



LESSON 8.3.5 | WATCH | Crash Course US History #42 Ford, Carter, and the Economic Malaise

PURPOSE

This video discusses the 1970s after the fall of Richard Nixon and the rise of economic malaise. The economy ground to a halt under Nixon's successors, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. Additionally, the United States found itself in precarious positions internationally by the end of the decade, undergoing an oil embargo and a hostage crisis in Iran.

LINK

- [Crash Course US History #42 – Ford, Carter, and the Economic Malaise](#)

Watch the video on your own time, either at home, on your phone, or in the library.

PREVIEW

In which John Green teaches you about the economic malaise that beset the United States in the 1970s. A sort of perfect storm of events, it combined the continuing decline of America's manufacturing base and the oil shocks of 1973 and 1979, and brought about an stagnant economy, paired with high inflation. Economists with a flair for neologisms and portmanteau words called this "stagflation," and it made people miserable. Two presidential administrations were scuttled at least in part by these economic woes; both Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter are considered failed presidents for many reasons, but largely because of an inability to improve the economy. (hint: In reality, no one person can materially change something as big as the world economy, even if they are president, but one person sure can make a handy scapegoat!) So, by and large,

the 70s were a pretty terrible time in America economically, but at least the decade gave us Mr. Green.

PROCESS

Remember that John speaks very quickly, and you should watch the video with captions. Don't forget to pause and rewind when necessary. Before you watch the video, remember to look back at the central ideas of the Unit 8 Essential Questions and the Lesson 8.3 Essential Questions.



LESSON 8.3.5 | WATCH | Key Ideas – Factual

Think about the following questions as you watch the video.

1. How and why did the American economy decline in the 1970s?
2. Why didn't Nixon's decision to take the United State's currency off the gold standard help the economy?
3. What are pensions and why were they an aspect of workers' benefits?
4. Why did oil prices quadruple in 1973?



NAME _____

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5. What is the “misery index?”

6. Why did Jimmy Carter lose favor with Americans following his “Crisis of Confidence” speech?

7. Why was the idea of American government intervention undermined in the 1970s?