**Unit 12 Vocab Definitions**

1) **War Powers Act-** Law passed in 1973 that requires Congress to authorize troop commitments within a certain time frame.

2) **Vietnamization-** U.S. plan to hand the military operations of the Vietnam War back over to the South Vietnamese government and gradually withdraw American troops.

3) **Diplomatic Relations with China-** Established by President Nixon as an attempt to bring down tensions with communist nations and open the door for renewed trade in 1972.

4) **The Watergate Scandal-** Members of the Republican Party broke into the Democratic National Convention Headquarters to leave eavesdropping equipment.

5) **Nixon’s Resignation-** Presidential action taken because of mounting political pressure due to the Watergate Scandal and as an effort to avoid impeachment.

6) **Presidential Pardon-** Power that allows the Chief Executive to forgive individuals for criminal activity, used by Gerald Ford to exonerate Richard Nixon from criminal prosecution.

7) **Silent Spring-** Book written by Rachel Carson in 1962 that exposed the dangerous impact that pesticides could have on the environment.

8) **EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) ­-** federal agency created in 1970 to ensure that environmental regulations are followed.

9) **Betty Friedan-** Author of the book *The Feminine Mystique* and co-founder of NOW.

10) **NOW (National Organization for Women)-** National group that was created in 1966 to support women’s rights.

11) **Camp David Accords-** Peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1978 during the Carter Presidency.

12) **Iranian Revolution-** The overthrow of the Shah by Islamic fundamentalists that installed a theocratic form of government in 1978.

13) **Iran Hostage Crisis­-** Incident in which Iranian revolutionaries invaded the U.S. embassy in Iran and took 52 American captive, lasting 444 days from 1979-1981.

14) **Reaganomics-** Economic plan that involved cutting taxes and reducing government spending.

15) **Personal Computer-** Device that allowed individuals to utilize data processing within their homes, as opposed to large main frames.

16) **Internet-** Global system of interconnected computer networks that allows for almost instantaneous sharing of information.

17) **Collapse of the Soviet Union-** Resulting from mounting economic pressures and a desire for more personal liberty, most of Eastern Europe was freed from the grip of communism on December 26th, 1991.

18) **Clinton’s Impeachment-** Event that took place in 1998 due to the President potentially perjuring himself while giving testimony to independent counselor Kenneth Starr.

19) **9/11-** Terrorist attack on U.S. soil in 2001 involving four hijacked airplanes that were flown into targets in New York City and Washington, D.C.

20) **War on Terrorism-** International military campaign to fight the global threat of terrorism that started during George W. Bush’s presidency.

21) **PATRIOT Act-** Law issued by President Bush in 2001 that allows the U.S. government to access all personal electronic device content and hold foreign citizens suspected of being terrorists for up to 7 days without being charged of a crime (Uniting and Strengthening America by **P**roviding **A**ppropriate **T**ools **R**equired to **I**ntercept and **O**bstruct **T**errorism Act of 2001).

22) **Department of Homeland Security-** Executive division created in 2002 for the purpose of preparing and protecting the nation against future terrorist attacks.

23) **Al Qaeda-** Terrorist group responsible for several terrorist attacks, most notably the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington D.C.

24) **Taliban-** Extreme Islamic political party that ruled Afghanistan and allowed Al-Qaeda to use their country as a base of operations.

25) **Osama Bin Laden-** Leader of Al-Qaeda and chief planner of the 9/11 attacks. He was killed by U.S. military in 2011.

26) **Operation Enduring Freedom-** Conflict from 2001-2014 in which the U.S. invaded Afghanistan destroying the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda network in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

27) **Operation Iraqi Freedom-** Conflict from 2003-2011 in which the U.S. invaded Iraq to search for Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

28) **Saddam Hussein-** Former dictator of Iraq who refused to allow access to UN inspectors searching for weapons of mass destructions. He was executed in 2006.

29) **Social Media-** Computer technology that allows users to join online virtual communities to share information and connect with others.

30) **Presidential Election of 2008-** Election that resulted in Barack Obama becoming the first minority to hold office of the President of the U.S.