

Henry Kissinger and the Vietnam War

Khuong Huu Dieu

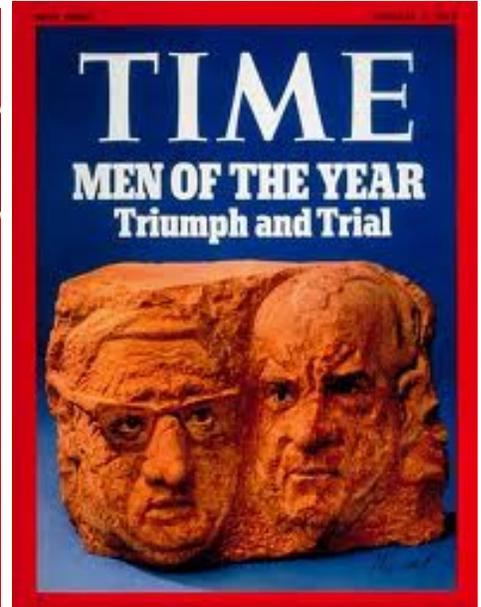
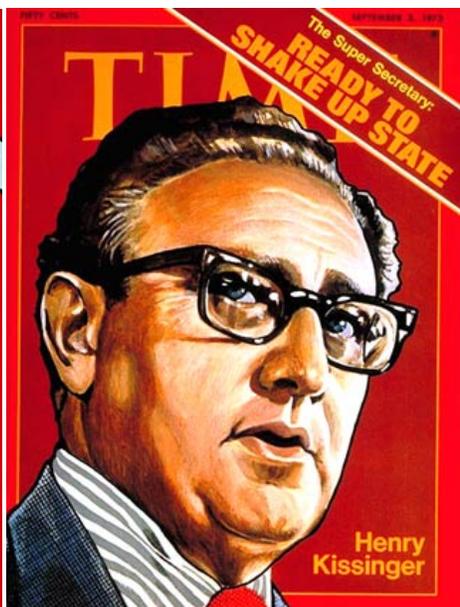
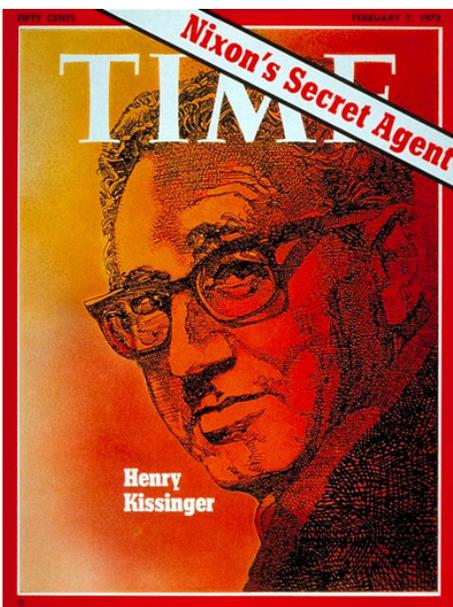
Secret Meteoric Rise to Power and Fame



Henry Kissinger and his friend [Fritz Kraemer](#).



Kissinger being sworn in as Secretary of State by Chief Justice [Warren Burger](#).



Why in my memoirs do I have a sub chapter on Henry Kissinger, one of the world's greatest Secretaries of State and a celebrity?

Simply because Kissinger's foreign policy and actions turned my life upside down in 1975, from a middle class engineer in Saigon to a dispossessed and depressed refugee in Marine Camp Pendleton in California. He has changed drastically not only my life but also the life of millions of Vietnamese and Americans.

In search for the truth about Henry Kissinger's actions, I wish my readers will not consider me a bitter vengeful South Vietnamese American or a bad loser in the Vietnam War.

On the contrary, I acknowledge that Kissinger's diplomatic action resulted in my rebirth in the land of the free, a break through unique in my life time! It even gave me an opportunity to write about the truth of his deeds during the Vietnam War.

My fact findings came from the declassified top secret documents of the CIA and the NSC (National Security Council.)



Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Fürth, Bavaria, Germany in 1923 during the Weimar Republic to a family of German Jews. In 1938, fleeing Nazi persecution, his family moved to New York. He enrolled in the City College of New York, studying accounting. His studies were interrupted in early 1943, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. The Army sent him to study engineering at Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, but the program was cancelled. He was reassigned to the 84th Infantry Division. There, he made the acquaintance of Fritz Kraemer, a fellow immigrant from Germany who noted Kissinger's fluency in German and his intellect, and arranged for him to be assigned to the Military Intelligence Corps. Kissinger saw combat with the division and volunteered for Hazardous Intelligence duties during the Battle of the Bulge. He was then reassigned to the 970th Counter Intelligence Corps, with the rank of Sergeant in charge of a team in Hanover tracking down Gestapo officers and other saboteurs, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star. Following the war in 1946, Kissinger remained in Europe as a civilian instructor at the European Command Intelligence School at Oberammergau, Germany. From 1946 to 1949 he was a captain in the Military Intelligence Reserve.

I was very surprised to learn that he was so *well trained in Intelligence and Counter Intelligence during WWII*. This has played a great role in his secret diplomacy leading to his fame.

Critical Phase to Stardom.

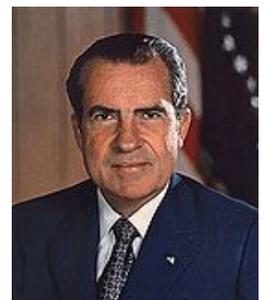
Henry Kissinger's Greatest Career Breakthrough
1968 Humphrey vs. Nixon Presidential Election
October surprise

In American political jargon, an October surprise is a news event with the potential to influence the outcome of an election, particularly one for the U.S. presidency. The reference to the month of October is because the Tuesday after the first Monday in November is the date for national elections and therefore events that take place in late October have greater potential to influence the decisions of prospective voters.



Hubert Humphrey experienced a surge in the polls in the days prior to the election, largely due to limited progress in the peace process in Vietnam and a break with the Johnson war policy.

The Republican challenger Richard Nixon feared a last-minute deal to end US involvement in the Vietnam war by President Lyndon Johnson, which would earn incumbent Vice-President Hubert Humphrey enough votes to win election as President of the United States in the 1968 Presidential election.



After President Johnson announced a halt of the bombing of North Vietnam on October 30, 1968, Humphrey surged ahead of Nixon in the polls where days before they had been in a dead heat. Immediately attention was focused on the Paris negotiations where Nixon's campaign foreign policy advisor Henry Kissinger was stationed.

Talented Henry Kissinger, with his skill in Intelligence and Counter Intelligence acquired during WWII in the US Army, succeeded in gathering the latest top secret information from the Paris peace negotiations on Vietnam in 1968.

HOW?

Claiming to be disillusioned with the Republicans, Kissinger went to Paris and hooked up with Daniel Davidson, a young acquaintance from Harvard. Davidson was by then on the Harriman team that was negotiating peace terms with the North Vietnamese. Furthermore, no less an establishment figure than Richard Holbrooke, a member of the American team (then a senior LBJ negotiator), said that "Henry was the only

person outside of the government we were authorized to discuss the negotiations with.... It is not stretching the truth to say the Nixon campaign had a secret source within the U.S. negotiating team.”



The Scenario in Paris: Harriman and Xuan Thuy at the Paris Peace Talks, 1968

Kissinger also got in touch with Dick Allen, who was Richard Nixon's young foreign policy adviser during the 1968 campaign. Allen said that Kissinger always called him from pay phones to avoid any wiretaps that would reveal his duplicity.



The road map of Henry Kissinger's famous journey to destabilizing the Paris Peace negotiations was very unique. Now, the more difficult task for him was to gather the information from the Communist North Vietnam.

HOW?

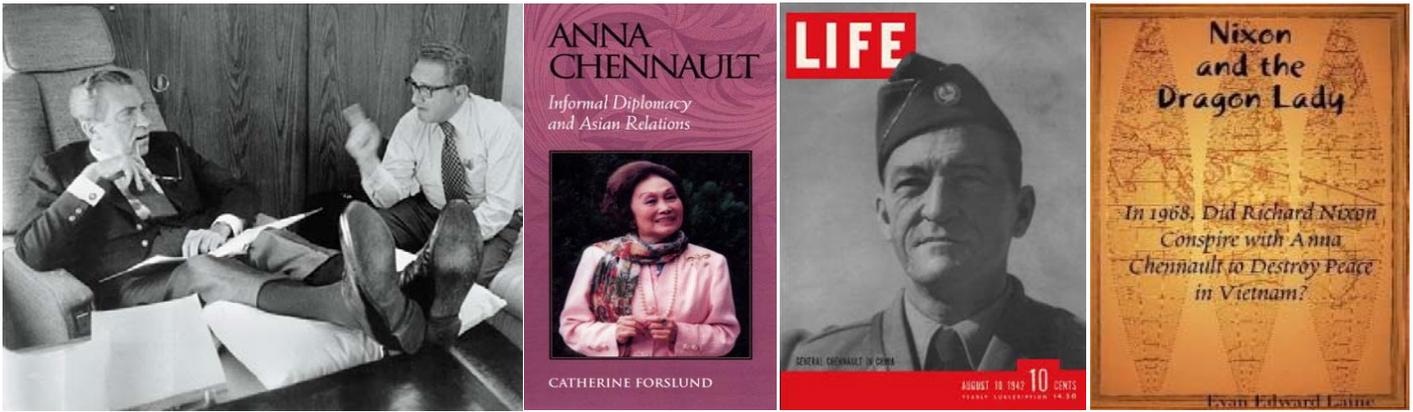
Kissinger had gone so far as to involve himself with an initiative that extended to direct personal contact with Hanoi. He became friendly with two Frenchmen who had a direct line to the Communist leadership in North Vietnam's capital: Raymond Aubrac and Herbert Marcovich. The Pug wash, Code Name PENNSYLVANIA, was an international peace group of scientists which met regularly to discuss world problems. The group included Raymond Aubrac, Herbert Marcovich and Henry Kissinger. Raymond Aubrac, a French civil servant who had studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University in 1937, was a friend of Ho Chi Minh, and Herbert Marcovich, a French microbiologist, began a series of trips to North Vietnam.

Marcovich and Aubrac would take a message directly to Ho Chi Minh. This was possible because Ho Chi Minh was friends with Aubrac and godfather to Aubrac's daughter. They spent four days in July 1968 in Hanoi and met with Ho Chi Minh and the Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and other officials. Upon their return, they were debriefed in Paris by Kissinger. Aubrac was to be used by Henry Kissinger as a secret intermediary between the Americans and the North Vietnamese at the height of the Vietnam war.

In a briefing in Paris with Henry Kissinger, the Frenchmen asked for a signal to be sent to the North Vietnamese of the serious intent of the U.S. for peace. On 19 August 1968 President Johnson agreed to suspend bombing within a 10-mile radius of Hanoi from 24 August to 4 September to ensure the safety of Aubrac and Marcovich when they were to go back to Hanoi and also to signal Kissinger's validity as an intermediary.

Sabotage of negotiations by Kissinger

Kissinger had the inside information of both sides of the negotiation table: US vs. North Vietnam... Now how could he penetrate the inner circle of President Thieu of South Vietnam with a secret, critical message?



HOW?

Here the genius of Kissinger was to be able to find the right person at the right time for the right job: that person was Mme Chennault, the Chinese American wife of General Chennault of WWII Flying Tigers. Chennault was Chiang Kai-shek's chief air adviser and chief of U.S. Air Force in China, 1941. Foreign reporters named Mme Chennault as President Thieu's lobbyist in Washington. It was not true. I have checked this with my friend Hoang duc Nha, President Thieu's advisor and cabinet member.



Mme Chennault "has served as a committee woman of the Washington, D.C. Republican Party since 1960...was the founder and chairperson of the National Republican Asian Assembly." Kissinger and Mme Chennault were both Richard Nixon's advisors. The Chennaults were very good friends of Generalissimo Chiang Kai Chek. President Thieu had his older brother Mr. Nguyen van Kieu as Vietnam ambassador in Taiwan. Through this Chang kai Chek connection, Mme. Chennault established a secret communication channel with the President of Vietnam.

Left to Right: Mr. Tran van Khoi, CEO Petroleum and Minerals Agency Republic of China's Ambassador to Viet Nam HE Nguyen van Kieu, Viet Nam Ambassador to Republic of China. Khuong Huu Dieu, President of Industrial Development Bank.



Mme Chennault with President Nixon



Chennault with Madam and General Chiang Kai-Shek

Kissinger and Mme Chennault privately assured the South Vietnamese government that an incoming Republican administration would offer them a better deal than would a Democratic one, and the South Vietnamese withdrew from the talks on the eve of the election, thereby disrupting the peace initiative on which the Democrats had based their campaign.

White House Records



Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and President Lyndon B. Johnson

According to records of President Lyndon B. Johnson's secret monitoring of South Vietnamese officials and his political foes, Anna Chennault played a crucial role on behalf of the Nixon campaign which attempted to sabotage of the 1968 Paris peace talks which could have ended the Vietnam War. She arranged the contact with South Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem whom Richard Nixon met in secret in July 1968 in New York. It was through Chennault's intercession that the Nixon campaign advised Saigon to refuse participation in the talks, promising a better deal once elected.

The reproduced FBI original document shows what then happened.

MRS. ANNA CHENNAULT CONTACTED VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR BUI DIEM, AND ADVISED HIM THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HER BOSS (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED), WHICH HER BOSS WANTED HER TO GIVE PERSONALLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. SHE SAID THAT THE MESSAGE WAS THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS TO »HOLD ON, WE ARE GONNA WIN« AND THAT HER BOSS ALSO SAID »HOLD ON, HE UNDERSTANDS ALL OF IT. « SHE REPEATED THAT THIS IS THE ONLY MESSAGE. »HE SAID PLEASE TELL YOUR BOSS TO HOLD ON. « SHE ADVISED THAT HER BOSS HAD JUST CALLED FROM NEW MEXICO.

"The tactic 'worked', in that the South Vietnamese delegation withdrew from the talks on the eve of the election, thereby destroying the peace initiative on which the Democrats had based their campaign." Before the elections President Johnson "suspected (...) Richard Nixon, of political sabotage that he called treason." In part because Nixon won the presidency, no one was ever prosecuted for this alleged crime. The election on November 5, 1968 proved to be extremely close, and it was not until the following morning that the television news networks were able to call Nixon the winner. Nixon won the popular vote with a victory margin of less than one percentage point, [43.4% vs. 42.7%] one of the closest elections in U.S. history.

Kissinger as a 1968 peace breaker became the first immigrant Secretary of State and the only one accumulating the chairmanship of the National Security Council in the history of the U.S.

The 1973 Paris Peace Accords and the Nobel Peace Prize

IN 1973, the Nixon Administration concluded the war on the same terms that had been on offer in Paris. The reason for the dead silence that still surrounds the question is that in those intervening years some 20,000 Americans and an uncalculated number of Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians lost their lives. A chief beneficiary of the covert action, and of the subsequent slaughter, was Henry Kissinger

The 1973 Peace Prize went to North Vietnamese leader Le Duc Tho and United States Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for achieving the 1973 Paris Peace Accords intended to bring about a cease-fire in the Vietnam War and a withdrawal of the American forces. Tho later declined the prize. North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam in April 1975.

According to Irwin Abrams - Historian and Champion of the Nobel Peace Prize, this prize was the most controversial to date.

Two Norwegian Nobel Committee members resigned in protest. When the award was announced, hostilities were continuing. PAccording to Henk Ruysenaars, "In Oslo I requested an interview with Aasa Lionaes, the chairwoman of the Nobel Peace Committee, and she wanted to talk. After asking me about the CIA's and

Kissinger's massacre in Chile, she fully acknowledged that awarding the Peace Prize '73 to Kissinger: "was a dreadful mistake: Kissinger understands this as well, and hasn't even dared to pick up the Nobel medal, prize money or the Nobel award's diploma." Lionaes said. The interview was, as far as I know, shown on TV in many countries all over the world, but never in the United States." Henk Ruysenaars - Former correspondent in Nobel Prize Scandinavia, Senior Editor, Foreign Press Foundation (FPF) [I]ize

KISSINGER DID NOT EVEN DARE TO PICK UP THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Kissinger himself did not show up to receive the controversial prize because of strong public demonstration against him. He asked Ambassador Thomas R. Byrne, Ambassador of the United States to Norway, to accept the prize for him. His counterpart Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam refused to accept the prize.

The following Henry Kissinger's quotes have helped me to understand him better.

- *The Vietnam War required us to emphasize the national interest rather than abstract principles. What President Nixon and I tried to do was unnatural. And that is why we didn't make it.*
- *America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests.*
- *The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes a little longer.*
- *The superpowers often behave like two heavily armed blind men feeling their way around a room, each believing himself in mortal peril from the other, whom he assumes to have perfect vision.*
- *The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been.*
- *To be absolutely certain about something, one must know everything or nothing about it.*
- *Most foreign policies that history has marked highly, in whatever country, have been originated by leaders who were opposed by experts.*
- *Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation.*
- *No country can act wisely simultaneously in every part of the globe at every moment of time.*
- *No foreign policy - no matter how ingenious - has any chance of success if it is born in the minds of a few and carried in the hearts of none.*
- *People are generally amazed that I would take an interest in any forum that would require me to stop talking for three hours.*
- *he absence of alternatives clears the mind marvelously.*
- *The American foreign policy trauma of the sixties and seventies was caused by applying valid principles to unsuitable conditions.*
- *The American temptation is to believe that foreign policy is a subdivision of psychiatry.*
- *The conventional army loses if it does not win. The guerrilla wins if he does not lose.*
- *The essence of Richard Nixon is loneliness.*
- *The longer I am out of office, the more infallible I appear to myself.*
- *The nice thing about being a celebrity is that, if you bore people, they think it's their fault.*
- *There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full.*
- *A leader does not deserve the name unless he is willing occasionally to stand alone.*
- *Accept everything about yourself - I mean everything, You are you and that is the beginning and the end - no apologies, no regrets.*
- *Any fact that needs to be disclosed should be put out now or as quickly as possible, because otherwise the bleeding will not end.*
- *Blessed are the people whose leaders can look destiny in the eye without flinching but also without attempting to play God.*
- *Diplomacy: the art of restraining power.*
- *Each success only buys an admission ticket to a more difficult problem.*
- *I am being frank about myself in this book. I tell of my first mistake on page 850.*
- *I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people. The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves.*

- *If I should ever be captured, I want no negotiation - and if I should request a negotiation from captivity they should consider that a sign of duress.*
- *If it's going to come out eventually, better have it come out immediately.*
- *If you don't know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere.*
- *In crises the most daring course is often safest.*
- *It was a Greek tragedy. Nixon was fulfilling his own nature. Once it started it could not end otherwise.*