

CHAPTER  
**18**  
SECTION 3

## Section Summary

### FOREIGN POLICY TROUBLES

During the Ford and Carter administrations, relations with the Soviet Union were at the center of foreign policy. President Gerald Ford met with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to approve the **Helsinki Accords**. This document supported **human rights**. However, Ford's main concern was arms control, not making the Soviet Union give its people more political freedom. South Vietnam fell to the communists. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese **boat people** tried to escape in rickety boats.

Soon after becoming President, Jimmy Carter said that he would base his foreign policy on human rights. He worked to end acts of political repression like torture. However, Carter worked to relax tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1979, he signed the **SALT II** treaty to limit nuclear arms production. Relations between the two super-powers got worse after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979. Carter responded by imposing **sanctions** on the Soviets. One sanction was a U.S. boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. Carter also wanted to change U.S. relations with the **developing world**. He took away support of a number of dictators who did not respect human rights.

Carter had his greatest foreign policy success in the Middle East. He also had his worst setback there. Egypt and Israel had been enemies for a long time. In 1977, Carter invited the two nations' leaders to the presidential retreat called Camp David. The resulting **Camp David Accords** led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. In January 1979, the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran was forced to flee his country. Fundamentalist Islamic clerics, led by the **Ayatollah Khomeini**, took power. Iranian radicals invaded the U.S. Embassy and took 66 Americans hostage. The Khomeini government defied the United States by taking control of the embassy and the hostages. Carter's failure to win their release was viewed as evidence of American weakness.

### Review Questions

1. Compare Ford's and Carter's foreign policies.

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2. What event of the Carter presidency was viewed as a sign of American weakness?

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### READING CHECK

Why did the United States boycott the 1980 Summer Olympic Games?

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### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *repression* in the underlined sentence. What does *repression* mean? Look for context clues in the surrounding words and phrases.

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### READING SKILL

#### Identify Supporting Details

List two details that support the following statement:  
Carter's greatest foreign policy challenges were in the Middle East.

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