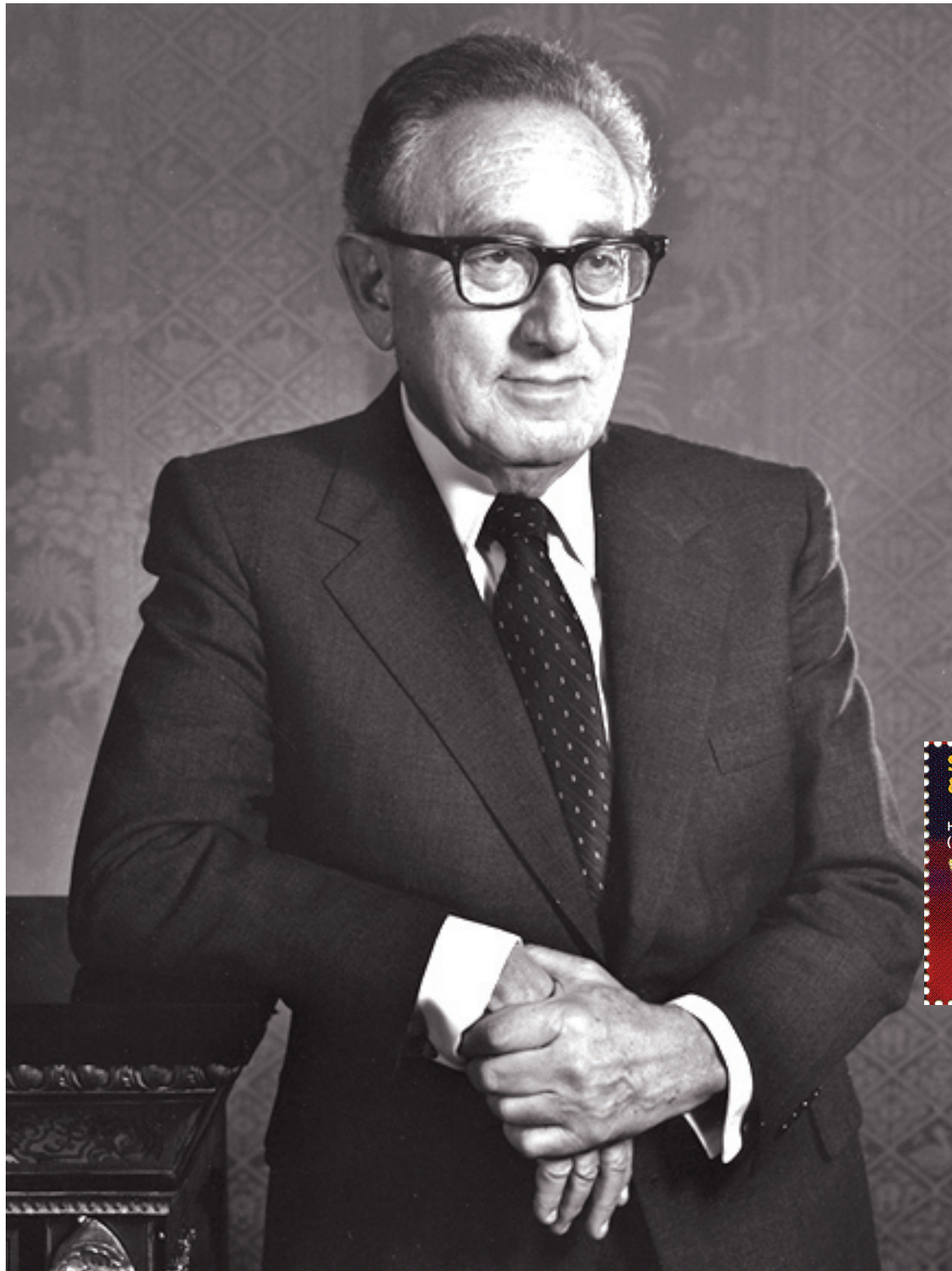


Henry Kissinger

Secretary of State, Nobel Laureate (1923 –)



Henry Alfred Kissinger has been a major figure in American politics for 50 years serving as diplomat, National Security Advisor, Secretary of State, and counselor to numerous presidents.

Kissinger was born in Bavaria, but in 1938, fleeing Nazi persecution, his family moved to New York. He became a citizen in 1943 while serving in the U.S. military. Following the war, he remained in Europe as a civilian instructor at the European Command Intelligence School.

He graduated from Harvard College in 1950, and received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1954. Kissinger remained on the faculty and, among other responsibilities, was Study Director in Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. He published his first book, *Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy*, in 1957.

After working several years for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Kissinger became an advisor to Nelson Rockefeller, who sought the Republican nomination for President in 1960, 1964 and 1968. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968, he made Kissinger National Security Advisor, then Secretary of State. He continued as Secretary of State under Gerald Ford, and was succeeded in 1973 by CYRUS VANCE.

Kissinger's involvement in Indochina started prior to working for Nixon when he was asked by HENRY CABOT LODGE, an old friend serving as Ambassador to Saigon, to visit Vietnam as his consultant. In a 1967 peace initiative, he began mediations between Washington and Hanoi.

In 1968, Nixon, assisted by Kissinger, implemented a policy to gradually withdraw U.S. troops while expanding the combat role of the South Vietnamese Army. Along with North Vietnamese Politburo Member Le Duc Tho, Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 for their work in negotiating the ceasefires contained in the Paris Peace Accords. Tho rejected the award, telling Kissinger that peace had really not been restored in South Vietnam.

In 1977, Dr. Kissinger was appointed to Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies. He taught at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service for several years in the late 1970s, and later served as Chancellor of William and Mary for four years. In April 2006, Kissinger received the prestigious WOODROW WILSON Award for Public Service.

With his first wife, Ann Fleischer, he had two children, Elizabeth and David. After he and Ann divorced in 1964, he married Nancy Maginnes in 1973. He is the head of Kissinger Associates, a consulting firm.