

**JCC: President
Carter's Cabinet,
1979-1981
Background Guide**

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Letter from the Chair

Hello delegates,

Welcome to President Carter's Cabinet! My name is Peyton Brown and I am delighted to be your chair for EagleMUNC IX! To give some background about myself, I am a junior at Boston College studying Environmental Studies. I am originally from Scituate, Massachusetts. In my spare time, I love listening to music, volunteering for political campaigns, and spending time with friends. As for my Model UN experience, this will be my third year in EagleMUNC. In EagleMUNC VII, I served as a Simulation Staffer for two committees: The Human Rights Campaign and the Flint City Government. For EagleMUNC VIII I was chair of the Constituent Assembly of India 1946. Prior to college, I participated in Model UN for all four years of high school, including attending EagleMUNC twice as a delegate myself.

We will begin committee in the middle of the summer of 1979 following the departure of six cabinet members at the request of President Carter. The United States is grappling with a major fuel shortage and Americans are disgruntled at how their summer vacations have shaped up. Long lines at the pumps have worried consumers that this summer will be another 1973. President Carter's popularity has been shaky this year and Americans are looking for strong, stable leadership. As delegates, you will advise President Carter through his first term. You are tasked with steering the United States through the 20th century. It is up to you to determine the role of the United States during the Cold War both at home and abroad.

The Carter Cabinet is a Joint Crisis Committee with the cabinet of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. Therefore, as delegates, you will have portfolio powers to implement your solutions and have direct contact with the cabinet of the Ayatollah. Furthermore, your actions will have immediate consequences and it is up to you to react swiftly

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and decisively to the challenges facing the United States in this tumultuous time. You are uniquely tasked with navigating the United States through its tense relations with Iran.

I look forward to the ideas you will bring to this committee to improve the lives of the American people and the path you will set forth for the United States. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have. See you in March!

Best,
Peyton Brown



Background Information

James Earl Carter Jr., commonly known as Jimmy Carter, was the 39th President of the United States. Born to a peanut farmer and a registered nurse in Plains, Georgia, Jimmy Carter enjoyed his childhood as the eldest of four children. His parents, James Earl Carter Sr. and Lillian Gordy Carter settled in nearby Archery, Georgia shortly after his birth. Jimmy Carter went on to graduate from the Naval Academy in 1946. Following graduation, he married Rosalynn Smith and had three sons and a daughter.¹ After seven years of service as a submariner, Carter retired to his hometown with the title of lieutenant. He returned to take over his family's farm following the death of his father in 1953. He and Rosalynn operated a general-purpose seed and farm supply company.²

Carter's introduction to politics occurred on the local level; supervising on the county boards for education, the hospital authority, and the library. He was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1962. While in the Senate he supported measures to help African Americans vote and improve government.³ He found himself at odds with conservative Democrats who opposed integration. After two terms in the State Senate, he was unsuccessful in his bid for the governorship in 1966 but went on to win the 1970 election becoming the 76th Governor of Georgia. As Governor, Carter called for an end to segregation and increased the number of African Americans in the Georgia government by 25%. Just a few years earlier, the Federal Government passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to prohibit

¹ "James Carter", The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/james-carter/>

² "Biography of Jimmy Carter." The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. National Archives and Records Administration. July 25, 2018. <https://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/about-us/biography-of-jimmy-carter>

³ Strong, Robert A, "Jimmy Carter: Life Before the Presidency." University of Virginia Miller Center. <https://millercenter.org/president/carter/life-before-the-presidency>

labor and voting discrimination based on race.

Governor Carter was elected following a tumultuous decade of social upheaval which saw tremendous gains for Black Americans in the workplace and the voting booth. In addition, Carter was successful in streamlining over 300 agencies into just two dozen because Carter saw the general need for an efficient government that was not wasteful with its funds and powers.⁴



*Jimmy Carter*⁵

Carter was mindful of the national political landscape while serving as Governor of Georgia. He understood the failed attempt by Senator and presidential candidate in the 1972 election, George McGovern, who was considered to be a liberal, as a need for a different kind of democrat.⁶ On December 12, 1974, Jimmy Carter declared his candidacy for President nearly two years before the 1976 election. Part of his strategy was to gain momentum and support early. Carter ran as a Washington outsider untainted by previous scandals such as Watergate.⁷ He was committed to giving deference to each administrative secretary and to streamlining federal agencies as he did as governor of Georgia. Furthermore, Carter's number one priority was job creation. He advocated for a fair tax system, reduced inflation, and a balanced budget.⁸

⁴ Strong, "Jimmy Carter: Life Before the Presidency"

⁵ Jimmy Carter's Presidential Portrait, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter

⁶ Strong, "Jimmy Carter: Life Before the Presidency"

⁷ "1976 Carter vs. Ford." The Living Room Candidate. Museum of the Moving Image. <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1976>

⁸ Mohr, Charles, "Carter, With a Long List of Campaign Promises, Now Faces the Problem of Making Good on Them." The New York Times. November 15, 1976 <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/11/15/archives/carter-with-a-long-list-of-campaign-promises-now-faces-the-problem.html>

During the primary, he outlasted the other nine candidates running and won half of the democratic primaries.⁹

In the general election, Carter linked Ford to his disgraced predecessor Richard Nixon and further claimed to be the honest and fair candidate.¹⁰ Carter went on to defeat President Ford 297 to 241 in electoral votes. Likewise, he secured the popular vote, winning 50% to 48%. Carter won 23 states while Ford won 27 states.¹¹ Additionally, the Democratic Party had maintained its majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Carter was the first president since Johnson to have control of both legislative chambers.

Recent History

One of the first actions of the Cold War under President Eisenhower was to aid Great Britain in removing the Prime Minister of Iran, Mohammad Mossadegh. In the span of four days, CIA operative Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt staged two coup attempts to remove the Prime Minister and replace him with the last ruling Shah, or king of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Before this event, Iran was an oil-rich nation that had established a democratic system of government between 1905 and 1911. At the time, Great Britain was the greatest global superpower and had an interest in Iranian oil. Britain established the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1908. Furthermore, Iranian oil was crucial in the British victories of World War I and World War II.

⁹ Strong, Robert A, "Jimmy Carter: Campaigns and Elections." University of Virginia Miller Center of Public Affairs. <https://millercenter.org/president/carter/campaigns-and-elections>

¹⁰ Strong, "Jimmy Carter: Campaigns and Elections"

¹¹ US Election of 1976 – Voting Results Map, *GISGeography*, April 19, 2020 <https://gisgeography.com/us-election-1976-map/>

Mohammad Mossadegh was a wealthy aristocrat who was educated in Europe but came back to Iran with a frustration about the way Britain was treating Iran. He negotiated for Iran to keep a greater share of the profits, but when talks collapsed, Britain imposed a worldwide embargo on Iranian oil. Mossadegh convinced Iran's parliament to nationalize the oil industry in 1951 and a month later was elected Prime Minister. The British saw Prime Minister Mossadegh as a threat to their interests and enlisted the help of the United States to remove him.

Kermit Roosevelt attempted to remove Mossadegh on August 16th, but the attempt failed. However, Shah Pahlavi fled to Europe in fear of Mossadegh coming after him. A few days later, Roosevelt successfully removed Mossadegh by bribing multiple factions to stir up chaos in the streets. At the time, rival protesters were unaware that they were being paid by the same source. Roosevelt paid the protestors and some police and military forces with tanks to gather outside of Prime Minister Mossadegh's house and open fire. Mossadegh was able to flee out the back and the house was looted.

Roosevelt then had his savior general Fazlollah Zahedi come on the radio to claim victory to hold power until Shah Pahlavi returned to Iran. The Shah ruled over Iran like a dictator, but the West had little regard because they had access to Iranian oil.¹²

Prior to the Carter administration, the United States had just witnessed the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the appointment of Gerald Ford to the highest office in the nation. In June of 1972, the Nixon Campaign ordered a break-in of the Watergate Complex in Washington D.C. This complex was the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. The Nixon administration denied any involvement in the robbery and attempted bugging of the DNC. In October, the FBI concluded that the break-in was connected to the Nixon campaign. In

¹² Wu, Lawrence. Lanz, Michelle, "How the CIA Overthrew Iran's Democracy in 4 Days." NPR Throughline. February 7, 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/01/31/690363402/how-the-cia-overthrew-irans-democracy-in-four-days>

1973, Congress conducted a trial that resulted in the conviction of multiple Nixon aides.

Unrelated to Watergate, Gerald Ford, who was Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, became the Vice President following the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew on October 10th, 1973 for a single felony charge of tax evasion. Furthermore, in late July of 1974, the House Judiciary Committee passed three articles of impeachment and sent them to the House floor, but they were not voted on. On August 8, 1974, President Nixon resigned before being convicted for obstruction of justice, contempt of Congress, and misuse of power by the Senate.¹³ Vice President Ford became the first President and Vice President to not be elected by the electoral college.¹⁴ The Watergate scandal breached the trust of the American people with the institution of government. The scandal, in addition to the failure of the Vietnam War, had left the American public frustrated and longing for change.

Domestically, the United States was reeling from the energy crisis of 1973-1974. Prior to Carter's election, Israel and Egypt had been feuding over the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. Both nations were at war between October 6th to the 25th, 1973 in what became known as the Yom Kippur War, Ramadan War, or October War.

The United States supported Israel during the October War against Egypt. As a result, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) enacted an oil embargo on the U.S, Israel, and other industrialized nations in Europe. As a result, the price of a barrel of oil doubled, then quadrupled, putting an intense strain on consumers and the health of the national economy. During this decade, the United States was more dependent on foreign oil than it had ever been. President Nixon established Project Independence on November 3, 1973, to promote

¹³ Bush, Daniel, "The complete Watergate timeline (it took longer than you realize)" PBS Newshour. May 30, 2017 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/complete-watergate-timeline-took-longer-realize>

¹⁴ "Watergate Fast Facts." CNN Editorial Research. CNN. June 4, 2020 <https://www.cnn.com/2014/01/23/us/watergate-fast-facts/index.html>

American energy independence and boost the domestic supply of oil that had significantly decreased. To end the embargo, the United States and Arab governments negotiated the first Egyptian-Israeli Disengagement Agreement in January of 1974. By March, the U.S. helped negotiate an end to hostilities between Israel and Syria. The United States was forced to reckon with its unflinching support for Israel and focus on future energy conservation. For example, President Ford established fuel economy standards on vehicles.¹⁵

The Carter Administration

The Carter Administration, in the first two years, made major strides in global human rights, energy policy, and Soviet relations. President Carter devoted significant energy and time to mitigating Arab-Israeli peace in the Middle East. Tensions had escalated following the October War. By late 1977, Egypt and Israel attempted direct talks but did not work out a constructive plan. The following year, the United States assumed a more prominent role in the negotiations. President Carter set up negotiations with Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel and Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt at Camp David in Maryland. Between September 5th and 17th, 1978, President Carter met with both leaders separately to discuss the future of Israeli settlements and airbases in the Sinai Peninsula as well as Palestinian authority over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The summit did not broker a peace agreement but instead established two framework documents that acted as the principles for Palestinian self-government in Gaza and the West Bank. On March 26th, 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a peace agreement following continued cooperation between Carter, Begin, and Sadat.¹⁶

¹⁵ "Oil Embargo, 1973-1974." United States Department of State Office of the Historian. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/oil-embargo>

¹⁶ "Camp David Accords and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process." United States Department of State Office of the Historian. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/camp-david>



Carter with Begin and Sadat¹⁷

On energy policy, the Carter administration worked to end wasteful energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil imports. Legislatively, he was successful in getting Congress to pass the Emergency Natural Gas Act which authorized interstate natural gas transportation. Furthermore, Carter created the Department of Energy to regulate existing fuel suppliers and research new, sustainable forms of energy such as wind and solar power. Additionally, the Energy Security Act created the Synthetic Fuels Corporation to provide \$20 billion in joint ventures with private industry. The deregulation of oil and natural gas prices would increase the supply into the 1980s and boost domestic supply. On nuclear energy policy, he convinced Congress to abolish its Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. This decision would help the administration block breeder reactors and shift nuclear policy in favor of light-water reactors that Carter supported.¹⁸

As with energy policy, President Carter campaigned on human rights around the world as part of a new U.S. foreign policy. In February of 1978, the Carter administration issued Presidential Directive 30 which formally defined U.S. policy on human rights. Economic and military assistance was given to foreign nations based on their human rights records, thus

¹⁷ Menachem Begin, Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat at Camp David in 1978, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_David_Accords

¹⁸ Strong, Robert A. "Jimmy Carter: Domestic Affairs." University of Virginia Miller Center of Public Affairs. <https://millercenter.org/president/carter/domestic-affairs>

countries with good or improving records were rewarded and those with poor or deteriorating records were not. The Department of State established the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs which was tasked with releasing reports on the records of all nations to the public. Furthermore, to promote more awareness and efficiency for human rights in the U.S. government, the administration established the Interagency Working Group on Human Rights and Foreign Assistance. This group was tasked with evaluating, on a case-by-case basis, bilateral and multilateral aid decisions to ensure the United States government had a unified position on human rights.¹⁹



President Carter and Mohammad Reza Shah raising a toast to Iran on New Year's Eve, 1977²⁰

On one of his foreign trips to Europe and Asia, President Carter visited Iran. Shah Pahlavi hosted a state dinner for Carter on New Year's Eve 1977. Carter noted Iran as “an island of stability in one of the more troubled areas of the world.” He considered Iran to be a stable nation under the “great leadership” of the Shah.²¹

¹⁹ “Carter and Human Rights, 1977-1981.” United States Department of State Office of the Historian. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/human-rights>

²⁰ “At the Tehran Palace on New Year's Eve,” Fine Art America, 1977, <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/at-the-tehran-palace-on-new-years-eve-everett.html>.

²¹ Glass, Andrew, “Carter lauds shah of Iran, Dec. 31, 1977.” Politico. December 31, 2018. <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/12/30/this-day-in-politics-december-31-1077103>

Current Domestic Issues:

Topic 1: Energy

It's July of 1979. American schoolchildren have finished their studies and are happy to be on vacation. At the start of the summer, families were excited and optimistic to travel during vacation. They were planning road trips, holidays, and parties. However, by the Fourth of July, they were anxious that this summer would be the next 1973. Many Americans are wary of the long gas lines that haunted them just six years earlier. The long lines resulted in very impatient customers. Some would resort to violence against each other, others would steal gas from gas stations or people's cars. To protest the shortage of gas, truckers organized to block highways and bridges. Notably, eighteen hundred trucks blocked the Delaware Memorial Bridge, blocking cars for twelve miles. Americans were used to personal mobility and freedom of travel. The energy crisis shook their confidence in their privileges. To adjust to a different life, some people carpoled to work to save gas.²² Despite the adjustments that consumers made in 1973-1974, many were nervous that another fuel crisis could happen. This national holiday in 1979 proved to be no different, with lines stretching miles and wait times up to three hours.²³

President Carter was expected to give a speech on the growing energy crisis on the Fourth of July but canceled at the last minute and seemed to disappear from the public eye for almost two weeks. It was the first time a president had canceled a national address like this. On July 15th, Carter gave a speech on the economic state of the country. He compared the energy crisis to a moral challenge that Americans must rise up to face.²⁴ He called it a "crisis of

²² Fiege, Mark, *The Republic of Nature*. The University of Washington Press. 2012. Chapter 9.

²³ "Examining Carter's 'Malaise Speech,' 30 Years Later." NPR. July 12, 2009.

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106508243>

²⁴ "Malaise Speech." NPR.



confidence.” To that end, he criticized the American public for becoming overly self-indulgent, while noting that many Americans take democratic participation such as voting for granted.²⁵

Gas lines in Dallas, 1979²⁶

To prevent potential shortages, President Carter has deregulated the price of domestic oil set in place under Nixon in 1971. The purpose is to save an estimated 200,000 barrels a day in 1980 up to 1.1 million in 1985. Furthermore, lifting the regulations will raise the price of a barrel and incentivize more domestic production.²⁷ The energy crisis of 1979 was similar to the energy crisis of 1973 in that the United States remained deeply reliant on foreign oil imports.

President Carter urged consumers to reduce their fuel consumption in a speech given in April of 1977. He called solving the energy crisis the “moral equivalent of war”²⁸ because Carter noted that Americans used twice as much energy per person than Germany, Japan, and Sweden. The challenge ahead of the American people would be similar to war because it would require effort from all Americans to contribute to a better future. He stressed the wastefulness of

²⁵ McDuffee, Allen, “In 1979, the president axed 6 cabinet members in one day, citing American ‘fragmentation’.” Timeline. August 18, 2017. <https://timeline.com/in-1979-the-president-axed-6-cabinet-members-in-one-day-citing-american-fragmentation-6e916a8da613>

²⁶ Watkins, Chelsea, “Flashback: 1979 oil crisis led to gas shortage in Texas” Dallas Morning News. September 1, 2017. <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2017/09/01/flashback-1979-oil-crisis-led-to-gas-shortage-in-north-texas/>

²⁷ Tolchin, Martin, “CARTER TO END PRICE CONTROL ON U.S. OIL AND URGE CONGRESS TO TAX ANY ‘WINDFALL PROFITS.’” The New York Times. April 6, 1979. <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/04/06/archives/carter-to-end-price-control-on-us-oil-and-urge-congress-to-tax-any.html>

²⁸ Hewett, Frederick, “That ‘70s Show: America’s Energy Crisis Then, and Now.” WBUR. February 1, 2017. <https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2017/02/01/jimmy-carter-donald-trump-energy-economy-climate-change-frederick-hewett>

Americans, who use the energy equivalent of 60 barrels of oil per year per person. Carter unveiled his administration's principles to conserving energy, reducing demand for fossil fuels, and protecting the environment.²⁹ Although Carter has urged consumers to be conscious of their consumption, fears of riots, highway blockades, and long lines still hang in the balance this coming summer.

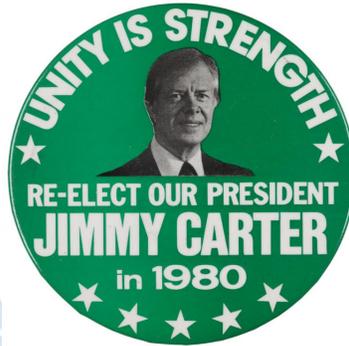
Topic 2: Eyes on 1980

President Carter is aiming to be reelected to a second term. He is considering a strategy that best highlights his administration's accomplishments over that past three years. In addition, he must contend with the Republican nominee and contrast the Democratic platform with the Republican platform. President Carter wants to continue his record on human rights, energy independence, and global diplomacy. However, the members of the Democratic Party have become wary of the leadership of the President. Stability is crucial to reelecting President Carter.

As of June 1979, President Carter's approval ratings dropped down from 42 percent in March to 30 percent according to a New York Times/ CBS poll. This is the worst rating for a recent President except for Presidents Nixon and Truman. In the same poll, 70 percent of respondents believed Carter was handling the economy poorly. Two-thirds of these same respondents also said Carter was doing poorly as president in general. Furthermore, a concern for Carter's reelection prospects lies in his poor numbers among Democrats that want to see him as nominee in 1980. In the same poll, only 23 percent of Democrats were in favor of him being the party nominee in the next election. Contrastingly, 52 percent of respondents said they favored Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy and 8 percent said they preferred California

²⁹ "Moral Equivalent Of War" President Carter Speech. Sourced from Youtube. April 1977.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbNFKgNoWc0>

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.³⁰



Jimmy Carter campaign button³¹

You will act as advisors to the Carter Campaign in addition to steering the committee through the Cold War. This dual role provides you the opportunity to show the American people the importance of keeping President Carter in power. Your management of crises will be noted in the progression of the President's campaign. It is important to highlight Carter's successes and triumphs in domestic and foreign policy.

Current Foreign Policy Issues

Topic 3: Human Rights

The Carter Administration has stressed non-interventionism in Latin America, aiming to reverse decades of foreign policy in the region. In the past few years, the administration has been monitoring situations in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Nicaragua has been ruled by military dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle since 1967. Currently, citizens and junta groups are protesting the President's greed and militant enforcement that has been occurring for four years since the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), a socialist opposition group, launched an

³⁰ Clymer, Adam. "Carter's Standing Drops to New Low in Times-CBS Poll." The New York Times. June 10, 1979. <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/06/10/archives/carters-standing-drops-to-new-low-in-times-cbs-poll-approval-falls.html?auth=linked-google1tap>

³¹ A campaign button for Jimmy Carter, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, <https://www.virginiahistory.org/collections-and-resources/virginia-history-explorer/getting-message-out-presidential-campaign-2>

attack in 1974. President Somoza enacted a harsh crackdown on dissent, declaring a state of siege.³² In January 1978, publisher for the newspaper *La Prensa* Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was assassinated, resulting in nationwide protests. Later in August, Sandinista guerillas captured the National Palace, exchanging hundreds of hostages for prisoners, money, and safe passage out of Nicaragua. Violence continued for the rest of the year. In January of 1979, President Carter considered international supervision of a free election, but it was rejected by President Somoza. As a result, President Carter cut off all military aid to the National Guard in February. He also encouraged other countries to end assistance to the Sandinistas.³³

In nearby El Salvador, an unstable tension has been forming. The masses of peasant laborers are tired of the repression by the elite, landowning class. El Salvador has a long history of bloody repression of dissenters and revolutionaries.³⁴ Furthermore, the Carter administration must determine whether to permit more military assistance or to refuse aid to keep in line with the administration's established policies on human rights.

Topic 4: Relations with Iran

The United States must choose a new path forward with Iran. In the past two years, Iran has undergone a revolution, deposing the Shah. Protests began January 9th, 1978 at the main bazaar in Qom following the publication of an editorial in the Iranian newspaper *Ettela'* at disparaging Ayatollah Khomeini. It was reportedly written by the royal court at the directive of

³² "Nicaragua Timeline." Internet Archive Wayback Machine. Brown.edu.
https://web.archive.org/web/20170608214954/http://www.brown.edu/Research/Understanding_the_Iran_Contra_Affair/timeline-nicaragua.php

³³ "Central America, 1977-1980." United States Department of State Office of the Historian.
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/central-america-carter>

³⁴ Schwarz, Benjamin, "Dirty Hands." *The Atlantic*. December 1998.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1998/12/dirty-hands/377364/>

the Shah. Thousands of protestors attacked symbols of the monarchy and at least five were killed by security forces. Following the tragic killings of protestors, Shia tradition calls for mourning on the fortieth day. This cycle of unrest, violence, and mourning continued for months in multiple cities. On October 3rd, the Shah deported Khomeini, who traveled to France where he has greater media access. In November, the Shah tried to broker a unity government with the opposition, but it failed. Following more protests in the capital Tehran, the Shah said on broadcast television, "I heard the voice of your revolution...As Shah of Iran as well as an Iranian citizen, I cannot but approve your revolution." By December, millions of Iranians had taken to the streets demanding the removal of the Shah with the replacement of Ayatollah Khomeini. President Carter publicly stated the administration preferred the Shah to maintain a major role, but ultimately it was up to the Iranian people.³⁵

On January 16th, 1979, the Shah and his family fled Iran for Egypt and on February 1st, the Ayatollah returned from exile to millions of cheering citizens in the streets. In March, Iran voted to make itself an Islamic Republic in a near-unanimous national referendum.³⁶ Iran is now under the control of a Supreme Leader who commands Iran's domestic and foreign policies and security. Furthermore, the Supreme Leader is in charge of the armed forces and intelligence operations.³⁷ The United States previously had positive relations with Iran, but the new Ayatollah has been increasingly hostile and critical towards the United States. Relations with Iran will be the main focus of the committee. As delegates, you will have to navigate American interests in the Middle East, while maintaining the domestic goals of the administration.

³⁵ Maloney, Suzanne. Razipour, Keian, "The Iranian Revolution—A timeline of events." Brookings. January 24, 2019. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/01/24/the-iranian-revolution-a-timeline-of-events/>

³⁶ Maloney, "Iranian Revolution"

³⁷ "The Structure of Power in Iran." PBS. Frontline. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/tehran/inside/govt.html>



Protest in Tehran in support of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, January 1979³⁸

Topic 5: Cold War Diplomacy

The United States is about to enter its fourth decade in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. The world has seen many changes during the middle part of the 20th century. Notably, both nations have been in an arms race developing nuclear weapons, missiles, and satellites. Concern has grown over the size of each nation's military stockpile in the late 1960s. The Soviet Union was building up an arsenal of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) to reach similar levels as the United States. Additionally, the Soviets had begun developing an Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) system to strike first and defend Moscow from attacks in early 1967. Therefore, President Johnson pursued strategic arms limitations talks (SALT) to stabilize U.S.-Soviet relations. President Nixon also pursued SALT. He first met with the Soviet Union in

³⁸ Thomas Erdbrink, "The Iran Revolution at 40: From Theocracy to 'Normality,'" *The New York Times*, February 10, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/10/world/middleeast/iran-revolution-40.html>.

Helsinki, Finland in 1969, and over the next three years discussed limitations to missile systems, submarine warfare, and defense plans. On May 26th, 1972, President Nixon met with Soviet Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow to sign the ABM treaty and interim SALT agreement. This was the first time both nations had agreed to limit the number of nuclear weapons in their arsenals.³⁹

While SALT I was a success at easing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, it did not prevent either nation from enlarging their forces through Multiple Independently Targeted Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) onto ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SBLMs). MIRVs are missiles with multiple warheads that can be targeted at multiple designations. The strategic arms limitations talks continued under President Ford with the Vladivostok Summit in November of 1974. Ford and Brezhnev agreed to a basic framework for SALT II, with the goal of limiting the number of strategic nuclear delivery vehicles and MIRV systems. However, they were unable to determine the number of strategic bombers and total warheads in each nation's arsenal.

President Carter was in favor of SALT and pursued communications with the Soviet Union to iron out SALT II. On June 17th, 1979, President Carter and Leonid Brezhnev signed the SALT II Treaty in Vienna, Austria. It limited each nation's nuclear delivery vehicles to 2,250 and placed other restrictions on deployed nuclear forces, such as MIRVs.⁴⁰ This achievement continued diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union despite both nations having competing goals. Despite this recent success, the United States remains wary of Soviet intentions throughout the world and is determined to reduce Soviet influence in other countries.

³⁹ "Strategic Arms Limitations Talks/Treaty (SALT) I and II." United States Department of State Office of the Historian. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1969-1976/salt>

⁴⁰ "Strategic Arms Limitations." Department of State.

The Cabinet

Article II Section 2 of the United States Constitution established the role of the cabinet to “advise the President on any subject he may require relating to the duties of each member’s respective office.”⁴¹ The cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of the 15 executive departments. These include: the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Education, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and the Attorney General who heads the Department of Justice. Federal departments oversee dozens of agencies and handle billions of dollars in federal funding every year. Secretaries are responsible for establishing policy and communicating with the President on matters of interest.

Bloc Positions

As delegates, you must balance your personal concerns, the concerns of your office, and the goals of President Carter. You must create effective policy that secures the support of the President. In recent administrations, the White House staff has been expanded to achieve policy goals, sometimes going around the wishes of cabinet secretaries. Under President Carter, you will be tasked with defending your secretarial offices from the overt centralization of the Carter White House. Furthermore, Carter’s staff will push back against moves that threaten his reelection chances in 1980.

In addition to getting approval from the President, you must convince your colleagues that your ideas represent the right path forward for our nation. President Carter has recently accepted the resignation of seven cabinet secretaries. He asked for each secretary’s letter of

⁴¹ “The Cabinet”, *The Obama White House*, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/cabinet#:~:text=The%20Cabinet%20includes%20the%20Vice%20Affairs%2C%20as%20well%20as%20the>

resignation and ultimately came to the decision to let some go. With this shakeup, the President is looking for stronger loyalty from the cabinet.⁴² President Carter is coming up on reelection and must have the full support of his cabinet. With all new cabinet members sworn into office, the Carter Administration can continue its advancement of global human rights and take on any coming challenges in the next year and a half.

As cabinet members, you must navigate your relationships with each other as well. Notably, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance are known to disagree on many matters of national security and foreign policy. Despite this, they could share in their successes with the Panama Canal Treaty, the SALT Treaty, and the Camp David Accords.⁴³ In the tense and high-stakes Cold War era, your country cannot afford to have its policies disrupted by personal vendettas. Tread carefully; the fate of our nation is in your hands.

Questions to Consider

Background Information

1. How can the cabinet restore faith in government to the American people?
2. What lessons can be learned from the energy crisis of 1973-1974 to prevent a second crisis?
3. How can America's past foreign policy failures inform our current decision-making?

Topic 1: Energy

1. In your role as Secretary, how can you use your department to stabilize energy prices?
2. What can the United States do to reduce its reliance on foreign oil from the Middle East?
3. How can the cabinet improve President Carter's approval ratings before the upcoming election?

Topic 2: 1980 election

⁴² McDuffee, "the president axed 6 cabinet members in one day"

⁴³ Schechter, Jerrold, "Carter Chose Action Over Vance's Patience," The Washington Post. May 4, 1980.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1980/05/04/carter-chose-action-over-vances-patience/fd23a0be-2441-41ba-91c8-98266a339f75/>

1. What policies should President Carter focus on to convince the American electorate that he should be reelected?
2. What are the key states to Carter's reelection? How can Carter sway them to his side?
3. How can the administration manage public opinion while making tough decisions?
4. How can the administration improve Carter's approval ratings, specifically among Democrats? How can the administration fend off a potential primary opponent?

Topic 3: Human Rights

1. What should the United States' role in Latin America be?
2. Should the United States support the removal of President Somoza in Nicaragua?
3. What should the United States do to monitor the situation in El Salvador?

Topic 4: Relations with Iran

1. The United States preferred to have the Shah in power. How should the U.S. pursue relations with a more hostile Iran?
2. The United States still relies on Iranian oil imports. With new leadership in Iran, how can the United States protect its immediate economic needs during a fuel shortage, while navigating new relations with Iran?
3. Should the United States attempt to topple the new Iranian government?

Topic 5: Cold War Diplomacy

1. How should the Carter administration pursue strategic arms limitations talks with the Soviet Union going forward?
2. President Carter promotes non-interventionism. If the Soviet Union were to expand its influence into the Middle East, should the United States intervene, and risk progress made limiting nuclear weapons?
3. How can the United States reduce Soviet influence around the world?

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