Nixon, Kissinger, and U.S. Foreign Policy Making

Nixon, Kissinger, and U.S. Foreign Policy Making examines for the first time the important role of crisis management in the making of U.S. foreign policy during the Nixon-Kissinger years. The book offers a critical account of the manner in which the president and his national security advisor – notorious for their tight grip on the machinery of U.S. foreign policy – dominated the structures and processes of foreign policy making. By drawing on a wealth of previously classified documents, Asaf Siniver reveals the story of the Washington Special Actions Group (WSAG), which managed foreign policy crises in the Nixon administration. In this thoroughly researched account of the performance of Nixon, Kissinger, and the WSAG in four international crises, Siniver provides a fresh analysis of the important relationship among structures, processes, and personalities in the making of U.S. foreign policy during international crises.

Dr. Asaf Siniver is Lecturer of International Relations at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
Nixon, Kissinger, and U.S. Foreign Policy Making

The Machinery of Crisis

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<td>ARVN</td>
<td>Army of the Republic of Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIA</td>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSVN</td>
<td>Central Office of South Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCI</td>
<td>Director, Central Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCO</td>
<td>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPA</td>
<td>Foreign Policy Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRUS</td>
<td>Foreign Relations of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>GVN</td>
<td>Government of Vietnam</td>
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<td>HAK</td>
<td>Henry A. Kissinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAKOF</td>
<td>Henry A. Kissinger Office Files</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCS</td>
<td>Joint Chiefs of Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAC</td>
<td>Military Aircraft Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACV</td>
<td>Military Assistance Command, Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>MF</td>
<td>Meeting Files</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMF</td>
<td>Minutes of Meeting Files</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>National Archives, London</td>
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<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation</td>
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<td>NPMP</td>
<td>Nixon Presidential Materials Project</td>
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<td>NSC</td>
<td>National Security Council</td>
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<td>NSCF</td>
<td>National Security Council Files</td>
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<td>NSCIF</td>
<td>National Security Council Institutioal Files</td>
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<td>NSDM</td>
<td>National Security Decision Memorandum</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSSM</td>
<td>National Security Study Memorandum</td>
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<td>NVA</td>
<td>North Vietnamese Army</td>
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## Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>PFLP</td>
<td>Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine</td>
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<td>PPPS</td>
<td>Public Papers of Presidents of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVNAF</td>
<td>South Vietnamese Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALT</td>
<td>Strategic Arms Limitation Talks</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEATO</td>
<td>South East Asia Treaty Organisation</td>
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<td>SRG</td>
<td>Senior Review Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>United States Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>Vietcong</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHCF</td>
<td>White House Central Files</td>
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<td>WSAG</td>
<td>Washington Special Actions Group</td>
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Dramatis Personae


Agnew, Spiro Vice President of the United States, 1969–1973

Assad, Hafez President of Syria, 1971–2000


Colby, William Director, Central Intelligence, 1973–1976

Cushman, Robert Deputy Director, CIA, 1969–1971

Dinitz, Simcha Israeli Ambassador to the United States, 1973–1979


Ehrlichman, John D. Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, 1969–1973

Farland, Joseph U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, 1969–1972
Dramatis Personae

Freeman, John  British Ambassador to the United States, 1969–1971
Gandhi, Indira  Prime Minister of India, 1966–1977
Green, Marshall  Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 1970
Gromyko, Andrei  Soviet Foreign Minister, 1957–1985
Haldeman, H. R. ‘Bob’  White House Chief of Staff, 1969–1973
Halperin, Morton H.  Senior staff member, NSC, 1969
Helms, Richard  Director, Central Intelligence, 1966–1973
Hussein bin Talal  King of Jordan, 1952–1999
Johnson, U. Alexis  Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, 1969–1973
Karamessines, Thomas  Deputy Director of Plans, CIA, 1967–1973
Keating, Kenneth  U.S. Ambassador to India, 1969–1972
Kennedy, Colonel Richard T.  Director, Staff Planning and Coordination, NSC; Deputy Assistant to the President for NSC Planning, 1969–1975
Kissinger, Henry A.  Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, 1969–1975; Secretary of State, 1973–1977
Laird, Melvin R.  Secretary of Defense, 1969–1973
Lake, Tony  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1970
Lon Nol, General  Cambodia’s Prime Minister, Commander in Chief and Head of State, 1970–1975
Lord, Winston  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1970; Special Assistant to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, 1970–1973
Lynn, Larry  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1970
Dramatis Personae

Meir, Golda  Prime Minister of Israel, 1969–1974


Moorer, Admiral Thomas H.  Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1970–1974

Morris, Roger  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1970

Nixon, Richard M.  President of the United States, 1969–1974


Packard, David  Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1969–1971

Quandt, William B.  Staff member, NSC, 1972–1974

Rabin, Yitzhak  Israeli Ambassador to the United States, 1968–1973

Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur  Leader of the Awami League; Prime Minister of Bangladesh, 1972–1975

Rodman, Peter  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1977

Rogers, William P.  Secretary of State, 1969–1973

Sadat, Mohamed Anwar  President of Egypt, 1970–1981

Saunders, Harold  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1974

Schlesinger, James  Secretary of Defense, 1973–1974

Scowcroft, Brent  Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, 1973–1975


Sisco, Joseph  Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, 1969–1974; Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, 1974–1976

Sonnenfeldt, Helmut  Senior staff member, NSC, 1969–1974

Watts, William  Staff member, NSC, 1969–1970
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Wheeler, General Earle G. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1964–1970

Yahya Khan, General Agha Mohammad  President, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, 1969–1971

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