

1. The political spectrum is an approach to identifying or classifying an individual's ideologies. On a left-right spectrum, liberals are placed on the left and conservatives are placed on the right. Modern-day liberals believe that more government involvement is needed in the economy in order to promote greater equality. Liberals support higher taxes to pay for various programs and greater regulation of business to protect the consumer. Socially, liberals tend to favor less interference in how people conduct themselves. They believe the government should preserve the rights of the individual. Modern-day conservatives believe in a laissez-faire approach to the economy. Lower taxes provides individuals with more money to use as they choose. This should stimulate economic development. They also believe in greater competition between business, and therefore, the government should be less involved in regulation. Conservatives also believe that the government needs to ensure order and provide stricter moral guidelines for people to follow in order to protect communities. Those people who believe that the government should stay out of the economy as well as people's lives are called libertarians.
2. The Watergate Scandal refers to the break-in by members of the Committee to Reelect the President (CREEP), working for President Nixon, during the 1972 presidential election. Five burglars were arrested for attempting to gain information from the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex. An investigation conducted by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, with the help of a secret informant (later identified as Mark Felt, 2nd in command at the FBI), uncovered several aspects of the Nixon administration. This list included the creation of an enemies list, use of the IRS to intimidate people, an effort to spy on political opponents, and a tape recording system in the White House. The political conflict lasted two years and culminated in Nixon eventually being forced to submit the tape recordings. When he did, 18 1/2 minutes were erased. Facing likely impeachment, Nixon became the first and only president to resign from office. He was pardoned by Gerald Ford. The Watergate Scandal led to a general mistrust of government. It also strengthened the belief in freedom of the press.