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KISSINGER'S LEGACY

lllien historians describe the years 1969 to 1976, the name of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will emerge as more influential than Presidents Richard Nixon or Gerald Ford.

Because Kissinger is probably the hardest working, the wittiest, and the most popular public official in the United States, criticism of him is rare. The beautiful girls in the 1974 Miss Universe con test voted him "the greatest person in the world today." But will his legacy be good or bad for the United States?

The chief reason Kissinger rates so high in public opinion polls is his name identification. This is partially due to his constant participation in newsworthy happenings, his shuttle diplomacy, and his meetings with VIPs all over the world.

His coverage is due even more, however, to the fact that he made himself the fountainhead of all important news on foreign policy and national defense. He gathered the strings of power into his own hands through his position on the National Security Council and his chairmanship of all important national security committees.

As all roads once led to Rome, all channels of our many intelligence-gathering facilities led to Kissinger. I#Ls **unli1J91y** that there ever was a time in our history when so few people had access to sensitive information.

Kissinger's statements to the American people are always gen erously laced with phrases that connote stability such as "new world order," "structure of peace," and "balance of power." Let's examine the high points of Kissinger's eight-year **stewarCship** to see if these words are substance or illusion.

The SALT ·Agreements of 1972 were·'negotiated by Kissing r t:HH1 proclaimed to tbe world as a device to t1stop the spiral:b'i\g arms .rtH:>.ie. ·" They did, imleed., stop the United States from racing. RegrettH1,ly, they did not stop the Soviets, who have built anddeploy1 d f:ii.Vf;- tH:w seTiee of intercontinental missiles since then.

'1the Helsinki Agl'.·t-rnment 01' 1975 Wl:H:l negotiated 'by Klss:i.ntJ;e:r proclaimed to the world as a means of gettin the Sov1et3 top free:r movem£ r1.t o:t p ?opl e arH2 i.det.u:i: in li:as1 ern Europe. B.oweve:1:', i.t only put the stamp **of** respectRbili ty and permanence on thf.i bo:n!cx-::i close by Soviet t1 ops 0long the Iron Curtain.

1.lhc Pa:ris Agreement on Vietnm.11 of ,JatHtf:>..\·y 1973 was cnn a cocted by Kissinger and proclaimed to the world es a promise of peace. Even while he was accepting the Nobel Peace Prize for this feat, **its** 1.nherent dedr•cts 1,,re:r.e ol:rviou.s. i,rhen .Riss:lng,er P:gr H:;0 to e1low Nf1rt,h V:twtnamesc troop ') t.o rt1>11u2in in. South V:i.etn.am wh:Ue U.. S. troops p.ullNl out, be seAled the rloom of Southeast Asia.

The frng:f.le peace th.et Kiss111-g;, r hao wrought in the M:hMl f.' f,:aat is laced toge the:: w:it.h t.remend.ous amounts o:r ,1\ 1erieml! ah1, :f 1:.nd; to one side, then. to thl' other. Yet Jsra£,1 woula not tunl'fl .n1c;1,;,ri !l:.l Mn" aid if Kissinger Led not snatched defeat frow the jaws :tn l ,'.·'73 •

.After Egypt eommii;t.f.·1\ tht. surJn'i.so rorn Kippu:r Atttlch:, the Ifrr el:Jls countered with a aring una eucoessful military maneuver that trfipped the Egyptirm army on the ·wrong sidf'l of the fil:tez Camtl, cut o:f:f froi11 reinforcements. Kissinger then forced the I raelis tn give 11p fhe1r vietory an<°l rr:il1t.i0£U:l the 1i:g)rpthn1 a:r·my.

It·is no wonder that, after Jimmy Carter was elected last month, former Israeli de:f.ense minister Moshe Vaya:n rernat·ked: 1'It is sa1;ts.... fJJ:t:ng to larnw thnt J{itrni.nger w:ll l l>c replaced.•n

Finally, there was the African adventure. Kissinger did nothing to oppose tlw CulHH.l cr,uquosi; wi tll 3oviet ,·l•N:rpons *ol* .An.g:,olt\, lmt he 1s:i·bored loni; and hard to overtln:·ow the anti-Communist govt.:•J·nmenL o:f Rhodesia, evEm offe:rlnf ; m:U.lio:o.s of American ta:x d.oUars to eoun.t.r:tes invading Rhotiflsia sm:h. as Gonmrnn.is t Nozawtbiqtv,.,,,.

As .Kisslnger leavm; i):i?f:tce ne:w:t month, the qnest:i.o:n is: ,w111 the !'new world ord, :r.F th:rit he bt:1s br,im 1:, tl t:tng collspse l:iJ:1(1 Neville Chamberlain's Vfflbrella?