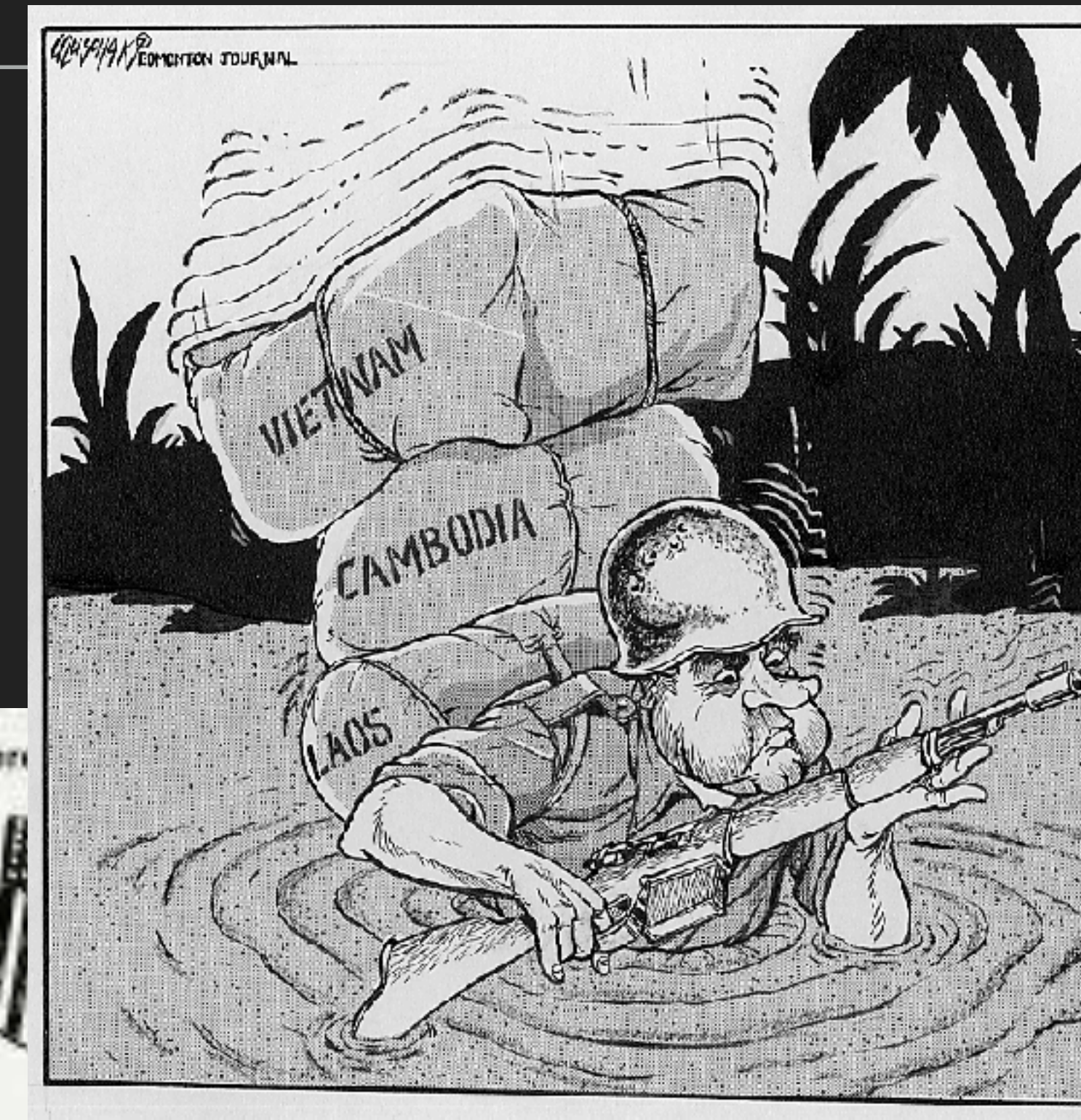
- ▶ The **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** (1964) empowered the President to repel aggression. Johnson used it to dramatically expand military presence and bombing.
- ▶ Between 1965-1975, the US dropped 7.5 million tons of bombs on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, double the amount in WW2.
- ▶ In 1968, the **Tet Offensive** was a major turning point. 549,000 American soldiers were in Vietnam, with 22,000 deaths as anti-war sentiment grew.



**CAPTURED NORTH VIETNAMESE
SOLDIER AFTER TET**

NIXON IN VIETNAM

- ▶ Elected in 1969, Nixon promised to bring an American victory. He called for a policy of **Vietnamization**, transferring responsibility to South Vietnamese forces while expanding a massive expansion in bombing, including in neighboring **Cambodia**.
- ▶ Anger over the war leads to the passage of the **War Powers Act** over Nixon's veto.
- ▶ A ceasefire is signed in 1973, but the Vietnam war cost the US \$150 billion dollars, **58,000 lives**, and its confidence in its power.
- ▶ The nation is deeply divided and after the withdrawal of US troops in 1975, **Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia all become Communist**.



CARTOONS FROM VIETNAM ERA



RESIST *the* DRAFT
DON'T REGISTER

YOUTH MOVEMENT

STUDENT MOVEMENTS AND THE NEW LEFT

- ▶ College campuses became centers of liberal and counter-culture thought.
 - ▶ **Students for Democratic Society (1962)**
 - ▶ **Free Speech Movement at Berkeley**
- ▶ **Hippie Movement**
 - ▶ A youth movement centered on rebellion against norms about dress, drugs, music, capitalism.
 - ▶ **Woodstock Music Festival (1969)** was its peak.
- ▶ **Sexual Revolution**
 - ▶ The introduction of the **birth control pill (1960)** and changing social mores in film and culture led to changes in family structure.



STUDENT MARCH

ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

- ▶ College campuses also become centers of resistance to the war. The first major march was in 1965, with **300,000 marching in NYC in 1967.**
- ▶ The SDS led sit-ins, draft card burnings, and marches.
- ▶ Draft Resisters
 - ▶ In 1967, boxer **Muhammad Ali** refused to be drafted. His conviction was overturned in 1971 by the Supreme Court.
 - ▶ **10,000 draft resisters** fled to Canada.
 - ▶ Deferments meant that many wealthy white kids did not have to serve in the war.



ANTI-WAR PROTEST, PHILADELPHIA