

## 444 Days: Understanding the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis A Webquest from the Presidential Timeline of the Twentieth Century



President Carter with released hostages, Weisbaden, Germany, 01/22/1981

### Introduction

On November 4, 1979, Iranian militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran and took approximately seventy Americans captive. This terrorist act triggered the most profound crisis of the Carter presidency and began a personal ordeal for Jimmy Carter and the American people that lasted 444 days.

President Carter committed himself to the safe return of the hostages while protecting America's interests and prestige. He pursued a policy of restraint that put a higher value on the lives of the hostages than on American retaliatory power or protecting his own political future.

To learn more about this exciting period in our nation's history, please visit our online exhibit, [444 Days](#), and proceed as follows:

[The Presidential Timeline](#) > Educators > Educational Activities > 444 Days

After completing our [444 Days](#) webquest, please proceed to the multimedia section of the Presidential Timeline in order to hear or download audio of President Jimmy Carter discussing various aspects this epic period in US history:

<http://www.presidentialtimeline.org/html/educators/educators.php?pid=mm>



**The Presidential Timeline**

## **About the Presidential Timeline**

Educational activities for the Presidential Timeline focus on using original documents, photographs, audio and video to provide students with an in depth understanding of historical events related to the presidents.

The Presidential Timeline was designed and developed by the Learning Technology Center in The University of Texas at Austin College of Education, in conjunction with the Presidential Libraries and Terra Incognita Productions.

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Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the Presidential Timeline website do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum.