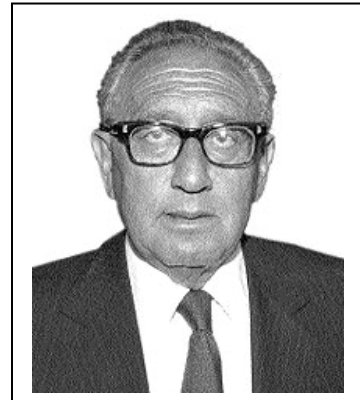


# Henry Kissinger

1973

*“To the realist, peace represents a stable arrangement of power; to the idealist, a goal so pre-eminent that it conceals the difficulty of finding the means to its achievement. But in this age of thermonuclear technology, neither view can assure man's preservation. Instead, peace, the ideal, must be practiced.”*

Henry Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger on May 27, 1923, in Furth, Germany. He was the first of the two sons of Paula Stern Kissinger and Louis Kissinger. His father was a teacher who lost his job and career when the Nazis, carrying out the orders of Adolf Hitler (1889–1945), began persecuting (causing people to suffer for their beliefs) Jewish people in Germany. The Nazi party was in control of the government of Germany from 1933 to 1945.



As a boy Kissinger loved sports but was a better student than athlete. When German **anti-Semitism** (hatred of Jewish people) increased, the family decided to leave Germany in 1938, moving first to England and then several months later to the United States. The family settled in New York City, where Kissinger completed high school and began taking night classes at City College with the intention of becoming an accountant. While attending college he worked at a factory during the day.

- Born 1923
- He has appeared in over 42 films as himself
- In a 1973 Gallop poll Kissinger was named the most admired person in America
- He was asked to lead an inquiry into 9/11 by the Bush administration
- He was born in Germany and was the first foreign-born citizen to become Secretary of State
- Kissinger is a member of the faculty at Georgetown University

During World War II (1939–45) a war between the United States and many other countries in the world broke out. Millions of people lost their lives. Kissinger joined the military and served in Germany, working in Army Intelligence. He also became an American citizen during the war. Following the war Kissinger remained in Europe as an instructor at the European Command Intelligence School in Germany. In 1947 he returned to the United States and enrolled at Harvard University. He graduated in the class of 1950 with a degree in government.

While at Harvard, he worked with the

Defense Studies Program and served as a consultant with several U.S. Agencies. In 1957, his *Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy* won him recognition because through academics he proved why Secretary of State John Dulles and his proposal of a strong nuclear attack on the Soviet Union was not a **tactical** or sound idea. He believed in weapons development, but that it should be limited with other requirements. His 1960 book entitled *The Necessity of Choice* talked of a **missile gap** between the two super powers if it wasn't carefully controlled.

Under President Nixon, Henry Kissinger was put as the head of the National Security Council and was later made the Secretary of State in 1973. Through the Nixon administration and others that followed, he worked with China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the Middle East. He helped to establish an agreement between Pakistan and India, and would play a key role in the settling of Vietnam. And in 1973, Kissinger helped negotiate a cease-fire between the two sides, in which he was later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with the Vietnamese negotiator, Le Duo Tho. The 1973 prize remains one of the most controversial peace prizes. Two members of the Nobel peace committee resigned in protest. Le Duo Tho refused the award and Kissinger did not go to Oslo but had the American ambassador accept the award for him. Despite the cease-fire and America's withdrawal of troops, the Nobel award in 1973, the war continued until 1976 when North Vietnam defeated the South and unified the country.

Christopher Hitchens, among many others, has accused former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger of war crimes for his involvement in covert operations, coups, and armed conflict in states across the globe. Despite widespread knowledge of the details of his guilt, some garnered from recently declassified CIA documents. Kissinger continues to be an admired public figure whose presence is much sought after by **mainstream** media.

## Suggested Classroom Activities

### Henry Kissinger

#### Vocabulary Terms:

1. **Realist**
2. **Idealist**
3. **Anti-Semitism**
4. **Tactical**
5. **Missile Gap**
6. **War Crimes**
7. **Coups**
8. **Mainstream**

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why did Kissinger's family leave Germany? (Level 1)
2. What position did Kissinger hold in President Nixon's administration? (Level 1)
3. Why was Kissinger awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? (Level 2)
4. Why is it considered controversial that Kissinger should receive the Nobel Peace Prize? (Level 3)

#### Activities:

Debate Activity on the Nobel Prize and Henry Kissinger

Watch Movie: The Trials of Henry Kissinger (2002)  
Directed by Eugene Jarecki

A documentary about the war crimes of Kissinger  
<http://www.thetrialsofhenrykissinger.com/trials.html>

#### Debate:

**Should Henry Kissinger have been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1973?**

#### Pre-debate preparation:

What national and world events were happening in 1972/1973?  
For what specific reason was Kissinger awarded the Nobel Prize?  
What criteria are used to determine who gets a Peace Prize? Does Kissinger fulfill them?  
Who else might have made a good candidate for the Peace Prize that year?  
Why would they have been better than Henry Kissinger?

**Pro:**

If you are on the “PRO” side of the debate, you believe that Henry Kissinger was the appropriate man to which to award the Nobel Prize in 1973. You must prove that there was no one better for the prize.

**Negative:**

If you are on the “NEGATIVE” side of the debate, you believe that Kissinger was not the best person to which to award the 1973 Peace Prize. You must prove that, by the standards of the Nobel Prize Foundation’s criteria, there was someone who better deserved the prize that year.

Your team will debate against the other side in a 35 minute debate. Make sure your team works together and does enough research to be able to give lots of solid facts, quotes, information, and other solid ideas, rather than simply state your opinions. The side with the more “solid” case will win the debate.

**Technology Option**

CNN Interactive Profiles: Henry Kissinger

Use as a computer lab time lining exercise to map out world events and events in Henry Kissinger’s life.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/kbank/profiles/kissinger>