**The Camp David Accords: Foundation for a Middle Eastern Peace**

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**Group Website**

**Process Paper**

Upon announcement of this year’s NHD theme, our group searched for an event of continual relevance in history. We toyed with topics pertaining to American leaders, influential wars, and political doctrine, but after skimming recent news headlines, realized a recurrent common denominator in both world strife and advancement: the Middle East. After tracing the (often convoluted) lineage of modern Middle Eastern political discord, we finally decided on the Camp David Accords as our topic of international relevance: a turning point of the first order; a tentative, yet unequivocally important step to peace in a war-ridden country. Most importantly, the Accords fit our criteria of a groundbreaking, yet oft-passed-over event.

After choosing our topic, we began our research process, one of intensive collaboration. Whether working at a home, brainstorming at school, or researching in the library, our group scoured digital and analog media for primary sources from academic journals, newspaper articles, and official documents, as well as secondary sources from scholars and documentaries. After conducting preliminary research and making an outline for our website, we emailed professors with queries for interviews. Those with Anthony Wanis-St. John and William Quandt, and Quandt’s book, *Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics*, were in particular useful to our project. As a result of our communications, we were able to evaluate the Accords from a thoroughly-researched, yet balanced perspective. Our thesis evolved naturally from our rigorous inquiry into the Accords and its greater context of peace and discord.

From the outset of our project, a website was the obvious choice for our topic, as the Camp David Accords was an event rife with digital media. We wanted our readers to delve into the multiple perspectives of the Accords, and a website provided an enhanced level of interactivity—rather than a strictly chronological, creator-controlled medium, the viewer could explore the site itself, selectively viewing topics that interested him in any order. The website also complemented our skill sets: Jason was proficient in JavaScript and HTML, Sarah in Photoshop, and Catherine in intensive research. We combined these skills in every aspect of the site; for example, a single timeline involved Catherine writing the events, Sarah creating an aesthetically-pleasing visual, and Jason integrating the text and images with code to create a viable product. Each page required intensive collaboration, and yet such collaboration was what gave our website such cohesion.

The Camp David Accords perfectly complements this year’s NHD theme: “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” The Camp David Accords were a turning point in Middle Eastern history, as peace through negotiation inaugurated an end to a vicious and seemingly endless cycle of wars and violence and created a precedent for future peace processes. Furthermore, the roles of Jimmy Carter, Menachem Begin, and Anwar Sadat during the prelude to the Accords, as well as the negotiations during the Accords, complement the second part of the theme well.