

# Historical Obituary

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Name:

Period:

Obituary Outline

Who was the person?

When did they live?

Where are they from?

What was their job?

List their achievements (why are they famous).

How did they impact the world (Renaissance, Protestant Reformation or Scientific Revolution)?

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## The 37th President; Richard Nixon, 81, Dies; A Master of Politics Undone by Watergate

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

**R**ichard Milhous Nixon (1913 -1994), the 37th President of the United States, who was the only President in more than two centuries of American history to resign from office, died last night at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He was 81 years old and lapsed into a deep coma on Thursday morning after suffering a stroke on Monday. His daughters, Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon Cox, were at Mr. Nixon's bedside when he died.

Mr. Nixon was a fiercely partisan Republican as a Representative and then as a Senator from California in the late 1940's and early 1950's, as Vice President under President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953 to 1961 and as President from 1969 to 1974. Mr. Nixon was driven from office by the Watergate scandal, resigning in the face of certain impeachment on Aug. 9, 1974. He never completely dispelled the sense of shame that clung to his last days in the White House. In his 1990 memoir, "In the Arena," the former President himself. "Only when you have been in the depths," he wrote, "can you appreciate the heights. Without risks you will suffer no defeats. But without defeats you will win no victories."

But he had a thoughtful side, too, and many considered him a highly astute student of both domestic politics and international affairs. His abilities were apparent in some of his innovative policies, like his efforts to share Federal tax revenue with the states, to reorganize government and to overhaul both welfare and health care, as well as in the eight books and countless speeches and articles that he produced in the long years of his retirement.

Once a leading member of the China Lobby, an anti-Beijing organization, he reopened American relations with China in 1972. He began the rapprochement with the Soviet Union with the signing of the first treaty limiting the potentially deadly nuclear arms race.

Resignation would have broken most men, but it did not break Richard Nixon. After a brief exile by the Pacific, he moved East, did some legal work and gradually re-entered politics -- traveling abroad (five times to China alone) and contributing profusely to the public discourse at home, even if few if any Republican candidates sought his support in their campaigns. By 1990, the wounds had healed enough for him to preside over the dedication of the new \$21 million Nixon library near his birthplace in Yorba Linda, a small town in Orange County southeast of Los Angeles. Hailed as a statesman and a peacemaker, he said he had "many memories, some of them good, some of them not so good."

Almost until his final illness, Mr. Nixon worked hard, as he had all his life. He read deeply -- biographies of Churchill, de Gaulle, Goethe, Orwell and Wilson in the months before his 80th birthday, he told an interviewer -- wrote constantly and displayed the energy of a man in his 50's as he roamed the world over.

Mr. Nixon's funeral will be at 4 P.M. on Wednesday at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, Calif., the family said. They had asked that there be no official ceremony in Washington. President Clinton, who will be among the funeral speakers, said the Government had made an Air Force plane available to carry the body to the West Coast. The Nixon Library said the body would arrive in California at 1 P.M. on Tuesday and be taken to the library by motorcade. The Rev. Billy Graham, a longtime friend of Mr. Nixon's, will officiate at the services, and Senator Bob Dole, the minority leader, and Gov. Pete Wilson of California will deliver eulogies along with Mr. Clinton. The body will remain at the library overnight for public viewing. The burial, on Thursday, will be private.