Chapter 32, Section 1:

**I. Appealing to Middle America** *(pages 952–955)*

**A.** Many Americans supported the government and longed for an end to the violence of the 1960s. The 1968 Republican presidential candidate, Richard Nixon, appealed to the people whom he called “Middle America.” He promised them peace in Vietnam, law and order, a streamlined government, and a return to conservative values.

**B.** The Democratic nominee, **Hubert Humphrey,** and a third party-candidate, **George Wallace,** could not stop Nixon. He won, receiving 43.4 percent of the popular vote.

**C.** Much of Nixon’s success in the election came from the South. Nixon had promised to appoint conservatives to the federal courts, to name a Southerner to the Supreme Court, to oppose court-ordered busing, and to choose a vice president acceptable to the South. As a result, a large number of white Southerners left the Democratic Party and voted for Nixon.

**D.** After his election victory, Nixon began the **Southern strategy** to win even more Southerners to the Republican Party. He took steps to slow desegregation.

**E.** To keep his promise of law and order, Nixon set out to battle American crime. Nixon criticized the Supreme Court regarding expanded rights for accused criminals. He appointed several conservative judges to the Supreme Court, including one from the South.

**F.** Nixon’s Republican leaders dismantled several federal programs and gave more control to state and local governments. Under Nixon’s **New Federalism** program, Congress passed a series of **revenue**-**sharing** bills that provided federal funds to state and local agencies. Intended to give state and local agencies increased power, it actually led to a greater dependency on federal funds.

**G.** In 1969 Nixon proposed replacing the existing **Aid to Families with Dependant Children** (AFDC) welfare program with the Family Assistance Plan. The plan wouldgive needy families a guaranteed yearly grant of $1,600. The program won Houseapproval but was later defeated in the Senate.

**Discussion Question**

Why did Richard Nixon appeal to “Middle America” in the 1968 presidential election? *(He aimed many of his campaign messages to “Middle America.” He promised them “peace with* *honor” in Vietnam, law and order, a streamlined government, and a return to more conservative* *times.)*

**II. Nixon’s Foreign Policy** *(pages 955–957)*

**A.** President Nixon’s administration focused mainly on the subject of foreign affairs.

**B.** Nixon chose former Harvard professor **Henry Kissinger** as his national security adviser. Nixon and Kissinger put their foreign policy in place and attempted friendlier relations with the Soviet Union and China.

**C.** Nixon was anti-Communist but came to reject the idea of a bipolar world with the United States and the Soviet Union confronting each other. Nixon felt the “multipolar” world would need a different approach. With the help of Kissinger, Nixon created the approach of **détente,** or relaxation of tensions between the United States and its two major Communist rivals—the Soviet Union and China. Nixon argued that the United States had to build a better relationship with its rivals to ensure world peace.

**D.** To ease tensions with China, Nixon lifted trade and travel restrictions and withdrew the Seventh Fleet from defending Taiwan. In February 1972, Nixon took a historic trip to China, where both leaders agreed to better relations between the nations.

**E.** After learning of the negotiations between the United States and China, the Soviet Union suggested an American-Soviet **summit,** or high-level diplomatic meeting, in May 1972. Nixon became the first president to visit the Soviet Union. During the summit, the countries signed the first **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty** (SALT I) to limit nuclear arms. The countries agreed to increase trade and the exchange of scientific information.

**Discussion Question**

What views on foreign policy did President Nixon and his national security adviser Henry Kissinger share? *(Both believed in a gradual withdrawal from Vietnam, a practical* *approach to foreign policy, to continue to contain communism, and to use engagement and* *negotiations to achieve international goals.)*