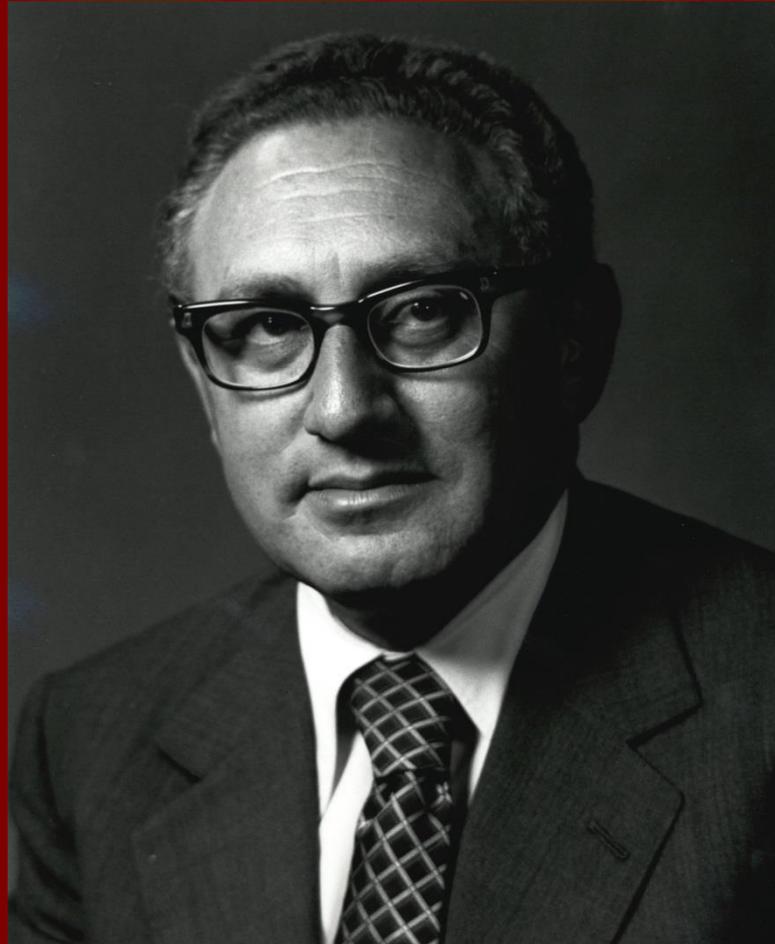


# Celebrity Diplomat

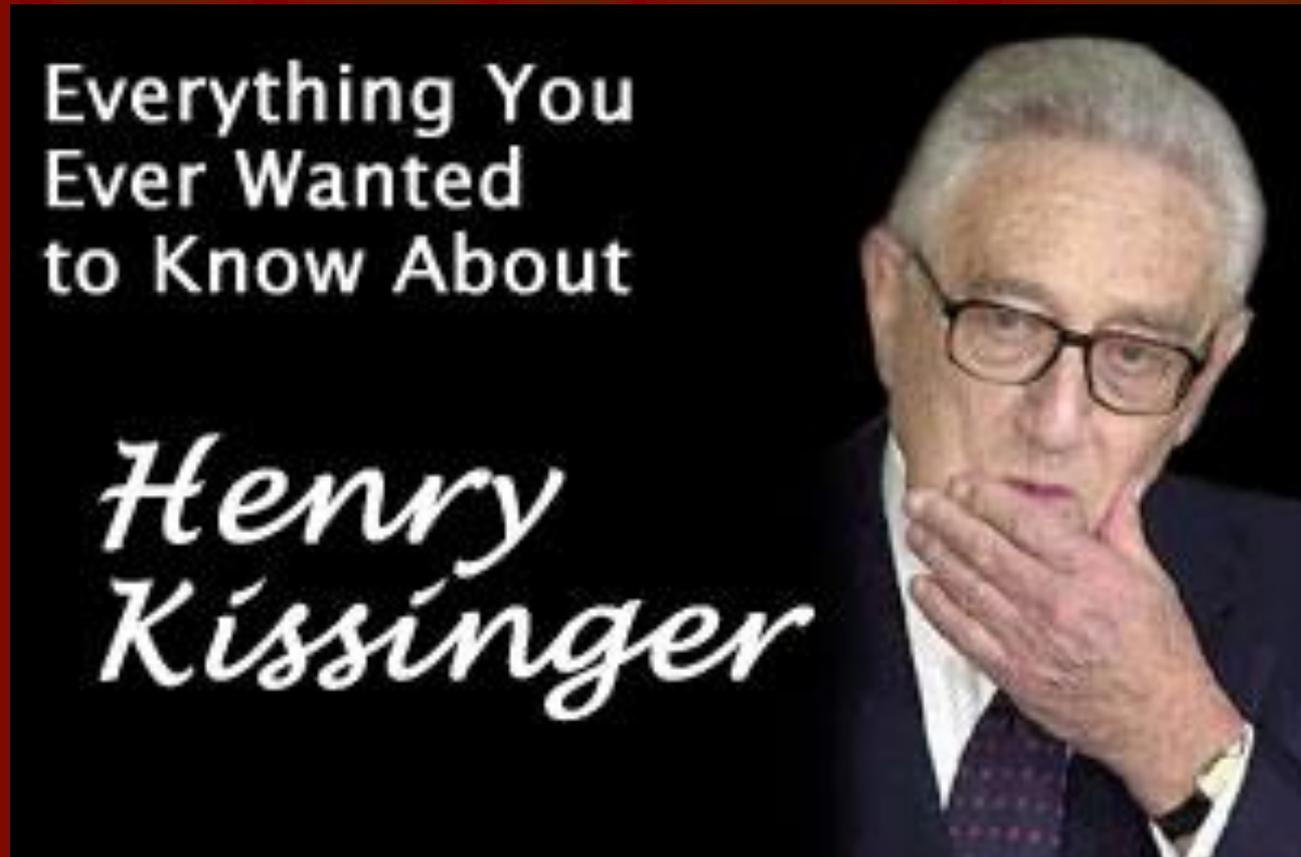
Henry Kissinger and the Dilemmas  
of American Power

Osher Lifelong Learning 2015

# Henry A. Kissinger



My alternate title: ...and were afraid  
to ask



# Still controversial in 2015



# The arguments of this course

- 1.) Henry Kissinger is the most famous and controversial American diplomat of the 20th century.
- 2.) A career intersecting with key aspects of American history
- 3.) National Security Adviser in 1969 – architect of US policy with Nixon – Ended American involvement in Vietnam, crafting an opening to China, and reaching detente with the Soviet Union. But also interfered in the elected government of Chile, tilted toward Pakistan in its genocidal behavior toward Bangladesh, and fostered relationships with dictatorial regimes like the Shah's Iran.
- 4.) Became first "celebrity diplomat" and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kissinger survived Watergate and advised Gerald Ford
- 6.) A self-professed "realist" and Cold Warrior
- 7.) Attack by both Republicans and Democrats in 1976
- 8.) Kissinger's legacy has been an emphasis on the limits of American power and the need to recognize the importance of diplomacy in combination with military power in furthering the national interest.



# Kissinger's appointment

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-FmWpacHeQ>



# "A man of my origins"

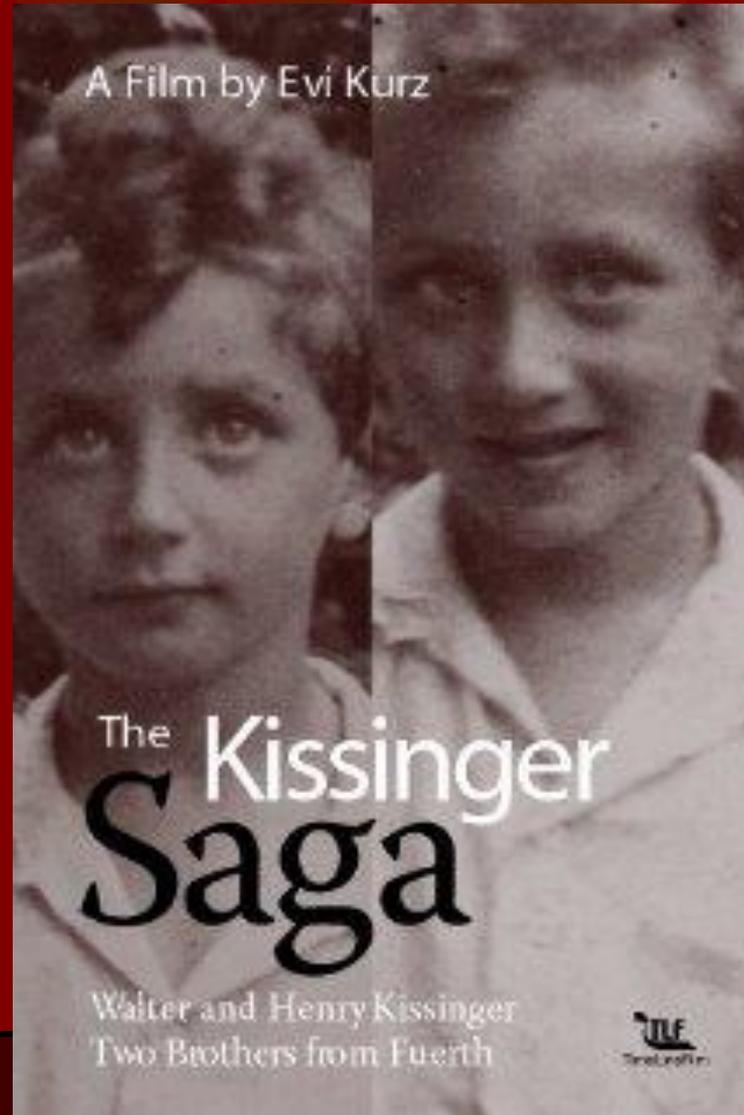
- 1.) born in Fuerth, Germany, during the Weimar Republic; Orthodox Jewish upbringing; intense love for soccer
- 2.) Ten years old in 1933 when Hitler and the Nazis came to power
- What was the impact of this?



# Young Henry – growing up in Nazi Germany (1923-1938)



# The Kissinger saga



# Louis and Paula Kissinger



# New York in 1940



Manhattan Skyline

New York City, 1940.

# Kissinger's Army Career

- 1.) Drafted in 1943 – serves in Army Intelligence – first mentor Fritz Kraemer
- 2.) Serves in occupation of Germany till 1947 – first taste of power as “Mr. Henry” – ruler of Bensheim



# General Alexander Bolling

- Kissinger was assigned as his interpreter.



# Kissinger in Military Government

- 1.) Took command in Krefeld, an industrial city
- 2.) Assigned to Counter-Intelligence Corps – rounded up Gestapo
- 3.) Ruler of Bensheim, small paper-making town near Frankfurt



# Kissinger on the Concentration camps – letter, April 21, 1946

- Concentration camps were not only mills of death. They were also testing grounds...The intellectuals, the idealists, the men of high morals had no chance...Having once made up one's mind to survive, it was a necessity to follow through with a singleness of purpose...[which] broached no stopping in front of accepted sets of values, it had to disregard ordinary standards of morality. One could only survive through lies, tricks, and by somehow acquiring food to fill one's belly. The weak, the old had no chance...Survivors have seen man from the most evil side, who can blame them for being suspicious."

# Kissinger at Harvard

- 1.) Enters in 1947 under the GI Bill
- 2.) Marries Ann Fleischer in 1949
- 3.) Graduates Harvard in 1950; writes 388 page undergraduate thesis, "The Meaning of History."  
(Kissinger rule follows)
- his mentor is William Yandell Elliott, Vanderbilt class 1917



# Kissinger at Harvard: “Cold War University”

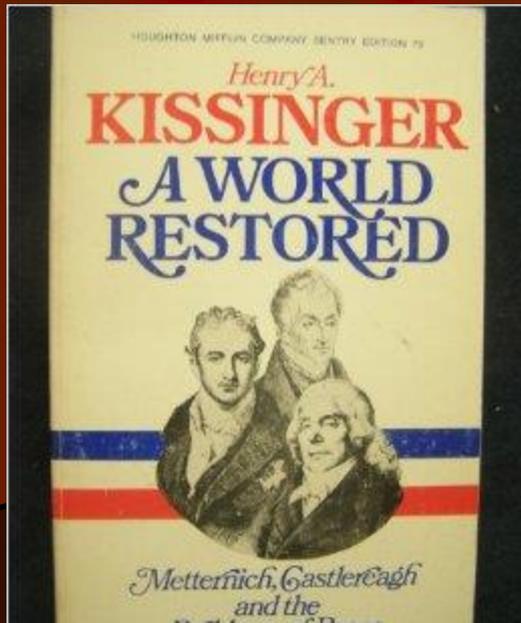
- 1.) creation of the journal “Confluence”
- Networking, international exchange of ideas, anti-communist persuasion
- 2.) International Seminar – bringing Europeans to the United States for seminar in American politics
- 3.) Harvard as a “Cold War University”

# Psychological Strategy Board

- 1.) Kissinger's role as consultant
- 2.) PSB – committee within the executive to coordinate psychological and information warfare programs
- 3.) Kissinger travels to Korea in 1951 and Germany in 1952, his first trip back.

# Kissinger's Dissertation

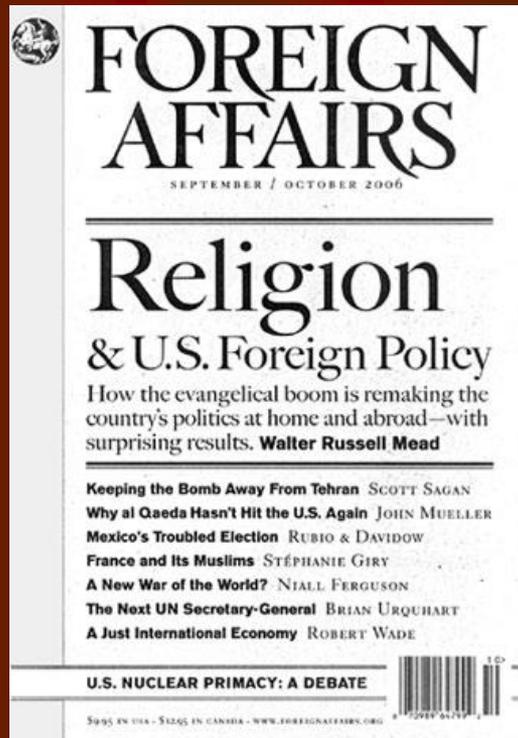
- 1.) Doctoral Dissertation and book *A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh, and the Problems of Peace 1812-1822* – Praise for Klemens von Metternich and the effort to craft stability after the Napoleonic wars



# Principles of Kissinger's Realpolitik/Realism

- 1.) International system is anarchic – no controlling entity
- 2.) States are the principal actors in the international system; States pursue their national interest – power and/or security
- 3.) Relations between states are determined by relative power, both military and economic
- 4.) Peace would come from a balance of power among states, an equilibrium within a generally accepted “legitimate” world order
- 5.) Realism as a policy for America between the extremes of isolationism and Wilsonianism
- 6.) Issues of human rights, democracy, freedom are secondary

# Council on Foreign Relations



# Nelson Rockefeller

- Kissinger works for Nelson Rockefeller as head of his Special Studies project, 1955-1958 – Rockefeller as political mentor

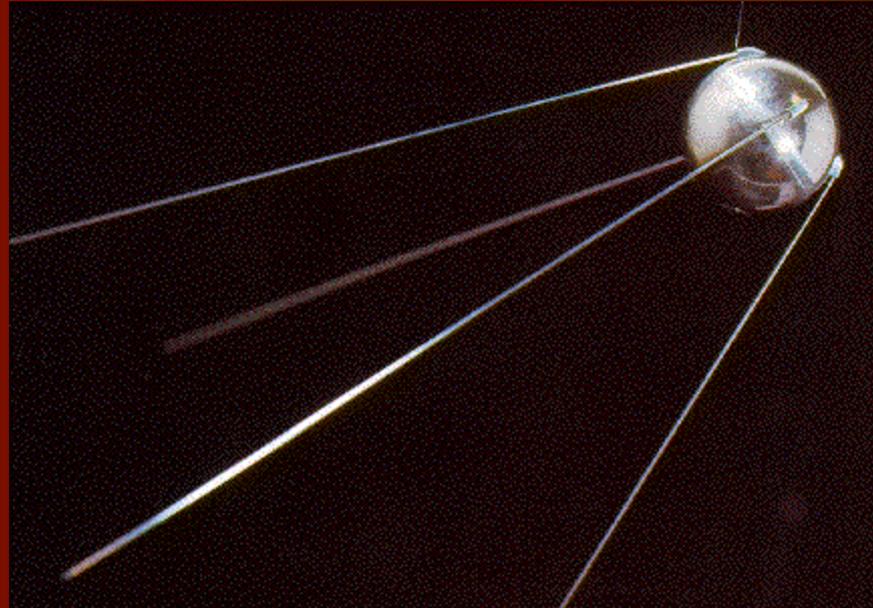


# Rockefeller's Political Future

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwLC49oBVAM&list=PLrISWmDC\\_QZ86fhY1weUQ2iobozmWhwHp&index=93](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwLC49oBVAM&list=PLrISWmDC_QZ86fhY1weUQ2iobozmWhwHp&index=93)
- Kissinger's developing critique of the Eisenhower Administration – Hungary, Suez – moral weakness – bureaucratic paralysis – criticism of Policy Planning

# Sputnik – October 1957

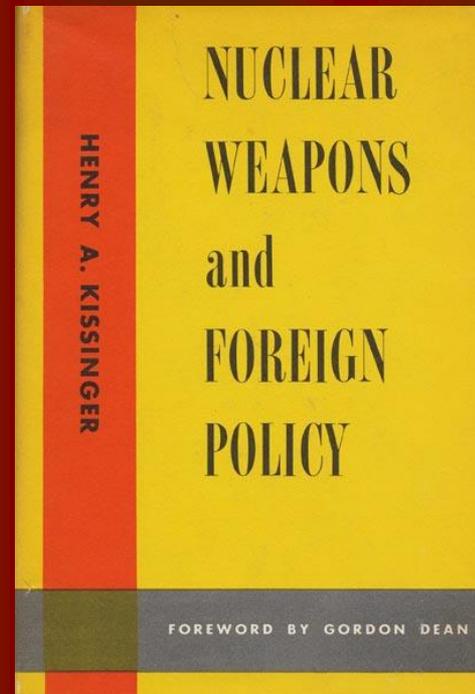
- “International Security: The Military Aspect”



# Kissinger's best seller, 1958

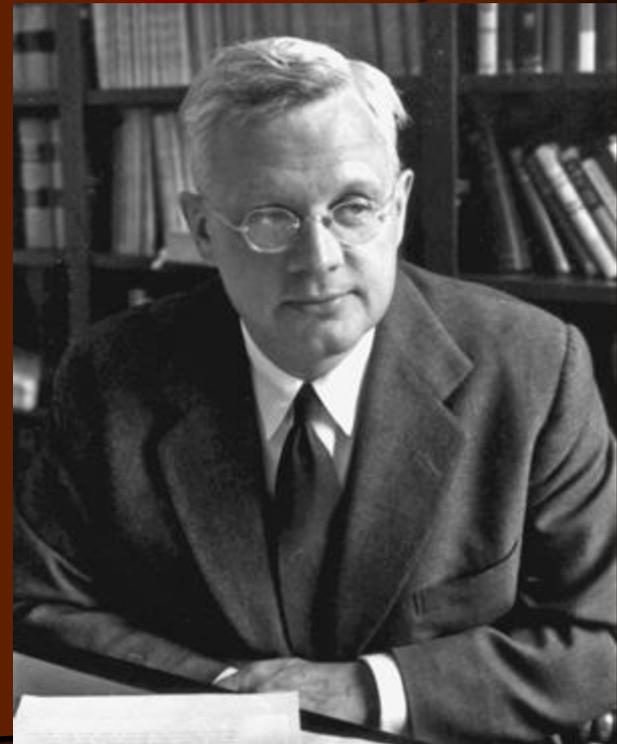
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=8SJikzUwwOY#t=89](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=8SJikzUwwOY#t=89)

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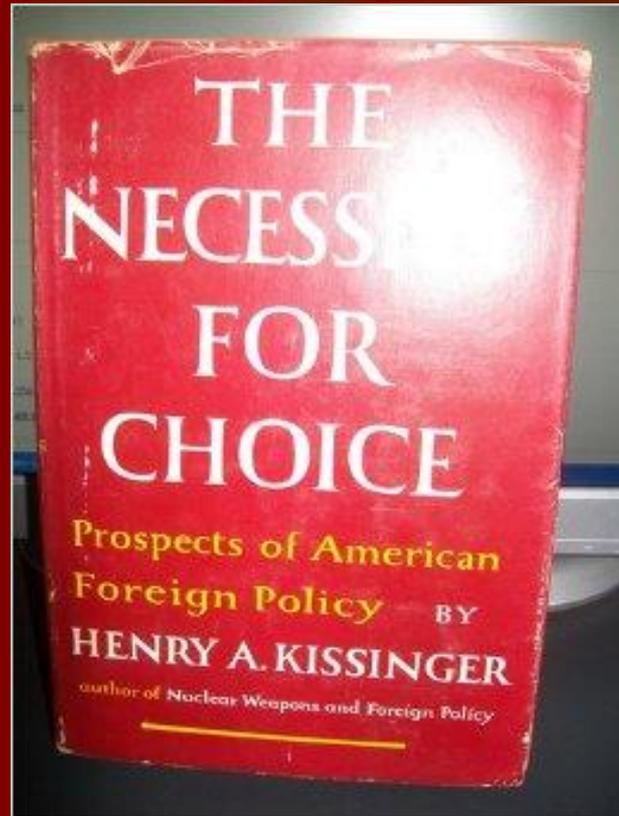


# Harvard Center for the Study of International Affairs

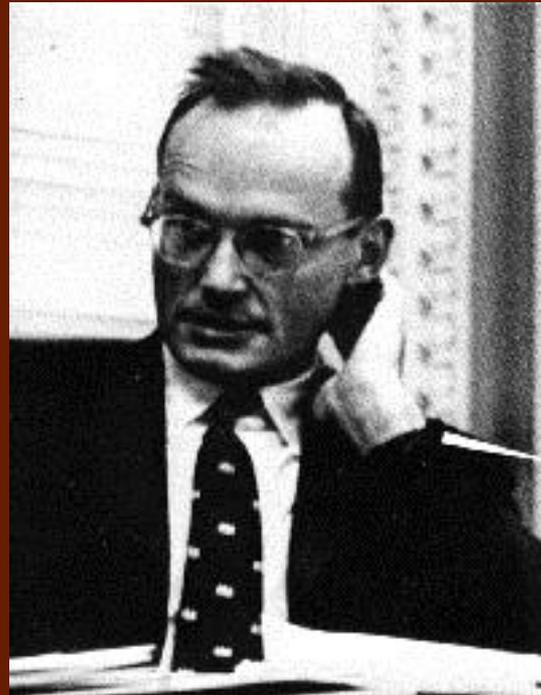
- Kissinger and Robert Bowie as Directors
- Bowie – head of Eisenhower's Policy Planning Staff



# Necessity for Choice - 1961



# McGeorge Bundy: Kennedy's NSC



# Germany and Berlin

- Kissinger as part-time adviser, meets with Konrad Adenauer



# The Berlin Wall – August 1961

