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## Nixon's Visit to China: The Week that Changed Sino-American Diplomacy

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Back in November, my dad had sent me an article by the “The New York Times” that discussed Henry Kissinger’s recent death and his diplomatic contributions during the Cold War. Through further research, I found interesting information on Kissinger’s roles in the secret diplomacy with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. The topic of Chinese-American diplomacy immediately interested me, as I am of Chinese heritage and had no previous knowledge of these past relationships. My dad had actually informed me during the beginning of my research that this diplomacy initiated by Henry Kissinger led to the Open Door policy starting in the 1980s, and was the same wave of immigrants my parents were in when they immigrated to the US for graduate school. I was very keen on wanting to learn further about this relationship as I had been actively searching for potential NHD topics. Richard Nixon’s historic visit to China fit perfectly.

During my research, I had originally planned to focus solely on Henry Kissinger’s secret diplomacy, but through further investigation, I discovered the 1970s China diplomacy was more in depth than I had originally anticipated. I first looked into primary sources and initial communications between the two countries through the 1970 letter exchanges. I constructed an overall timeline of how I wanted to organize my website, and made sure to find information that proved the significance of Nixon’s visit and the turning points that resulted. I found many historical memorandum reports through “Office of the Historian”, “The National Security Archive”, and JSTOR, which allowed many primary sourced diplomacy that wouldn’t have been present in secondary source articles. I obtained most of my original documents from “The Richard Nixon Foundation”, which included the SALT agreements, letters of communication, Kissinger’s early reports, and trade policy changes. I delved into the “Present Day” information much later in my research, but used many trade graphs from BBC Research and the US Census Bureau. These documents proved to be very useful throughout my research. I learned of the cultural influences later in my research through newspaper sources.

I chose to do an individual website not only because I thoroughly enjoyed it last year, but also because I felt I could fully express the complexities of my topics through photographs, images, quotes, and videos, which all provided various sources of expression. I chose my scheme to highlight the historical value of this trip, hence the gray, and red, which is a lucky and

prosperous color in China. I organized my website in a way that would be relatively easy to navigate. I tried to capture a more geometrical design.

Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger's diplomacy forever reshaped Sino-American relations. Their negotiations allowed for increased economic opportunities for both countries, and overturned the anti-Chinese sentiments during the time. Their visits allowed for important negotiations with the USSR, resulting in Nuclear Arms Control Treaties. This trip marked a significant turning point for China and America, bolstering trade, economic alliances, and forever changing the geopolitical atmosphere of the world.