Richard M. Nixon, A Man of Our Times

Column by Matthew H. Hensch

I've never written a memorial piece before, not even for H. H. Diamond. I regard it as a personal honor. It's only fitting, though, that I should take part to pen for his former employer, ex-ex-president Richard Milhous Nixon.

But seriously, folks, as a foreign relations propagandist, Nixon contributed more to the fabric of international relations in the second half of the 20th century than any other American president. His legacy is intertwined with the history of the Cold War, and his impact on the world is still felt today.

Nixon's career began in the 1950s, when he served as a national security adviser to President Eisenhower. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency and then as the attorney general of California. In 1968, he ran for president and won, becoming the third-term president in American history.

Nixon's legacy is marked by both triumph and tragedy. He is remembered for his role in the Watergate scandal, which ultimately led to his resignation as president in 1974. However, his foreign policy achievements cannot be ignored. He is credited with ending the Vietnam War, brokering the Paris Peace Accords, and normalizing relations with China.

Nixon's foreign policy was characterized by his "détente" policy, which aimed to reduce tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. He also played a key role in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, helping to secure a ceasefire and prevent a full-scale war.

In summary, Richard Nixon was a complex figure whose actions had a profound impact on the course of world events. His legacy is a testament to the complexity of international relations and the challenges of leadership.

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