

MONOPOLY: NIXON Presidency

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Synopsis: This project describes a proposed Monopoly game built around the events of the presidency of Richard Nixon. It consists of a draft of the board game and a “pitch” to investors describing the game. Enjoy!

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Dear Hansbro Investors,

Thank you for having me today, I have created one of the best versions of Monopoly since it came out. This version of Monopoly is the perfect board game for historians and everyday board game players as it will take the player on a journey through the late 1960s to the mid 1970s. Let us begin:

In the five years that President Richard Nixon was president he had to manage domestic protest, economic struggles, the end of the Vietnam War, and relations with the Soviet Union. MONOPOLY: Nixon's Presidency will take you on a journey through the decisions and actions of President Nixon from his 1968 campaign to the 1973 Paris Accords. Between 1969 and 1973 President Nixon managed to establish relationships with communist China and limit the involvement that the United States had in Southeast Asia. However, during the de-escalation stage President Nixon orchestrated the bombings of North Vietnam and Cambodia after he had promised an end to the war and a transfer of power to the South Vietnamese Army. For these reasons President Nixon's be tough on communist, but take less responsibility is not possible begging the question, who could have done a better job during those five years?

Before the election of President Nixon, the protest movement was reaching its peak resulting in a harsh environment for candidates to run in. The Protest movement became an institution for minorities, women, and college students to voice their opposition on Vietnam and civil rights. One of the most important protests of 1968 was during the Democratic Convention in Chicago where protesters arrived in swaths to urge the party to select a candidate that would end the Vietnam War. The public demonstrations that occurred in Chicago during the convention played a huge factor in the selection process of the convention. In a Chicago Tribune article,

William Edwards, argues that the result of the convention is due to a two-convention scene. The first scene is the actual convention where the delegates meet and the second scene is outside in Grant Park where demonstrations are becoming violent. Edwards believes that the voices of the demonstrators had a bigger effect on who was chosen over who was creating bids to be the next Democratic candidate.¹ Protests were a constant fight that President Nixon had to endure during his five years in office. In 1970 that fight turned deadly at Kent State University. As news came out about the United States new involvement in Cambodia students across the country began to protest. For instance, the protest at Kent State that May of 1970 were a set of peaceful demonstrations that had a large gathering, however, the Ohio National Guard opened fire on the students forcing them to flee for their lives. The Ohio National Guard ended up killing four students based on the idea that the guardsmen's lives were in jeopardy. The action taken by the guardsmen was an aggressive use of force that resulted in death, but some people did not see it that way. In fact, to a surprise, victims of the incident received hate mail because they were labeled as communists.² Due to the strength of the protest movement, it is essential that it becomes part of board game. The protests that occurred during the Nixon presidency should be categorized as a "TAX" to show the struggle that President Nixon faced and to show people who are playing the game that it had a huge effect on the way the United States governed.

Besides the protest movement, an example of a property card for Nixon Monopoly would be Vietnamization. Vietnamization was the backbone policy and plan that President Nixon crafted in 1969 to withdraw troops from Southeast Asia. The plan featured multiple parts

¹ Edwards, Willard. "'68 Convention seen as Last of a System." *Chicago Tribune* (1963-Current), Sep 01, 1968.

² Bristow, N. K. (2017). The kent state shootings, the long 1960s, and the contest over memory. *Reviews in American History*, 45(3), 518-525.

including massive bombing campaigns and troop withdraws at the same time. The heart of the plan was to train the South Vietnamese army to the point that they would be able to defend their country. Unfortunately, this plan would fail in the years after the Paris Peace Accords were signed when the North Vietnamese assumed control of Saigon in 1975. Vietnamization is a perfect property card for the game of monopoly as it was costly to initiate and maintain. One operation that utterly failed and showed the United States that the South Vietnamese army was not ready to assume control was Operation Lam Son.

President Nixon's Vietnamization policy tried to maintain a lower degree of involvement on the US part while helping with missions that the South Vietnamese were conducting. In 1971 Operation Lam Son is conducted to weed out the ARVN and North Vietnamese from the border areas located near the Ho Chi Min trail in hope of destroying supply routes.³ In addition, Operation Lam Son was an opportunity to prove that the South Vietnamese army was capable of holding their own. Unfortunately, Operation Lam Son ended in a bitter defeat proving that the South Vietnamese were not ready. The failure of Operation Lam Son should have been a clear indication that the South Vietnamese army was not ready to assume control, making the operation a perfect property card for the game Monopoly because if it was a success then the Ho Chi Minh Trail would have been cut off.

The last and most expensive property card in the game of Nixon Monopoly should be the Paris Peace Accords of 1973. After years of planning and negotiates the Paris Accords are signed bringing an end to the United States involvement in Southeast Asia to an end. While the

³ James E. Westheider, James H. Willbanks. A Raid Too Far: Operation Lam Son 719 and Vietnamization in Laos., *The American Historical Review*, Volume 120, Issue 1, February 2015, Pages 293–294, <https://doi-org.colorado.idm.oclc.org/10.1093/ahr/120.1.293>

Paris Accords marked the end of the US military action, it did not send all military personnel home, instead a few thousand military advisors stayed around to further advise the Southern Vietnamese. This is important to recognize because shortly after the signing, the South Vietnam capital, Saigon, would fall to North Vietnam leading to mass evacuations of all US citizens remaining in the area. The signing of the Paris Accords was significant for President Nixon as it pleased the protesters that had been demanding the US withdrawal and it showed that President Nixon was the one that was able to end the Vietnam War. For these reasons the Paris Accords are the most valuable property to own in Nixon Monopoly.

President Richard Nixon made costly mistakes during his presidency that in return forced him out of office, however, his ability to manage the public and manage the war was unprecedented. After playing Monopoly: Nixon's Presidency it should be easy to recognize how difficult of decisions that President Nixon had to make. President Nixon had to decide whether to continue to bomb North Vietnam or allow them to rebuild so that one day all of Vietnam would be communist? This is just one little thought that President Nixon had to keep in mind when dealing with the War, in addition, President Nixon had to deal with the citizens at home. Maintaining a positive spotlight for President Nixon was key in how he dealt with the war, just like his look strong, but be less involved policy Nixon attempted to carry out the duties of presidency in the same way. The anti-war protests continued to grow in the United States although the promise of complete withdrawal was coming soon, this would show that President Nixon wanted to look powerful on the outside but had a different plan for how the war was truly going to end. As seen, President Nixon continued to bomb areas of Southeast Asia up until the Paris Peace accords were signed. Although President Richard Nixon will be remembered for his involvement in the Watergate Scandal, he should be more known as the president that managed it

all. He dealt with the deaths of students and protesters at home and the deaths of soldiers abroad while continuing to advocate for democracy in places that were unlikely. He was the first president to establish relationships with China thus opening the door to new trade partnerships and opportunities for us. President Nixon may not have been the president that the United States wanted in 1974, but he was the president that we needed to get us out of the war.

As you can see Monopoly: Nixon's Presidency would be a great historical board game for anyone, as it teaches the history of the Nixon presidency by covering the year leading up to him winning the election to his final days in office. In addition, it gives players the opportunity to play as key figures in United States history.