

EDITOR'S NOTE: The path of prominence for Henry A. Kissinger was paved with a brilliant academic career. The following is the last of a four-part series on the life of the President's national security affairs assistant.

'Welcome to the Top,

By GAYLORD SHAW

Associated Press Writer

Henry Kissinger, as a student at Harvard, left a lasting legacy for later generations of thesis writers.

His 350-page thesis entitled



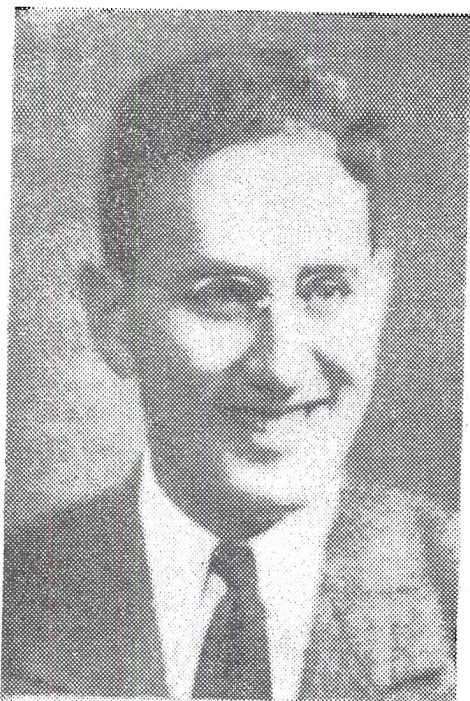
Kissinger today (left) and in 1950 (below) in his Harvard graduation picture.

THE STATES-ITEM

Henry'

NEW ORLEANS





HENRY ALFRED KISSINGER

Born May 27, 1923 in Fuerth, Germany. Prepared at George Washington High School, New York, New York. Attended Lafayette College. Home address: 615 East Washington Avenue, New York, New York. College address: Adams House, PRH, National Veterans Scholarship, Detour 1948, Phi Beta Kappa, Senior Sixteen. Served in Army. Field of concentration: Government. Married Anne Fleischer on February 6, 1949.

"The Meaning of History," led the government department to impose a 150-page limit on all future undergraduate papers.

It was an early sign of the verbosity of Henry Alfred Kissinger who, two decades later, would be producing novel-length annual foreign policy reports as President Nixon's assistant for national security affairs.

IT WAS AT Harvard, too, that undergraduate Kissinger displayed the intellect that would propel him first to the upper ranks of the Eastern intelligentsia and then to the White House as the Nixon administration's foreign policy superstar.

Kissinger's major role in the administration was illus-

trated on the recent presidential visit to China when he accompanied President Nixon during a meeting with Chairman Mao Tse-tung while Secretary of State William P. Rogers was absent.

And he is expected to figure prominently in Nixon's visit to Moscow later this month.

Kissinger entered Harvard with a scholarship under the GI bill after returning from World War II military duty in Europe and breezed to his bachelor's degree in three years, graduating summa cum laude in 1950.

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE

Kissinger came to the attention of William Y. Elliott, a distinguished but crusty professor of government who is often credited with encouraging him to set his sights higher than a teaching career.

In a letter recommending Kissinger to Phi Beta Kappa, Elliott said he was "more like a mature colleague than a student." But the professor added, "On the other hand, his mind lacks grace and is Teutonic in its systematic thoroughness."

As an undergraduate, Kissinger also came to the attention of other university officials, those responsible for enforcing the rule against pets in dormitories.

KISSINGER brought a cocker spaniel back from Europe with him, and the dog accompanied him to Harvard. His four-legged roommate soon was noticed by university authorities, but they decided to waive the rule in Kissinger's case. "I think they thought they had a shell-shock case on their hands," Kissinger says.

With the aid of other scholarships, Kissinger obtained his master's degree in 1952 and his doctorate in 1954. Then he joined the Harvard faculty as a government instructor, later to become a lecturer, an associate professor and finally a full professor.

The Harvard Crimson, in one of its evaluations of Kissinger's Government 180 course, said his "lectures were meaty, invariably interesting and at times witty. . ."

BUT, THE Crimson added, "Kissinger sometimes failed to mesh analysis and history and degenerated into storytelling and quote-slinging."

Students praised his "grim description of modern policy making" and one student remarked that his discussion of Vietnam "was enough to scare the hell out of anyone," the Crimson said.

The students moaned, though, about "a monotonic delivery and lapses in organization" and a "savagely long 16-page reading list."

Although some policies pursued by the White House, especially the U.S. thrust

into Cambodia in 1970, severely strained Kissinger's academic contacts, several former colleagues at Harvard still speak well of him.

"HENRY WAS regarded highly for his intellectual and scholarly abilities," said Samuel P. Huntington, professor of government.

"He was an intellectual heavyweight with an extraordinary range of outside contacts with centers of power."

Adds economic professor Thomas Schelling: "He was well regarded here. He was considered at least normally temperamental, as a lot of people are at Harvard."

Both Huntington and Schelling observed, though, that Kissinger's interests weren't limited to the Cambridge campus.

"HENRY CLEARLY was always involved in the world outside Harvard," Huntington said.

"In some ways he may have been more ambitious than other professors," Schelling said.

While teaching at Harvard, Kissinger began a project

which resulted in his first book, "Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy," published in 1957. It was widely hailed in academic and government circles. At age 34, Kissinger had established himself as a leading foreign policy expert.

THE BOOK stressed the dangers of too much reliance on the concept of massive nuclear retaliation. He advocated instead a more flexible response, an idea shared by others and later adopted as U.S. policy.

Kissinger also was proceeding to pluck most of the foreign policy plums available at Harvard. He was director of the International Seminar, associate director of the Center for International Affairs and head of the Defense Studies Program.

Meanwhile, Kissinger put in part-time tours as a foreign affairs consultant to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and developed a close association with New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller.

When Rockefeller decided to bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 1964, Kissinger signed on as his foreign affairs adviser.

The governor was trampled in the GOP stampede to Barry Goldwater, but decided to make another try in 1968.

AGAIN, Kissinger was his foreign affairs adviser.

When Republicans went to Miami for their convention in the summer of 1968, Kissinger recalls, "it was clear Rockefeller wasn't going to get the nomination. I wasn't at all surprised that he didn't, but that didn't ease the pain."

Nixon won the nomination and Kissinger allegedly said some disparaging things about his future boss. He's never denied them, but he says now he doesn't remember making the statements attributed to him.

He does acknowledge, though, that "I didn't think much of the President at that time. I had the general dislike of him. But I didn't know much about him."

They had met only once before, in December, 1967, at a cocktail party in Manhattan.

THE NEXT TIME they were to talk, on Nov. 28, 1968, they spent hours comparing

views on foreign issues and found they shared many common thoughts.

A week later Nixon announced the appointment of Henry Kissinger as his assistant for national security affairs.

The refugee from Hitler's Germany, the would-be accountant, the Harvard professor, was given control of the nation's foreign policy machinery. To some, it meant he had become the world's second most powerful man.