THE MODERN ERA – INTRODUCTION

In the previous module many of the economic, political, and foreign policy challenges of the 1970s were examined. Capitalizing on the mood that change was needed and harnessing the energy of the surging conservative movement, Ronald Reagan won the presidency in 1980. He vowed to cut federal spending on domestic programs, cut regulations on business, cut taxes, and increase American military power. The long struggle of the Cold War ended in the early 1990s when Soviet communism collapsed in Eastern Europe.

Twelve years of conservative control were ended with the election of Bill Clinton in 1992. Clinton was the first "baby boomer" to be elected to the office of president. Finding the appropriate role for America in leading the increasingly globalized world, as well as thorny domestic issues, presented a great challenge to President Clinton.

Following the Clinton Era, Republicans regained the presidency with the razor-thin victory of Texas Governor George W. Bush in 2000. Bush entered office and instituted tax cuts and education reform. The focus of the Bush presidency quickly changed, however, with the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001. President Bush took an aggressive stand against terrorism by invading and occupying Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2008 voters elected the first African-American President, Barack Obama, who ran on a platform of change as many had become war-weary and concerned about economic woes.

Essential Questions:
- What factors led to the resurgence of conservatism and the election of Ronald Reagan?
- How did the end of the Cold War signal the end of an era and the rise of new challenges?
- In what ways has American society continued to change in the past three decades?
- How has the U.S. sought to counter international terrorism post 9/11?

Module Minute:
President Carter attempted to restore trust, but was undone by the economic woes of the 1970s and foreign policy challenges. Ronald Reagan took office in 1981 riding a wave of conservative resurgence and served two terms as president. His administration faced challenges from the Iran-Contra Scandal, but Reagan presided over an era of economic growth and laid the groundwork for the end of the Cold War in 1991. After the Cold War ended, international terrorism became the main threat to the United States and her allies. The attack on the Pentagon and World Trade Center in 2001 began an aggressive response by the U.S. against terrorism. The nation continued to grow and develop new technologies while facing debates over immigration, health care, and climate change.

What to Expect:
- Key Concepts Assignment Check Quiz
- Discussion: Ronald Reagan
- Document Analysis Assignment Check Quiz: America in Our Time
- Virtual Visit: 9/11 Memorial
- Short Answer: End of the Cold War, 2000 Election
- Test: MC and Essay
Don't forget to read the chapter(s) on the Modern Era period in your textbook!

Reading assignments from the following textbook have been included:

In addition, the following exam preparation book is recommended for all learners:

**Assignment:**

Describe what you will learn in this unit after you read the pages above and review the key terms in the pages that follow.
Key Terms

**Jimmy Carter** - also struggled to deal with the economic recession and Iranian crisis as well as working to decrease conflict around the world, especially in the Middle East.

**Camp David Accords** - is a 1978 peace agreement between Egypt and Israel that was brokered by President Carter.

**Iranian Revolution** - a 1978 revolution that overthrew the shah (king) that was friendly to the U.S., and replaced him with a radical Muslim leader who was unfriendly to the U.S.

**Iranian Hostage Crisis** - Iranian revolutionaries stormed the U.S. embassy in Iran and held 52 Americans captive for 444 days.

**Moral Majority** - this organization formed in the late 1970s to promote the involvement of conservative Christians in the political process. They were concerned about what they saw was a decline in moral values and a general disorder and lack of respect for the rule of law in the nation.

**Ronald Reagan** - served two terms as president in the 1980s, Reagan focused on cutting taxes, decreasing the role of government, and increasing military power in the Cold War.

**Reaganomics** - nickname for Reagan's economic policy, it focused on budget cuts for some programs, tax cuts, and increased military spending.

**Star Wars (SDI)** - the Strategic Defense Initiative was proposed by Ronald Reagan and commonly referred to as “Star Wars” after the popular film. It sought to use satellites that could shoot down nuclear missiles if they were launched by the Soviets in an attack on the United States.

**Iran-Contra Scandal** - a scandal in the Reagan administration where officials brokered arms sales to Iran and used the profits to fund anti-communists rebels known as *contras* in Nicaragua.

**Mikhail Gorbachev** - came to power in the Soviet Union in 1985. He was willing to adopt reforms in the Soviet Union and negotiate with the President Reagan. Gorbachev was the last communist leader of the USSR.
Collapse of Soviet Union - the Cold War ended with the collapse of communism in Europe and the break-up of the Soviet Union, this happened during the presidency of George Bush, but the foundation was laid largely by Reagan’s policies.

Bill Clinton - Democrats regained the White House after 12 years of Republican rule, and Clinton presided over a period of economic growth, but faced controversy over scandals.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) - brought a free trade (tariff free) zone between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Impeachment of Bill Clinton - Clinton became the second U.S. President impeached when he charged of perjury and obstruction of justice, Clinton was allowed to finish his term when he was acquitted by the Senate.

Electoral College - the system that elects the president, George W. Bush was elected in 2000 with a majority of the electoral votes even though he received fewer popular votes than his Democratic opponent.

George W. Bush - began his presidency focusing on tax cuts and education, but his focus quickly changed to fighting international terrorism after the 9/11 attacks.

9/11 Attacks - on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked 4 passenger airplanes and flew 2 of them into the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This is the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

War on Terrorism - describes the overall effort against world wide terrorism that became the foreign policy focus after the 9/11 attacks.

Operation Enduring Freedom - In 2001 President Bush ordered an invasion of Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban government which was harboring the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, Osama bin Laden.

Operation Iraqi Freedom - 2003 invasion of Iraqi led by the U.S. and supporting nations to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. The U.S feared that Iraq could use weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) against the U.S., but they were never found.

Barack Obama - elected president in 2008; Obama became the first African-American president. His administration passed health care reform and killed Osama bin Laden, but was plagued by criticism of his handling of the economy.

Climate Change (Global Warming) - many scientists have warned that the earth’s climate is warming and becoming more unpredictable as a result of poor
stewardship of the environment. It became a major point of debate relating to economics and environmental policy.

**Latin American/Asian Immigration** - since the 1960s most immigrants to the United States have come from these regions. Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States.

**Personal Computer** - early versions began to appear in the 1970s and computers began to revolutionize society, especially with the rise of the internet beginning in the mid 1990s.

**Cellular Telephone** - hand-held, portable telephone have changed the way people communicate and increased their accessibility.

**Internet** - is a global system of inter connected computer networks. The foundations for this go back to the late 1960s, but the internet did not become a major force until the late 1990s. It has changed the way many things operate since that time.
Reading assignments from the following textbook have been included:

In addition, the following exam preparation book is recommended for all learners:

Reading Assignment for this Module

**Reading Document Boundless:** The Modern Era (embedded in this document)
- Lesson 1-1 – pages 1-12
- Lesson 1-2 – pages 13-18
- Lesson 1-3 – pages 19-20

**Reading Document Boundless:** Reagan (embedded in this document)
- Lesson 2 – pages 1-7

**Reading Document Boundless:** Election of 2000 (embedded in this document)
- Lesson 5 – pages 1-2

**Textbook:** Read from your textbook, taking notes.
- Lesson 1-1 – pages 914-929
- Lesson 1-2 – pages 930-941; 944-951
- Lesson 1-3 – pages 952-974

**AMSCO prep book:** Read from your exam preparation book, taking notes.
- Lesson 3 – pages 654-661
- Lesson 4 – pages 662-678
- Lesson 5 – pages 679-685
- Module Wrap-up – pages 686-703
Lesson 1-1: Carter and Reagan Administrations

This key concepts lesson is very important as it covers the main areas of the Advanced Placement frameworks.

Key Concepts Quiz

Answer the key concepts questions that follow. The answers are found in the text of this document, the Readings Document, and in this unit. After you have done this, you will use these questions and answers to take a self-quiz.

Answer the questions on your own paper or word processing document as you complete all the lessons in this module.

1. The Camp David accords established peace between which two Middle Eastern nations?

2. Briefly describe the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

3. President Reagan’s policies laid the foundation for the end of what?

4. NAFTA set up a free trade zone between what three countries?

5. Who won the Presidential election of 2000 and what was interesting about how the race was decided?

6. Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda terror network were responsible for what major terrorist attack on U.S. soil?

7. True or False? Iraq was invaded because of their involvement in the 9/11 attacks.

8. Who was elected in 2008 as the first African American to hold the office of President of the United States?

9. How have personal computers, the internet, and cellular phones impacted America?

10. In general how can the economy of the following eras be described (poor, overall good, steady): The late 1970s, the 1980s, the 1990s, 2000-2008, and 2008-2011?

11. Over what small nation was the First Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991 fought?

12. What were some of the failures and successes of the Presidency of Bill Clinton?

13. Under what president were American troops withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan; as well a major overhaul of the health care system passed?

14. What were some of the economic struggles that helped lead to the defeat of Jimmy Carter in 1980?

15. How has the religious right influenced American politics?

16. The theory of supply-side economics, or “Reaganomics” called for _____ taxes and _____ government spending.

17. How did Reagan’s approach to dealing with communism change after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union?

18. An economic recession as well as the breaking of a “no new taxes” pledges helped lead to the defeat of whom in their bid for re-election as President?

19. Since the passage of the Immigration Act of 1990 what ethnic group has become the largest minority group in the United States? What other ethnic group is also becoming a larger percentage of the U.S. population?

20. Although he initially sought to focus on domestic issues like tax cuts, immigration, and education, the focus of what U.S. President shifted toward foreign policy after the September 11 attacks?
Carter Administration

Jimmy Carter’s presidency was strongly influenced by international issues. He tried to bring peace to the Middle East and, in the Camp David Accords, negotiated a peace agreement between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister at Camp David (a presidential retreat in Maryland) in 1978. This was the first time there had been a signed peace agreement between Middle Eastern nations. Although the agreement left many differences unresolved, it did solve urgent problems facing the two nations. In 1978, the Iranian Revolution replaced a shah (king) friendly to America with a Muslim religious leader unfriendly to America. When Carter let the shah enter the United States for medical treatment, angry Iranian revolutionaries invaded the U.S. embassy in Iran and took 52 Americans captive. The Iranian Hostage Crisis lasted 444 days, until the captives were released after the election of Ronald Reagan as president, and it nurtured anti-Americanism among Muslims around the world.

Reagan Administration

Ronald Reagan was president for much of the 1980s. During that time, many important events helped shape American politics to this day. As a conservative, Reagan wanted to decrease the size and role of the federal government.

Reaganomics:
Reaganomics was the nickname for Reagan's economic policy. It included budget cuts, tax cuts, and increased defense spending. Critics argued that Reagan's programs benefitted the wealthy at the expense of the poor. Initially the economy remained poor, but the economy soon recovered and boomed for much of the rest of Reagan's presidency.

Iran-Contra Scandal:
The Iran-Contra Scandal was Reagan's biggest failure in international policy. Administration officials attempted to secure the release of hostages by selling weapons to Iran-an enemy of the United States and then violated more laws by using the profits from those arms sales to fund an anti-communist rebellion in Nicaragua fought by rebels called the Contras (a Spanish nickname for "counter-revolutionaries"). Details of this scandal are still largely unknown to the public.

Collapse of the Soviet Union:
The collapse of the Soviet Union was Reagan's biggest success in international policy. The Soviet Union's last leader set up policies allowing freedom of speech and of the press and other reforms putting the U.S.S.R. on a path to democratic government, but these reforms got out of the leader's control and eventually led to the breakup of the 15 states that were the Soviet Union. Although communism in Europe collapsed under Reagan's successor, George Bush, Reagan's policies are often credited with helping cause the collapse.
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The Modern Era (Module 12)

The Jimmy Carter Administration

OVERVIEW
Jimmy Carter served as the thirty-ninth President of the United States from 1977 to 1981. As a gifted student and former governor of Georgia, his administration nevertheless suffered from his inexperience in politics. His administration sought to make the government "competent and compassionate" but, in the midst of an economic crisis produced by rising energy prices and stagflation, met with difficulty in achieving its objectives. At the end of his administration, Carter had substantively decreased unemployment, reduced some of the deficit, but had ultimately perpetuated the recession.

Carter created the United States Department of Education and United States Department of Energy, established a national energy policy and pursued civil service and social security reform. In foreign affairs, Carter initiated the Camp David Accords, the Panama Canal Treaties and the second round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II). Throughout his career, Carter strongly emphasized human rights. He returned the Panama Canal Zone to Panama and he faced criticism at home for his decision, which was widely seen as yet another signal of U.S. weakness and of his own habit of backing down when faced with confrontation.

The final year of his presidential tenure was marked by several major crises, including the 1979 takeover of the American embassy in Iran and holding of hostages by Iranian students, an unsuccessful rescue attempt of the hostages, serious fuel shortages, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

LEGACIES and PUBLIC IMAGE
In his inaugural address he said: "We have learned that more is not necessarily better, that even our great nation has its recognized limits, and that we can neither answer all questions nor solve all problems."

Carter had campaigned on a promise to eliminate the trappings of the "Imperial Presidency," and he began taking action according to that promise on Inauguration Day, breaking with recent history and security protocols by walking up Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House in his inaugural parade. His first steps in the White House went further in this direction: Carter reduced the size of the staff by one-third; canceled government-funded chauffeur service for Cabinet members, ordering them to drive their own cars; and put the USS Sequoia, the presidential yacht up for sale.
Carter was widely considered to be "a better man than he was a president" (The Independent). While he began his term with a 66 percent approval rating, this had dropped to 34 percent approval by the time he left office, with 55 percent disapproving. Carter paid too much attention to detail. He frequently backed down from confrontation and was quick to retreat when attacked by political rivals. He appeared to be indecisive and ineffective, and did not define his priorities clearly. He seemed to be distrustful and uninterested in working with other groups, or even with Congress when controlled by his own party, which he denounced for being controlled by special interest groups. In the 1980 campaign, Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan used the economic problems, Iran hostage crisis, and lack of Washington cooperation to portray Carter as a weak and ineffectual leader. Carter was the first elected president since Hoover in 1932 to lose a reelection bid.

Economic Problems Under Carter

The U.S. economy, which had grown by 5% in 1976, continued to grow at a similar pace during 1977 and 1978. Unemployment declined from 7.5% in January 1977 to 5.6% by May 1979, with over 9 million net new jobs created during that interim, and real median household income grew by 5% from 1976 to 1978. The recovery in business investment in evidence during 1976 strengthened as well. Fixed private investment (machinery and construction) grew by 30% from 1976 to 1979, home sales and construction grew another one third by 1978, and industrial production, motor vehicle output, and sales did so by nearly 15%, with the exception of new housing starts, which remained slightly below their 1972 peak, each of these benchmarks reached record levels in 1978 or 1979.

The 1979 energy crisis ended this period of growth, however, and as both inflation and interest rates rose, economic growth, job creation, and consumer confidence declined sharply. The relatively loose monetary policy adopted by Federal Reserve Board Chairman G. William Miller had already contributed to somewhat higher inflation, rising from 5.8% in 1976 to 7.7% in 1978. The sudden doubling of crude oil prices by OPEC, the world's leading oil exporting cartel, forced inflation to double-digit levels, averaging 11.3% in 1979 and 13.5% in 1980. The sudden shortage of gasoline as the 1979 summer vacation season began exacerbated the problem, and would come to symbolize the crisis among the public in general. The acute shortage, originating in the shutdown of Amerada Hess refining facilities, led to a lawsuit against the company that year by the Federal Government.

Carter, like Nixon, asked Congress to impose price controls on energy, medicine, and consumer prices, but was unable to secure passage of such measures due to strong opposition from Congress. One related measure approved by Congress during the presidency of Gerald Ford, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, gave Presidents the authority to deregulate prices of domestic oil, and Carter exercised this option on July 1, 1979, as a means of encouraging both oil production and
conservation. Oil imports, which had reached a record 2.4 billion barrels in 1977 (50% of supply), declined by half from 1979 to 1983.

Following an August 1979 cabinet shakeup in which Carter asked for the resignations of several cabinet members, Carter appointed G. William Miller as Secretary of the Treasury, naming Paul Volcker as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Volcker pursued a tight monetary policy to bring down inflation, which he considered his mandate. Volcker succeeded, but only by first going through an unpleasant phase during which the economy slowed and unemployment rose. Inflation did not return to low single-digit levels until 1982, during a second, more severe recession. President Reagan re-appointed Volcker to the post in 1983.

The policy, and record interest rates, would lead to a sharp recession in the spring of 1980. The sudden fall in GDP during the second quarter caused unemployment to jump from 6% to 7.5% by May, with output in the auto and housing sectors falling by over 20% and to their weakest level since the 1975 recession. Carter phased out credit controls in May, and by July, the prime rate had fallen to 11%, with inflation breaking the earlier trend and easing to under 13% for the remainder of 1980. The V-shaped recession coincided with Carter's re-election campaign, however, and contributed to his unexpectedly severe loss.

Lower interest rates and easing of credit controls sparked a recovery during the second half of 1980, and although the hard-hit auto and housing sectors would not recover substantially, GDP and employment totals regained pre-recession levels by the first quarter of 1981. The S&P 500, which had remained at around 100 since 1976, rose to nearly 140 by the latter part of the year. A resumption in growth prompted renewed tightening by the Fed, however, and the prime rate reached 21.5% in December 1980, the highest rate in U.S. history under any President. The Carter Administration remained fiscally conservative during both growth and recession periods, vetoing numerous spending increases while enacting deregulation in the energy and transportation sectors and sharply reducing the top capital gains tax rate. Federal budget deficits throughout his term remained at around the $70 billion level reached in 1976, while falling as a percent of GDP from 4% to 2.5% by the 1980–81 Fiscal Year.

The Conservative Resurgence

Historical Origins of the New Right in the United States
In the United States, the New Right refers to two historically distinct conservative political movements. Both American New Rights are distinct from and opposed to the more moderate tradition of the so-called Rockefeller Republicans. The New Right also differs from the Old Right (1933–1955) on issues concerning foreign policy with the New Right being opposed to the non-interventionism of the Old Right. The first New Right (1955–1964) was centered around the libertarians, traditionalists, and anti-communists at William F. Buckley’s National Review. The
first New Right embraced "fusionism" and coalesced through grassroots organizing in the years preceding the 1964 presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater. The Goldwater campaign, though failing to unseat incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson, galvanized the formation of a new political movement.

The second New Right (1964 to the present) was formed in the wake of the Goldwater campaign and had a more populist tone than the first New Right. The second New Right tended to focus on social issues and national sovereignty and was often linked with the religious right. The second New Right formed a policy approach and electoral apparatus that brought Ronald Reagan into the White House in the 1980 presidential election. In elite think tanks and local community organizations alike, new policies, marketing strategies, and electoral strategies were crafted over the succeeding decades to promote strongly conservative policies. The second New Right was mostly ignored by scholars until the late 1980s, but the formation of the New Right is now one of the fastest-growing areas of historical research.

The Rise of the Religious Right

Alienation of the Southern Democrats
Into the 1960 election, Roman Catholics and Evangelicals worked against each other, as Evangelicals mobilized their forces to defeat Catholics Al Smith in 1928 and John F. Kennedy in 1960. By the 1980s, however, Catholic bishops and Evangelicals worked together on issues such as abortion.

The alienation of Southern Democrats from the Democratic Party contributed to the rise of the Right, as the counterculture of the 1960s provoked fear of social disintegration. In addition, as the Democratic Party became identified with a pro-choice position on abortion and with nontraditional societal values, social conservatives joined the Republican Party in increasing numbers. The religious right was instrumental in the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 and many Republican candidates, particularly in the mid to late 1990s and early 2000s.

Political Organization
The contemporary Christian right became increasingly vocal and organized in reaction to a series of United States Supreme Court decisions (notably Bob Jones University v. Simon and Bob Jones University v. United States) and also engaged in battles over pornography, obscenity, abortion, state sanctioned prayer in public schools, textbook contents (concerning evolution vs. creationism), homosexuality, and sexual education.

Grassroots Activism
Much of the Christian right’s power within the American political system is attributed to their extraordinary turnout rate at the polls. The voters that coexist in the Christian Right are also highly motivated and driven to get out a viewpoint on
issues they care about. As well as high voter turnout, they can be counted on to attend political events, knock on doors, and distribute literature. Members of the Christian Right are willing to do the electoral work needed to see their candidate elected. Because of their high level of devotion, the Christian right does not need to monetarily compensate these people for their work.

**Political Leaders and Institutions**

Led by Robert Grant’s advocacy group Christian Voice, Jerry Falwell’s Moral Majority, Ed McAteer’s Religious Roundtable Council, James Dobson’s Focus on the Family, and Pat Robertson’s Christian Broadcasting Network, the new Religious Right combined conservative politics with evangelical and fundamentalist teachings. The birth of the New Christian right, however, is usually traced to a 1979 meeting where televangelist Jerry Falwell was urged to create a "Moral Majority" organization.

**Conservative Ascent in the 1980s: The Reagan Presidency**

With Ronald Reagan’s victory in 1980 the modern American conservative movement took power. Republicans took control of the Senate for the first time since 1954, and conservative principles dominated Reagan’s economic and foreign policies, with supply side economics and strict opposition to Soviet Communism defining the Administration’s philosophy. Reagan’s ideas were largely espoused and supported by the conservative Heritage Foundation, which grew dramatically in its influence during the Reagan years, extended to a second term by the 1984 presidential election, as Reagan and his senior aides looked to Heritage for policy guidance.

An icon of the American conservative movement, Reagan is credited by his supporters with transforming the politics of the United States, galvanizing the success of the Republican Party. He brought together a coalition of economic conservatives, who supported his supply side economics; foreign policy conservatives, who favored his staunch opposition to Communism and the Soviet Union; and social conservatives, who identified with his religious and social ideals. Reagan labeled the former Soviet Union the "evil empire." Conservatives also supported the Reagan Doctrine, under which the U.S. provided military and other aid to insurgency movements resisting governments aligned with the Soviet Union. For these and other efforts, Reagan was attacked by liberals at the time as a dangerous warmonger, but conservative historians assert that he decisively won the Cold War.

In defining conservatism, Reagan said, "If you analyze it I believe the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism. I think conservatism is really a misnomer just as liberalism is a misnomer for the liberals—if we were back in the days of the Revolution, so-called conservatives today would be the Liberals and the liberals would be the Tories. The basis of conservatism is a desire for less government interference or less centralized authority or more individual freedom and this is a
pretty general description also of what libertarianism is." Reagan's views on government were influenced by Thomas Jefferson, especially his hostility to strong central governments. "We're still Jefferson's children," he declared in 1987. "Freedom is not created by Government, nor is it a gift from those in political power. It is, in fact, secured, more than anything else, by limitations placed on those in Government". Likewise he greatly admired and often quoted Abraham Lincoln.

Supply side economics dominated the Reagan Era. During his eight years in office the national debt more than doubled, from $907 billion in 1980 to $2.6 trillion in 1988, and consumer prices rose by more than 50%. But despite cuts in income tax rates, federal income tax revenues grew from $244 billion in 1980 to $467 billion in 1990. The real median family income, which had declined during the previous administration, grew by about ten percent under Reagan. The period from 1981 to 1989 was among the most prosperous in American history, with 17 million new jobs created.

The Ronald Reagan Administration

OVERVIEW
Ronald Wilson Reagan (February 6, 1911 – June 5, 2004) was the 40th President of the United States, serving from 1981 to 1989. Prior to that, he was the 33rd Governor of California from 1967 to 1975 and a radio, film and television actor.

BACKGROUND
Born in Tampico, Illinois and raised in Dixon, Reagan was educated at Eureka College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and sociology. After his graduation, Reagan moved first to Iowa to work as a radio broadcaster and then in to Los Angeles in 1937 where he began a career as an actor, first in films and later television. Some of his most notable films include Knute Rockne, All American, Kings Row, and Bedtime for Bonzo. Reagan served as president of the Screen Actors Guild, and later as a spokesman for General Electric (GE); his start in politics occurred during his work for GE. Originally a member of the Democratic Party, his positions began shifting rightward in the late 1950s, and he switched to the Republican Party in 1962. After delivering a rousing speech in support of Barry Goldwater's presidential candidacy in 1964, he was persuaded to seek the California governorship, winning two years later and again in 1970. He was defeated in his run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968 as well as 1976, but won both the nomination and general election in 1980, defeating incumbent Jimmy Carter.

PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY
As president, Reagan implemented sweeping new political and economic initiatives. His supply-side economic policies, dubbed "Reaganomics", advocated reducing tax rates to spur economic growth, controlling the money supply to reduce inflation, deregulation of the economy, and reducing government spending. In his first term he survived an assassination attempt, took a hard line against labor unions, and
ordered an invasion of Grenada. He was reelected in a landslide in 1984, proclaiming that it was "Morning in America." His second term was primarily marked by foreign matters, such as the ending of the Cold War, the 1986 bombing of Libya, and the revelation of the Iran-Contra affair. Publicly describing the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," he supported anti-communist movements worldwide and spent his first term forgoing the strategy of détente by ordering a massive military buildup in an arms race with the USSR. Reagan negotiated with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, culminating in the INF Treaty and the decrease of both countries' nuclear arsenals.

Reagan left office in 1989. In 1994, the former president disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease earlier in the year; he died ten years later at the age of 93. He ranks highly in public opinion polls of U.S. Presidents and is credited for generating an ideological renaissance on the American political right.

The End of the Cold War

By the later years of the Cold War, Moscow had built a military that consumed as much as 25% of the Soviet Union's gross national product at the expense of consumer goods and investment in civilian sectors. But the size of the Soviet armed forces was not necessarily the result of a simple action-reaction arms race with the United States. Instead, Soviet spending on the arms race and other Cold War commitments can be understood as both a cause and effect of the deep-seated structural problems in the Soviet system, which accumulated at least a decade of economic stagnation during the Brezhnev years. Soviet investment in the defense sector was not necessarily driven by military necessity, but in large part by the interests of massive party and state bureaucracies dependent on the sector for their own power and privileges.

Restructuring the Soviet Union

By the time Mikhail Gorbachev had ascended to power in 1985, the Soviets suffered from an economic growth rate close to zero percent, combined with a sharp fall in hard currency earnings as a result of the downward slide in world oil prices in the 1980s. (Petroleum exports made up around 60 percent of the Soviet Union's total export earnings.) To restructure the Soviet economy before it collapsed, Gorbachev announced an agenda of rapid reform, based upon what he called perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (liberalization, openness). Reform required Gorbachev to redirect the country's resources from costly Cold War military commitments to more profitable areas in the civilian sector. As a result, Gorbachev offered major concessions to the United States on the levels of conventional forces, nuclear weapons, and policy in Eastern Europe.

Many US Soviet experts and administration officials doubted that Gorbachev was serious about winding down the arms race, but Ronald Reagan recognized the real change in the direction of the Soviet leadership, and Reagan shifted to skillful
diplomacy to personally push Gorbachev further with his reforms. Reagan sincerely believed that if he could persuade the Soviets to simply look at the prosperous American economy, they too would embrace free markets and a free society.

Berlin
At a speech given at the Berlin Wall on the city’s 750th birthday, Reagan pushed Gorbachev further in front of 20,000 onlookers: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" The last sentence became the four most famous words of Ronald Reagan’s Presidency. Reagan later said that the "forceful tone" of his speech was influenced by hearing before his speech that those on the East side of the wall attempting to hear him had been kept away by police. The Soviet news agency wrote that Reagan’s visit was "openly provocative, war-mongering." The East-West tensions that had reached intense new heights earlier in the decade rapidly subsided through the mid-to-late 1980s. In 1988, the Soviets officially declared that they would no longer intervene in the affairs of allied states in Eastern Europe. In 1989, Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan.

By the early 1980s, many people in the US perceived that the USSR military capabilities were gaining on that of the United States. Previously, the U.S. had relied on the qualitative superiority of its weapons to essentially frighten the Soviets, but the gap had been narrowed. Their large military expenses, in combination with collectivized agriculture and inefficient planned manufacturing, were a heavy burden for the Soviet economy. At the same time, Saudi Arabia increased oil production, which resulted in a drop of oil prices in 1985 to one-third of the previous level; as mentioned above oil was the main source of Soviet export revenues. These factors gradually brought the Soviet economy to a stagnant state during Gorbachev’s tenure.

A Change in Direction
Reagan recognized the change in the direction of the Soviet leadership with Mikhail Gorbachev, and shifted to diplomacy, with a view to encourage the Soviet leader to pursue substantial arms agreements. Reagan’s personal mission was to achieve "a world free of nuclear weapons", which he regarded as "totally irrational, totally inhumane, good for nothing but killing, possibly destructive of life on earth and civilization". He was able to start discussions on nuclear disarmament with General Secretary Gorbachev. Gorbachev and Reagan held four summit conferences between 1985 and 1988: the first in Geneva, Switzerland, the second in Reykjavik, Iceland, the third in Washington, D.C., and the fourth in Moscow. Reagan believed that if he could persuade the Soviets to allow for more democracy and free speech, this would lead to reform and the end of Communism.

Prior to Gorbachev visiting Washington, D.C., for the third summit in 1987, the Soviet leader announced his intention to pursue significant arms agreements. The
timing of the announcement led Western diplomats to contend that Gorbachev was offering major concessions to the U.S. on the levels of conventional forces, nuclear weapons, and policy in Eastern Europe. He and Reagan signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty at the White House, which eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons. The two leaders laid the framework for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START I; Reagan insisted that the name of the treaty be changed from Strategic Arms Limitation Talks to Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.

**End of the Cold War**

At Gorbachev’s request, Reagan gave a speech on free markets at the Moscow State University. In his autobiography, An American Life, Reagan expressed his optimism about the new direction that they charted and his warm feelings for Gorbachev. In November 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down. Without the fear of Soviet military intervention the governments of the communist satellite nations in Eastern Europe quickly collapsed. The Cold War was declared over at the Malta Summit on December 3, 1989. However a good date for the Cold War officially ending can be placed on December 26, 1991 when the Soviet Union was dissolved. The USSR no longer existed and the United States had emerged victorious from the decades-long conflict known as the Cold War.

While the collapse of communism in Europe occurred under the presidency of George Bush, the policies of Reagan are given much credit for the winning of the Cold War. By pursuing an aggressive stance in his first term with tough talk and an arms buildup, the Soviets weak economy continued to unravel as military spending bankrupted their economy. In Reagan’s second term he shifted toward a diplomatic approach and negotiated from a position of strength with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who was willing to adopt major reforms.

**George Bush Assumes the Presidency**

Republican George H.W. Bush was inaugurated on January 20, 1989, succeeding Ronald Reagan. He assumed office during a period of great change in the world; the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet Union came early in his presidency. He ordered successful military operations in Panama and the Persian Gulf and, at one point, was recorded as having a record-high approval rating of 89 percent. However, economic recession and breaking his "no new taxes" pledge caused a sharp decline in his approval rating, and Bush was defeated in the 1992 election.

**Major Initiatives**

During a speech to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, Bush announced a vision to complete Space Station Freedom, resume exploration of the Moon, and begin exploration of Mars. Although a space station was eventually constructed – work on the International Space Station began in 1998 – other work has been confounded by NASA budgetary issues. In 1998, Bush
received the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement's National Space Trophy for his pioneering leadership of the U.S. space program.

Bush signed a number of major laws in his presidency, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which was one of the most pro-civil rights bills in decades. He worked to increase federal spending for education, childcare, and advanced technology research. In dealing with the environment, Bush reauthorized the Clean Air Act, requiring cleaner burning fuels. He quarreled with Congress over an eventually signed bill to aid police in capturing criminals, and he signed into law a measure to improve the nation's highway system. Bush signed the Immigration Act of 1990, which increased legal immigration to the United States by 40 percent.

Bush was a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and had campaigned as a "pro-gun" candidate with the NRA's endorsement in 1988. However, in March 1989 he placed a temporary ban on the import of certain semiautomatic rifles. This action cost him endorsement from the NRA in 1992.

Soviet Union
In 1989, just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Bush met with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in a conference on the Mediterranean island of Malta. The administration had been under intense pressure to meet with the Soviets, but not all of Bush's advisers initially thought the Malta summit to be a step in the right direction. Though no agreements were signed, the meeting was acknowledged as a very important step to the end of the Cold War.

Another summit was held in July 1991, when the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) was signed by Bush and Gorbachev in Moscow. The treaty was nine years in the making and was the first major arms agreement since the signing of the Intermediate Ranged Nuclear Forces Treaty by Reagan and Gorbachev in 1987. The intention of START was to reduce the U.S.'s and USSR's strategic nuclear weapons by about 35% over seven years and the Soviet Union's land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles by 50%. Bush described START as "a significant step forward in dispelling half a century of mistrust." After the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, President Bush and Gorbachev declared a U.S.-Russia strategic partnership, marking the end of the Cold War.

NAFTA
Bush's administration, along with the Conservative Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, spearheaded the negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) -- which would eliminate the majority of tariffs on products traded among the United States, Canada, and Mexico -- to encourage trade among the countries. The treaty also restricted patents, copyrights, and trademarks, and it outlined the removal of investment restrictions among the three countries.
The treaty has since been defended as well as criticized further. The American economy has grown 54 percent since the adoption of NAFTA in 1993, with 25 million new jobs created; this has been seen by some as evidence of NAFTA being beneficial to the U.S.

**Demographic Shifts**

The Immigration Act of 1990 increased the number of legal immigrants allowed into the United States each year. It also created a lottery program that randomly assigned a number of visas. This was done to help immigrants from countries where the United States did not often grant visas. The modifications also removed homosexuality as grounds for exclusion from immigration. The law also provided for exceptions to the English testing process required for naturalization set forth by the Naturalization Act of 1906.

**Significance of the Act**

After the Immigration Act became law, the United States would admit 700,000 new immigrants annually, up from 500,000 before the bill’s passage. The new system continued to favor people with family members already in the United States, but added 50,000 "diversity visas" for countries from which few were emigrating as well as 40,000 permanent job-related visas and 65,000 temporary worker visas. Additional provisions strengthened the U.S. Border Patrol and altered language regarding disease restrictions in a way that permitted the Secretary of Health and Human Services to remove AIDS from the list of illnesses making a prospective immigrant ineligible to enter the country.

**Demography**

The United States admitted more legal immigrants from 1991 to 2000 – between ten to eleven million – than in any previous decade. In that decade, the ten million legal immigrants that settled in the U.S. represented an annual growth of only about 0.3% as the U.S. population grew from 249 million to 281 million. By comparison, the highest previous decade was the 1900s, when 8.8 million people arrived, increasing the total U.S. population by one percent every year. Specifically, nearly 15% of Americans were foreign-born in 1910, while in 1999, only about 10% were foreign-born.

By 1970, immigrants accounted for 4.7 percent of the U.S. population, rising to 6.2 percent in 1980. As of 2010, a quarter of the residents of the United States under 18 were immigrants or the children of immigrants. Eight percent of all babies born in the U.S. in 2008 belonged to undocumented immigrant parents, according to a recent analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center. Hispanic Americans are now the largest minority group in the United States and the Asian American population is growing rapidly.
Legal immigration to the U.S. increased from 250,000 in the 1930s, to 2.5 million in the 1950s, to 4.5 million in the 1970s, and to 7.3 million in the 1980s, before reaching about 10 million in the 1990s. Since 2000, legal immigrants to the United States have numbered approximately 1 million per year, of whom about 600,000 represent "Change of Status," who already are in the U.S. Legal immigrants to the United States are now at their highest level ever, at just over 37 million legal immigrants. Illegal immigration may be as high as 1.5 million per year, with a net of at least 700,000 illegal immigrants arriving every year. Immigration led to a 57.4% increase in foreign-born population from 1990 to 2000.

The Information Age

The Information Age, also commonly known as the Computer Age or Digital Age, is a descriptive term defining the current age as one characterized by the ability of individuals to transfer information freely, and to have instant access to information.

The Information Age came about by capitalizing on advances in computer microminiaturization, with a transition spanning from the advent of the personal computer of the late-1970s to the Internet’s reaching a critical mass in the early 1990s, and the adoption of such technology by the public in the two decades after 1990. Bringing about a fast evolution of technology, the Information Age has enabled rapid global communications and networking to shape modern society.

The Internet

The Internet was conceived as a fail-proof network that could connect computers together and be resistant to any one point of failure; the Internet cannot be totally destroyed in one event, and if large areas are disabled, the information is easily rerouted. At its initial stage, its only software applications were e-mail and computer file transfer.

Though the Internet itself has existed since 1969, it was with the invention of the World Wide Web in 1989 by two computer scientists, Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau, and its implementation in 1991, that the Internet truly became a global network. Today the Internet has become the ultimate platform for accelerating the flow of information. It is presently the fastest-growing form of media, and is gradually pushing many other forms of media into obsolescence.

Progression

Library expansion was calculated in 1945 by Fremont Rider to double in capacity every 16 years, if sufficient space were made available. He advocated replacing bulky, decaying printed works with miniaturized microform analog photographs, which could be duplicated on-demand for library patrons or other institutions. He did not foresee the digital technology that would follow decades later to replace analog microform with digital imaging, storage, and transmission mediums. Automated, potentially lossless digital technologies allowed vast increases in the
Lesson 1-2: Clinton and Bush Administrations

Clinton Administration
Bill Clinton’s presidency included ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA brought Mexico into a free-trade zone already existing between the United States and Canada. Opponents believed NAFTA would send U.S. jobs to Mexico and harm the environment, while supporters believed it would open up the growing Mexican market to U.S. companies; these pros and cons are still argued today.

Clinton also became the second president in U.S. history to suffer impeachment. The House of Representatives charged him with perjury and obstruction of justice. The charges were based on accusations of improper use of money from a real estate deal and allegations he had lied under oath about an improper relationship with a White House intern. However, the Senate acquitted him, allowing Clinton to remain in office and finish his second term.

2000 Presidential Election
The presidential election of 2000 saw Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, facing the Republican governor of Texas, George W. Bush, as well as consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who ran as a third-party candidate. Polls showed the race would be close, and it turned out to be one of the closest elections in American history. Gore won the national popular vote by over 500,000 of the 105 million votes cast, but when American voters cast ballots for president, the national popular vote has no legal significance. Rather, Americans are voting for members of the Electoral College representing each candidate. Each state is assigned “electors” in equal number to its total amount of U.S. representatives and senators. In the 2000 election, Bush won by receiving 271 votes in the Electoral College to Gore's 266.

Bush Administration
George W. Bush's presidency will always be remembered for al-Qaeda's attacks on September 11, 2001 (9/11). In response, and with overwhelming support of both Congress and the American people, he signed a law the next month to allow the U.S. government to hold foreign citizens suspected of being terrorists for up to seven days without charging them with a crime. This law also increased the ability of American law-enforcement agencies to search private communications and personal records. Then he created the Department of Homeland Security and charged it with protecting the United States from terrorist attacks and responding to natural disasters.
In October 2001, another of Bush’s responses to the 9/11 terrorist attacks was his authorizing Operation Enduring Freedom, the invasion of Afghanistan by the U.S. military and allied forces. That country’s Taliban government was harboring the al-Qaeda leadership. The allied forces quickly defeated the Taliban government and destroyed the al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan. The al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden escaped, but was later killed by U.S forces in 2011. U.S. forces continued to undertake military operations in Afghanistan for over a decade after the initial invasion.

The invasion of Afghanistan was part of Bush’s larger war on terrorism, for which he built an international coalition to fight the al-Qaeda network and other terrorist groups. In March 2003, American and British troops invaded Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Iraq’s president, Saddam Hussein, went into hiding while U.S. forces searched for the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that Bush feared Hussein had and could supply to terrorists for use against the United States. No WMD were found before Hussein was captured. He was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed in 2006. There was continued fighting in Iraq after this, but the situation had stabilized considerably by the time Bush left office.

Reading Document Boundless: The Modern Era (embedded in this document)
Lesson 1-2 – pages 13-18
rapidity of information growth. Moore’s law -- that the number of transistors that can be placed inexpensively on an integrated circuit doubles approximately every two years -- was formulated around 1970.

The proliferation of smaller and less expensive personal computers and improvements in computing power by the early 1980s resulted in a sudden access to and ability to share and store information for more and more workers. Connectivity between computers within companies led to the ability of workers at different levels to access greater amounts of information.

Cellular (Cell) phones have also revolutionized communication. By the end of the 1990s they were being common and people can now communicate quickly almost anywhere that they are. First limited to voice communication, texting and internet usage on “smart phones” has become commonplace. People can now access the wealth of information on the world wide web from a device that fits in their pocket.

Information Transmission
The world’s technological capacity to receive information through one-way broadcast networks was 432 exabytes of (optimally compressed) information in 1986, 715 (optimally compressed) exabytes in 1993, 1.2 (optimally compressed) zettabytes in 2000, and 1.9 zettabytes in 2007 (this is the information equivalent of 174 newspapers per person per day). The world’s effective capacity to exchange information through two-way telecommunication networks was 281 petabytes of (optimally compressed) information in 1986, 471 petabytes in 1993, 2.2 (optimally compressed) exabytes in 2000, and 65 (optimally compressed) exabytes in 2007 (this is the information equivalent of 6 newspapers per person per day).

In the 1990s, the spread of the Internet caused a sudden leap in access to and ability to share information in businesses, at home and around the globe. Technology was developing so quickly that a computer costing $3,000 in 1997 would cost $2,000 two years later and only $1,000 the following year.

The Rise of Information-Intensive Industry
Industry is becoming more information-intensive and less labor- and capital-intensive. This trend has important implications for the workforce; workers are becoming increasingly productive as the value of their labor decreases. However, there are also important implications for capitalism itself; not only has the value of labor decreased, the value of capital has also diminished. In the classical model, investments in human capital and financial capital are important predictors of the performance of a new venture. However, as demonstrated by Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook, it now seems possible for a group of relatively inexperienced people with limited capital to succeed on a large scale.

The Clinton Administration
The United States Presidency of Bill Clinton headed the executive branch of the federal government of the United States from January 20, 1993 to January 20, 2001. In the 1992 election Clinton defeated the incumbent President George Bush that also featured independent Ross Perot who captured nearly 20% of the popular vote. Clinton was the first Democratic president since Franklin D. Roosevelt to win a second full term. Clinton was also the first president since FDR and the last until current President Barack Obama to have not served in the military in any capacity.

The administration faced political opposition in 1994 when Republicans took control of both houses of Congress, but Clinton was reelected in 1996 after a failed attempt at health care reform. Clinton supported the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he signed into law in 1994. His presidency saw the passage of welfare reform in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, which ended Aid to Families with Dependent Children and reduced the number of welfare programs. This act received support from both political parties. He also signed the reversal of the Glass-Steagall Act, which was designed to prevent financial institutions from getting too big to fail. In addition, he signed the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, which legalized over-the-counter derivatives. Clinton saw the escalation of the War on Drugs, prompting a swell in the prison population from 1.4 to 2 million.

Clinton's presidency included a great period of economic growth in America's history. In proposing a plan to cut the deficit, Clinton submitted a budget that would cut the deficit by $500 billion over five years by reducing $255 billion of spending and raising taxes on the wealthiest 1.2% of Americans. The three-nation NAFTA was signed by President George H. W. Bush during December 1992, pending its ratification by the legislatures of the three countries. Clinton did not alter the original agreement, but complemented it with the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation, making NAFTA the first "green" trade treaty and the first trade treaty concerned with each country's labor laws, albeit with very weak sanctions.

Socially, the administration began with efforts by Clinton to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, which culminated in a compromise known as "Don't ask, don't tell," allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military if they did not disclose their sexual orientation. However, Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, considered by many to be a blow to the LGBT rights movement. Various measures were also introduced to improve the effectiveness of the social safety net, including an increase in the number of child care places, a significant expansion of the EITC program, the introduction of new programs such as SCHIP, and a child tax credit.

The administration took office fewer than two years after the fall of the Soviet Union, and the administration's foreign policy addressed conflicts in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Haiti through militarism and economic exploitation. The Clinton presidency also saw the passage and signing of
the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, which was a bipartisan measure expressing support for regime change in Iraq. On three separate occasions— in 1996, 1998, and 2000—the administration unsuccessfully attempted to capture or assassinate Osama Bin Laden, who was eventually killed by U.S. special operations forces in 2011.

Clinton considered himself a "New Democrat," and was a founding member of the Democratic Leadership Council, a centrist group of Democrats who promoted moderate policies. Clinton left office with the highest end of office approval rating of any president since World War II, but he was the first US president to be impeached since Andrew Johnson as a result of the Lewinsky scandal, though, like Johnson, he was acquitted by the Senate.

The George W. Bush Administration

ELECTION OF GEORGE W. BUSH
The presidency of George W. Bush began on January 20, 2001, when he was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States of America. The oldest son of former president George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush was elected president in the 2000 general election, and became the second US president whose father had held the same office (John Quincy Adams was the first).

After two recounts, Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Al Gore filed a lawsuit for a third. The Supreme Court's highly controversial decision in Bush v. Gore resolved the dispute. The Florida Secretary of State certified Bush as the winner of Florida. Florida's 25 electoral votes gave Bush, the Republican candidate, 271 electoral votes, enough to defeat Al Gore. Bush was re-elected in 2004. His second term ended on January 20, 2009.

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES AND EVENTS
As president, Bush pushed through a $1.3 trillion tax cut program and the No Child Left Behind Act, and also pushed for socially conservative efforts such as the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act and faith-based welfare initiatives. Nearly 8 million immigrants came to the United States from 2000 to 2005 – more than in any other five-year period in the nation's history. Almost half entered illegally.

His second term was highlighted by several free trade agreements, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 alongside a strong push for offshore and domestic drilling, the nominations of Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito, a push for Social Security and immigration reform, a surge of troops in Iraq, which was followed by a drop in violence, and several different economic initiatives.

Bush also initiated an AIDS program that committed $15 billion to combat AIDS over five years. His record as a humanitarian included helping enroll as many as 29 million of Africa’s poorest children in schools.
Bush reinstated the Mexico City Policy; this policy required any non-governmental organization receiving US Government funding to refrain from performing or promoting abortion services in other countries. Also, in 2002, President Bush withdrew funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a key player in promoting family planning in the developing world.

Toward the end of Bush’s second term a major economic crisis struck the United States (2008). The recession began with financial struggles in large banks and Wall Street firms. President Bush authorized a controversial federal bailout of financial institutions fearing that their collapse could result in an economic depression. During the economic crisis the stock market fell greatly, housing prices declined, and unemployment rose.

September 11th
The September 11 attacks were a series of four suicide attacks that were committed in the United States on September 11, 2001, coordinated to strike the areas of New York City and Washington, D.C. On that Tuesday morning, 19 terrorists from the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally piloted two of those planes, American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center complex in New York City; both towers collapsed within two hours. The hijackers also intentionally crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and intended to pilot the fourth hijacked jet, United Airlines Flight 93, into a target in Washington, D.C.; however, the plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after its passengers attempted to take control of the jet from the hijackers. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks including the 227 civilians and 19 hijackers aboard the four planes, none of whom survived.

Suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaeda, and in 2004, the group’s leader Osama bin Laden, who had initially denied involvement, claimed responsibility for the attacks. Al-Qaeda and bin Laden cited U.S. support of Israel, the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, and sanctions against Iraq as motives for the attacks. The United States responded to the attacks by launching the War on Terror and invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban, which had harbored al-Qaeda. Many countries strengthened their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement powers. In May 2011, after years at large, bin Laden was found and killed.

Events
At 8:46 a.m., five hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the World Trade Center’s North Tower (1 WTC), and at 9:03 a.m., another five hijackers crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into the South Tower (2 WTC). Five hijackers flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m.

A fourth flight, United Airlines Flight 93, under the control of four hijackers, crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh, at 10:03 a.m. after the
passengers fought the hijackers. Flight 93’s target is believed to have been either the Capitol or the White House. Flight 93’s cockpit voice recorder revealed crew and passengers attempted to seize control of the plane from the hijackers after learning through phone calls that similarly hijacked planes had been crashed into buildings that morning. Once it became evident to the hijackers that the passengers might regain control of the plane, the hijackers rolled the plane and intentionally crashed it.

**American Response**

Following the attacks, President Bush’s approval rating soared to 90%. On September 20, 2001 he addressed the nation and a joint session of the United States Congress regarding the events of September 11 and the subsequent nine days of rescue and recovery efforts, and described his intended response to the attacks. New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s highly visible role won him high praise in New York and nationally.

In the largest restructuring of the U.S. government in contemporary history, the United States enacted the Homeland Security Act of 2002, creating the Department of Homeland Security. Congress also passed the PATRIOT Act, saying it would help detect and prosecute terrorism and other crimes. Civil liberties groups have criticized the PATRIOT Act, saying it allows law enforcement to invade the privacy of citizens and that it eliminates judicial oversight of law enforcement and domestic intelligence. In an effort to effectively combat future acts of terrorism, the National Security Agency (NSA) was given broad powers. NSA commenced warrantless surveillance of telecommunications which was sometimes criticized.

**International Response**

The attacks were denounced by mass media and governments worldwide. Across the globe, nations offered pro-American support and solidarity. Leaders in most Middle Eastern countries and Afghanistan condemned the attacks. Iraq was a notable exception, with an immediate official statement that, "the American cowboys are reaping the fruit of their crimes against humanity." While the government of Saudi Arabia officially condemned the attacks, privately many Saudis favored bin Laden’s cause. As in the United States, the aftermath of the attacks saw tensions increase in other countries between Muslims and non-Muslims.

The U.S. set up the Guantanamo Bay detention camp to hold inmates they defined as "illegal enemy combatants." The legitimacy of these detentions has been questioned by the European Union and human rights organizations.

**WAR ON TERROR**

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Bush declared a global War on Terrorism and, in October 2001, ordered an invasion of Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban, destroy Al-Qaeda, and to capture Osama bin Laden. In March 2003,
Bush received a mandate from the U.S. Congress to lead an invasion of Iraq, asserting that Iraq was in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1441. Running as a self-styled "war president" in the midst of the Iraq War, Bush won re-election in 2004, as his campaign against Senator John Kerry was successful despite controversy over Bush's prosecution of the Iraq War and his handling of the economy.

**Stance on Global Warming**
President Bush has said that he has consistently noted that global warming is a serious problem but asserted there is a "debate over whether it’s manmade or naturally caused" and maintained that regardless of that debate his administration was working on plans to make America less dependent on foreign oil "for economic and national security reasons." In his 2007 State of the Union Address, President Bush renewed his pledge from his 2006 State of the Union Address to work toward diminished reliance on foreign oil by reducing fossil fuel consumption and increasing alternative fuel production, saying, "America is on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will enable us to live our lives less dependent on oil. And these technologies will help us be better stewards of the environment, and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change." Climate change (global warming) continued as a controversial political and economic issue with many scientists raising concerns.

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**
The guiding political philosophy of the Bush administration has been termed neoconservatism. The specific elements of neoconservative leadership have been itemized in policy papers by leading members of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC). Influential leaders in this philosophy include Dick Cheney, Richard Perle, former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and Paul Wolfowitz.

In September 2000, the PNAC issued a report that state, to maintain military leadership, the US must be prepared to take military action. The PNAC argued that defense spending and force deployment must reflect the post–Cold War duties that US forces are obligated to perform. PNAC advocated that the US-globalized military should be enlarged, equipped and restructured for the "constabulary" roles associated with shaping the security in critical regions of the world.

**LEGACY**
On January 15, 2009, Bush gave a nationally televised farewell address in the East Room of the White House. He discussed many of his decisions and cited the fact that he had kept the country safe since September 11, 2001 as a major accomplishment.

**The Obama Administration**
The Presidency of Barack Obama began on January 20, 2009, when he became the 44th President of the United States. Obama was a United States Democratic Senator
Lesson 1-3: Obama Administrations

Barack Obama and Change
Toward the end of George W. Bush’s presidency, the economy took a downward turn. Gas prices and unemployment rose, large companies were in danger of bankruptcy, and many lost their homes to foreclosure. Against the backdrop of the declining economy and decline in support for American involvement in foreign wars, a key theme of the election of 2008 was "change". Democratic candidate Barack Obama was elected by a wide margin in the election. This made history as Obama become the first African American to hold the office of presidency of the United States.

The Obama Administration found successes in the withdrawal of many combat troops from a more-stabilized Iraq and the killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden. However, President Obama faced many challenges during his early years as President. The economy continued to struggle with key issues being the continuation of high gas prices and unemployment. The war in Afghanistan continued to feature fierce fighting. Budget deficits continued to climb. President Obama was able to get a major overhaul of the healthcare system passed, but the program was challenged legally in the courts (which it survived) and unpopular with segments of the population. Despite these challenges President Obama was elected to a second term by a wide margin in 2012.

Technological Wonders
In addition to the television, other post-War advances in technology brought Americans closer together than ever before. Telephone lines covered the country, allowing people to stay in contact regardless of distance. By the 1970s, early versions of today's personal computers, the Internet, and cellular phones gave a few Americans a glimpse of the technologies that someday would connect everyone to each other regardless of where they were and would become as common as typewriters and public phone booths were in the 1970s.

Assignment: Key Concepts Self-Quiz

Reading Document Boundless: The Modern Era (embedded in this document)
Lesson 1-3 – pages 19-20
from Illinois at the time of his victory over Arizona Senator John McCain in the 2008 presidential election. Barack Obama is the first African-American president of the United States, as well as the first born in Hawaii. He was elected to a second term on November 6, 2012.

His policy decisions have addressed a global financial crisis and have included changes in tax policies, legislation to reform the United States health care industry, and a new approach to foreign policy initiatives. He attended the G-20 London summit and later visited U.S. troops in Iraq. On the tour of various European countries following the G-20 summit, he announced in Prague that he intended to negotiate substantial reduction in the world’s nuclear arsenals, en route to their eventual extinction. In October 2009, Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

**LEGISLATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**
In his first week in office, Obama signed Executive Order 13492 suspending all the ongoing proceedings of Guantanamo military commission and ordering the detention facility to be shut down within the year (which as of 2014 had not yet happened). He also signed Executive Order 13491 – ensuring lawful interrogations requiring the Army Field Manual to be used as a guide for terror interrogations, banning torture and other coercive techniques, such as waterboarding.

**ECONOMIC POLICIES**
Upon entering office, Obama planned to center his attention on handling the global financial crisis. Even before his inauguration he lobbied Congress to pass an economic stimulus bill, which became the top priority during his first month in office. On February 17, 2009, Obama signed into law a $787 billion plan that included spending for health care, infrastructure, education, various tax breaks and incentives, and direct assistance to individuals. The tax provisions of the law reduced taxes for 98 percent of taxpayers, bringing tax rates to their lowest levels in 60 years. President Obama also supported a government bailout of General Motors and Chrysler which were facing bankruptcy. Despite these large scale government efforts, the economic recovery was slow.

**HEALTH CARE**
Once the stimulus bill was enacted, health care reform became Obama’s top domestic priority. On July 14, 2009, House Democratic leaders introduced a 1,000-page plan for overhauling the US health care system, which Obama wanted Congress to approve by the end of the year. On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the bill into law. Immediately following the bill’s passage, the House voted in favor of a reconciliation measure to make significant changes and corrections to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was passed by both houses with two minor alterations on March 25, 2010, and signed into law on March 30, 2010. The
health care law and its implication were a major issue of contention in the 2012 election and beyond.

FOREIGN POLICY
Starting with information received in July 2010, intelligence developed by the CIA over the next several months determined what they believed to be the location of Osama bin Laden in a large compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, a suburban area 35 miles from Islamabad. The operation took place on May 1, 2011, resulting in the death of bin Laden and the seizure of papers and computer drives and disks from the compound. Bin Laden's body was identified through DNA testing, and buried at sea several hours later.

Obama declared his plan for ending the Iraq War on February 27, 2009, in a speech at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, before an audience of Marines stationed there. According to the president, combat troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by August 2010, leaving a contingent of up to 50,000 servicemen and servicewomen to continue training, advisory, and counterterrorism operations until as late as the end of 2011.

In March 2011, international reaction to Muammar Gaddafi’s military crackdown on rebel forces and civilians in Libya culminated in a United Nations resolution to enforce a no fly zone in Libya. Obama authorized U.S. forces to participate in international air attacks on Libyan air defenses using Tomahawk cruise missiles to establish the protective zone.
Additional Resources for Lesson 1

Digital History – 1970-2000 Foreign Policy Triumphs
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=19&smtID=2

Shmoop – The Reagan Era
https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/history/reagan-era

Digital History – The 21st Century
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=20&smtid=2

Obama Video
https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/barack-obama

Song of key events from late 1940s through 1990
http://www.teacheroz.com/fire.htm
As the 1970s came to a close Democrat Jimmy Carter was in a battle for election to a second term with Republican Ronald Reagan. The economy continued to struggle with inflation, high interest rates, rising unemployment, and the energy crisis. 52 Americans were being held hostage in the American Embassy in Iran. The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan, leading many to question détente. In the U.S. the conservative movement had been gaining strength and social and economic conservatives mobilized to support the election of Reagan. On election day, Ronald Reagan won a convincing victory.

Despite being the oldest person to take office as president, Ronald Reagan embarked on an ambitious agenda. His "Reaganomics" plan sought to stimulate the economy through tax cuts and spending reductions. In foreign policy, he took a more aggressive stance against the Soviet Union even labeling communism the "evil empire". In his second term he would meet with the Soviet Union's new leader Mikhail Gorbachev and reduce Cold War tensions. Even many who disagreed with his policies acknowledge that President Reagan was important president, if not a great one. For many Americans, especially conservatives, he is viewed as one of the greatest presidents in American history.
Discussion: Reagan Presidency

Prepare to participate in the discussion for this topic. You will be asked to consider the factors that lead to Reagan's election in 1980 and to evaluate the Reagan presidency.

Here is your prompt:
The election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 is connected to the growing influence of the conservative movement and marked the beginning of a decade that would have a much different tone than the 1970s.

Answer these two questions:
What factors led to the victory of Reagan in 1980?
Evaluate the effectiveness and shortcomings of the Reagan presidency.

Reading Document Boundless: Reagan (embedded in this document)
Lesson 2 – pages 1-7
Reagan Boundless Reading

The Election of 1980

The 1980 presidential campaigns of both Ronald Reagan and incumbent President Jimmy Carter were conducted during times of great domestic concern, times that included the ongoing Iran hostage crisis. Reagan’s campaign emphasized many of his fundamental principles: lowering taxes to stimulate the economy, reducing government interference in people’s lives, strengthening states’ rights, building up the national defense, and restoring the U.S. Dollar to a gold standard.

After receiving the Republican nomination, Reagan selected George H.W. Bush, one of his primary opponents, to be his running mate. Reagan’s showing in the October televised debate boosted his campaign. Reagan won the election in a landslide, carrying 44 states with 489 electoral votes to Carter’s six states (as well as Washington, D.C.) and 49 electoral votes. Additionally, Reagan received 50.7% of the popular vote while Carter took only 41% (Independent John B. Anderson, a liberal Republican, received 6.7%). Republicans captured the Senate for the first time since 1952 and gained 34 House seats, but the Democrats retained a majority.

Opinion Polling

Weeks before the election, Reagan trailed Carter in most polls. In the October 26 Gallup poll, Carter was at 47 percent, while Reagan was at only 39 percent. Following his sole debate with President Carter on October 29, Reagan overcame the largest Gallup poll deficit since it began in 1936, and within one week, the Associated Press reported that the race was “too close to call.” Three weeks before the election, Yankelovich, Skelly and White produced a survey of 1,632 registered voters, which showed that the race was almost dead even. Surveys conducted by Caddell, CBS News and The New York Times echoed this information. Some pollsters at that time, however, gathered results that showed Reagan holding a slight lead; ABC News-Harris surveys consistently gave Reagan a lead of a few points until the climactic last week of October.

Political Positions

Throughout the 1970’s, the United States underwent a wrenching period of low economic growth, high inflation and interest rates and intermittent energy crises. Reagan was a proponent of supply-side economics, which argues that economic growth can be created most effectively by offering incentives for people to produce (supply) goods and services. Such incentives included adjusting income tax and capital gains tax rates. Accordingly, Reagan promised an economic revival that would affect the entire population. Reagan theorized that cutting tax rates would actually increase tax revenues because the lower rates would encourage people to work harder in order to be able to keep more of their money.
Reagan called for a drastic cut in "big government" programs, and pledged to deliver a balanced budget for the first time since 1969. In the primaries, Bush famously called Reagan's economic policy “voodoo economics” because it promised to lower taxes and increase revenues at the same time.

**ECONOMICS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION**

In 1980, during Jimmy Carter's last year in office, inflation averaged 12.5%, compared with 4.4% during Reagan's last year in office in 1988. During Reagan's administration, the unemployment rate declined from 7.5% to 5.4%, with the rate reaching highs of 10.8% in 1982 and 10.4% in 1983, and averaging 7.5% over the eight years.

Reagan implemented policies based on supply-side economics and advocated a classical liberal and laissez-faire philosophy, seeking to stimulate the economy with large, across-the-board tax cuts. He also supported returning the U.S. to some sort of gold standard, and successfully urged Congress to establish the U.S. Gold Commission to study how one could be implemented.

Citing the economic theories of Arthur Laffer, Reagan promoted the proposed tax cuts as potentially stimulating the economy enough to expand the tax base, offsetting the revenue loss due to reduced rates of taxation, a theory that entered political discussion as the Laffer curve. Reaganomics was the subject of debate with supporters pointing to improvements in certain key economic indicators as evidence of success, and critics pointing to large increases in federal budget deficits and the national debt.

His policy of "peace through strength" (also described as "firm but fair") resulted in a record peacetime defense buildup including a 40% real increase in defense spending between 1981 and 1985.

**REAGANOMICS**

Reaganomics refers to the economic policies promoted by the U.S. President Ronald Reagan during the 1980s. These policies are commonly associated with supply-side economics, or pejoratively as trickle-down economics or voodoo economics. The four pillars of Reagan's economic policy were to reduce the growth of government spending, reduce income tax and capital gains tax, reduce government regulation of economy, and control money supply to reduce inflation.

**THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION**

In his 1980 campaign speeches, Reagan presented his economic proposals as merely a return to the free-enterprise principles that had been in favor before the Great Depression. At the same time he attracted a following from the supply-side economics movement, formed in opposition to Keynesian demand-stimulus
economics. This movement produced some of the strongest supporters for Reagan’s policies during his term in office.

The contention of the proponents, that the tax rate cuts would more than pay for themselves, was influenced by a theoretical taxation model based on the elasticity of tax rates, known as the Laffer curve. Arthur Laffer’s model predicts that excessive tax rates actually reduce potential tax revenues, by lowering the incentive to produce; the model also predicts that insufficient tax rates (rates below the optimum level for a given economy) lead directly to a reduction in tax revenues.

RESULTS

Spending during Reagan’s two terms (FY 1981-88) averaged 22.4% GDP, well above the 20.6% GDP average from 1971 to 2009. In addition, the public debt rose from 26% GDP in 1980 to 41% GDP by 1988. In dollar terms, the public debt rose from $712 billion in 1980 to $2,052 billion in 1988, a roughly three-fold increase. The unemployment rate rose from 7% in 1980 to 10.8% in 1982, then declined to 5.4% in 1988. The inflation rate declined from 10% in 1980 to 4% in 1988.

The job growth under the Reagan administration was an average of 2.1% per year, with unemployment averaging 7.5%. Comparing the recovery from the 1981-82 recession (1983–1990) with the years between 1971 (end of a recession) and 1980 shows that the rate of growth of real GDP per capita averaged 2.77 under Reagan and 2.50% under Nixon, Ford and Carter. However, the unemployment rate averaged higher under Reagan (6.75% vs. 6.35%), while the average productivity growth was slower under Reagan (1.38% vs. 1.92%), and private investment as a percentage of GDP also averaged lower under Reagan (16.08% vs. 16.86%). Furthermore, real wages declined sharply during the Reagan Presidency.

The number of Americans below the poverty level increased 8.4% from 29.272 million in 1980 to 31.745 million in 1988, which means that, as a percentage of the total population, it remained almost stationary, from 12.95% in 1980 to 13% in 1988. The poverty level for people under the age of 18 increased from 11.543 million in 1980 (18.3% of all child population) to 12.455 (19.5%) in 1988. In the closing weeks of his presidency, Reagan told the New York Times that the homeless "make it their own choice for staying out there." Political opponents chided his policies as "Trickle-down economics", due to the significant cuts in the upper tax brackets.

In summary, overall the economy of the 1980s was much stronger than that of the 1970s and a large amount of wealth was created. Taxes and unemployment rates decreased, but budget deficits (largely due to military spending) increased. Many Americans prospered, but the gap between the rich and the poor increased.

Reagan and the Cold War
The Escalating Cold War
Reagan escalated the Cold War, accelerating a reversal from the policy of détente which began in 1979 following the Soviet war in Afghanistan. Reagan ordered a massive buildup of the United States Armed Forces and implemented new policies towards the Soviet Union. He revived the B-1 Lancer program that had been canceled by the Carter administration, and began producing the MX missile. In response to Soviet deployment of the SS-20, Reagan oversaw NATO’s deployment of the Pershing missile in West Germany.

Together with the United Kingdom’s prime minister Margaret Thatcher, Reagan denounced the Soviet Union in ideological terms. In a famous address on June 8, 1982 to the British Parliament in the Royal Gallery of the Palace of Westminster, Reagan said, "the forward march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of history." On March 3, 1983, he predicted that communism would collapse, stating, "Communism is another sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages even now are being written." In a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals on March 8, 1983, Reagan called the Soviet Union "an evil empire".

After Soviet fighters downed Korean Air Lines Flight 007 near Moneron Island on September 1, 1983, carrying 269 people, including Georgia congressman Larry McDonald, Reagan labeled the act a "massacre" and declared that the Soviets had turned "against the world and the moral precepts which guide human relations among people everywhere." The Reagan administration responded to the incident by suspending all Soviet passenger air service to the United States, and he dropped several agreements being negotiated with the Soviets, wounding them financially. As a result of the shootdown—the cause of KAL 007's going astray thought to be inadequacies related to its navigational system—Reagan announced on September 16, 1983 that the Global Positioning System would be made available for civilian use, free of charge, to avert similar navigational errors in future.

Reagan Doctrine
Under a policy that came to be known as the Reagan Doctrine, Reagan and his administration provided overt and covert aid to anti-communist resistance movements in an effort to "rollback" Soviet-backed communist governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Reagan deployed the CIA's Special Activities Division to Afghanistan and Pakistan. They were instrumental in training, equipping and leading Mujaheddin forces against the Soviet Army. President Reagan’s Covert Action program has been given credit for assisting in ending the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, though the US funded armaments introduced then would later pose a threat to US troops in the 2000s war in Afghanistan. However, in a break from the Carter policy of arming Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act, Reagan agreed with the communist government in China to reduce the sale of arms to Taiwan.

STAR WARS
In March 1983, Reagan introduced the Strategic Defense Initiative, a defense project that would use ground- and space-based systems to protect the United States from attack by strategic nuclear ballistic missiles. Reagan believed that this defense shield would make nuclear war impossible, but disbelief that the technology could ever work led opponents to dub SDI "Star Wars," arguing that the technological objective was unattainable. The Soviets became concerned about the possible effects SDI would have; leader Yuri Andropov said it would put "the entire world in jeopardy." David Gergen, former aide to President Reagan, believes in retrospect, SDI hastened the end of the Cold War.

Critics labeled Reagan's foreign policies as aggressive, imperialistic, and chided them as "warmongering," though they were supported by leading American conservatives who argued that they were necessary to protect U.S. security interests. A reformer, Mikhail Gorbachev, would later rise to power in the Soviet Union in 1985, implementing new policies for openness and reform that were called glasnost and perestroika.

The End of the Cold War

By the later years of the Cold War, Moscow had built a military that consumed as much as 25% of the Soviet Union's gross national product at the expense of consumer goods and investment in civilian sectors. But the size of the Soviet armed forces was not necessarily the result of a simple action-reaction arms race with the United States. Instead, Soviet spending on the arms race and other Cold War commitments can be understood as both a cause and effect of the deep-seated structural problems in the Soviet system, which accumulated at least a decade of economic stagnation during the Brezhnev years. Soviet investment in the defense sector was not necessarily driven by military necessity, but in large part by the interests of massive party and state bureaucracies dependent on the sector for their own power and privileges.

Restructuring the Soviet Union

By the time Mikhail Gorbachev had ascended to power in 1985, the Soviets suffered from an economic growth rate close to zero percent, combined with a sharp fall in hard currency earnings as a result of the downward slide in world oil prices in the 1980s. (Petroleum exports made up around 60 percent of the Soviet Union's total export earnings.) To restructure the Soviet economy before it collapsed, Gorbachev announced an agenda of rapid reform, based upon what he called perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (liberalization, openness). Reform required Gorbachev to redirect the country's resources from costly Cold War military commitments to more profitable areas in the civilian sector. As a result, Gorbachev offered major concessions to the United States on the levels of conventional forces, nuclear weapons, and policy in Eastern Europe.
Many US Soviet experts and administration officials doubted that Gorbachev was serious about winding down the arms race, but Ronald Reagan recognized the real change in the direction of the Soviet leadership, and Reagan shifted to skillful diplomacy to personally push Gorbachev further with his reforms. Reagan sincerely believed that if he could persuade the Soviets to simply look at the prosperous American economy, they too would embrace free markets and a free society.

**Berlin**

At a speech given at the Berlin Wall on the city’s 750th birthday, Reagan pushed Gorbachev further in front of 20,000 onlookers: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" The last sentence became the four most famous words of Ronald Reagan’s Presidency. Reagan later said that the "forceful tone" of his speech was influenced by hearing before his speech that those on the East side of the wall attempting to hear him had been kept away by police. The Soviet news agency wrote that Reagan’s visit was "openly provocative, war-mongering." The East-West tensions that had reached intense new heights earlier in the decade rapidly subsided through the mid-to-late 1980s. In 1988, the Soviets officially declared that they would no longer intervene in the affairs of allied states in Eastern Europe. In 1989, Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan.

By the early 1980s, many people in the US perceived that the USSR military capabilities were gaining on that of the United States. Previously, the U.S. had relied on the qualitative superiority of its weapons to essentially frighten the Soviets, but the gap had been narrowed. Their large military expenses, in combination with collectivized agriculture and inefficient planned manufacturing, were a heavy burden for the Soviet economy. At the same time, Saudi Arabia increased oil production, which resulted in a drop of oil prices in 1985 to one-third of the previous level; as mentioned above oil was the main source of Soviet export revenues. These factors gradually brought the Soviet economy to a stagnant state during Gorbachev’s tenure.

**A Change in Direction**

Reagan recognized the change in the direction of the Soviet leadership with Mikhail Gorbachev, and shifted to diplomacy, with a view to encourage the Soviet leader to pursue substantial arms agreements. Reagan’s personal mission was to achieve "a world free of nuclear weapons", which he regarded as "totally irrational, totally inhumane, good for nothing but killing, possibly destructive of life on earth and civilization". He was able to start discussions on nuclear disarmament with General Secretary Gorbachev. Gorbachev and Reagan held four summit conferences between 1985 and 1988: the first in Geneva, Switzerland, the second in Reykjavík, Iceland, the third in Washington, D.C., and the fourth in Moscow. Reagan believed that if he could persuade the Soviets to allow for more democracy and free speech, this would lead to reform and the end of Communism.
Prior to Gorbachev visiting Washington, D.C., for the third summit in 1987, the Soviet leader announced his intention to pursue significant arms agreements. The timing of the announcement led Western diplomats to contend that Gorbachev was offering major concessions to the U.S. on the levels of conventional forces, nuclear weapons, and policy in Eastern Europe. He and Reagan signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty at the White House, which eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons. The two leaders laid the framework for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START I; Reagan insisted that the name of the treaty be changed from Strategic Arms Limitation Talks to Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.

**End of the Cold War**

At Gorbachev’s request, Reagan gave a speech on free markets at the Moscow State University. In his autobiography, An American Life, Reagan expressed his optimism about the new direction that they charted and his warm feelings for Gorbachev. In November 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down. Without the fear of Soviet military intervention the governments of the communist satellite nations in Eastern Europe quickly collapsed. The Cold War was declared over at the Malta Summit on December 3, 1989. However a good date for the Cold War officially ending can be placed on December 26, 1991 when the Soviet Union was dissolved. The USSR no longer existed and the United States had emerged victorious from the decades-long conflict known as the Cold War.

While the collapse of communism in Europe occurred under the presidency of George Bush, the policies of Reagan are given much credit for the winning of the Cold War. By pursuing an aggressive stance in his first term with tough talk and an arms buildup, the Soviets weak economy continued to unravel as military spending bankrupted their economy. In Reagan’s second term he shifted toward a diplomatic approach and negotiated from a position of strength with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who was willing to adopt major reforms.
Additional Resources for Lesson 2

Shmoop – The Reagan Era
https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/history/reagan-era

History.com
https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/ronald-reagan
Lesson 3: Document Analysis - America in Our Time

When events that happened fairly recently are studied in some ways it can be difficult to predict what will be remembered in future generations. However, certain events are remembered as tied to a particular presidential administration. In the documents below you will read a quote from each President from Jimmy Carter to Barrack Obama relating to key events during their time in office. Examine these 6 documents and answer the questions that follow. Use what you have learned about each president and their times in Lesson 1 to help you answer these questions as well.

Document 1: From President Carter’s “Crisis of Confidence” Speech; July 15, 1979

The erosion of our confidence in the future is threatening to destroy the social and the political fabric of America.

The confidence that we have always had as a people is not simply some romantic dream or a proverb in a dusty book that we read just on the Fourth of July...

Our people are losing that faith, not only in government itself, but in the ability as citizens to serve as the ultimate rulers and shapers of our democracy. As a people we know our past and we are proud of it. Our progress has been part of the living history of America, even the world. We always believed that we were part of a great movement of humanity itself called democracy, involved in the search for freedom, and that belief has always strengthened us in our purpose. But just as we are losing our confidence in the future, we are also beginning to close the door on our past.
Document 2: From President Reagan's speech at the Berlin Wall: June 12, 1987

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

I understand the fear of war and the pain of division that afflict this continent— and I pledge to you my country's efforts to help overcome these burdens. To be sure, we in the West must resist Soviet expansion. So we must maintain defenses of unassailable strength. Yet we seek peace; so we must strive to reduce arms on both sides.


"Three weeks ago we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today we're here to rejoice in and celebrate another 'Independence Day,' one that is long overdue. With today's signing of the landmark Americans for Disabilities Act, every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom."

Document 4: From President Clinton's televised remarks admitting a relationship with Monica Lewinsky which he had previously denied; August 17, 1998

Indeed, I did have a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse in judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible.

But I told the grand jury today and I say to you now that at no time did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or destroy evidence or to take any other unlawful action.

I know that my public comments and my silence about this matter gave a false impression. I misled people, including even my wife. I deeply regret that.
Questions:

1. Why would President Carter state that Americans were losing confidence? What events of the time would have contributed to this?
2. How were President Reagan's words at the Berlin Wall representative of both a bold challenge to the Soviet Union as well as a hope for future negotiation?
3. In what ways do both President George Bush and Barack Obama's remarks speak of opening opportunities to Americans?
4. In President Clinton's remarks why does he make a point of denying any unlawful action while also admitting a "relationship that was not appropriate"?
5. President George W. Bush speaks of freedom being attacked by a "faceless coward" as on the day of the 9/11 attacks it was not yet known who perpetrated these acts of terrorism. Who did this "faceless coward" turn out to be?

Document Analysis Check:
Answer the questions on your own paper or word processing document.
Additional Resources for Lesson 3

National History Day Primary Sources
https://www.nhd.org/USHistoryPrimarySources.htm

Digital History list of Primary Sources
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/references/landmark.cfm
The events of September 11, 2001 shook the nation. A terrorist attack on this scale had never been experienced on U.S. soil. People were shocked, angered, grieved, and searching for answers. Americans would unite after this tragic event and rally to face international terrorism. Things would change greatly. Debates would later occur over how much authority the government should have in monitoring for information that could lead to a terrorist attack, when military response is needed, and how to deal with suspected terrorists who were captured.

The 9/11 attacks involved 4 hijacked commercial airliners that were used as weapons by terrorists. One plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Another was intended to hit another target (likely the Capitol or White House) in Washington, but crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, when the passengers on board resisted the terrorist hijackers. Most of the nearly 3,000 deaths on 9/11 occurred when two planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The World Trade Center was completely destroyed, but a rebuilding effort began to rebuild the World Trade Center even taller than before. The memory of those that died on that fateful day is remembered in the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum that has been constructed on the site.

Virtual Visit: 9/11 Memorial

Visit this historical site using the link https://www.911memorial.org/visit/museum/Exhibitions/historical-exhibition-september-11-2001, https://www.911memorial.org/, OR you may search the web for other sites about the location. Write a reflection on your virtual visit. Your reflection should be at least one page. Submit your reflection of "Virtual Visit Reflection: 9/11 Memorial". Here are some questions that you will want to consider (feel free to include other aspects of what you learned as well):

1. What is significant about this site in American History? What happened there?
2. What type of things would you see at this location?
3. How would you judge the quality of the information? Does it give you a good "feel" for the location? If the information was lacking in some areas, how could it be improved?
4. Is this a place that you would like to physically visit one day? Why or why not?

Submit your completed assignment when finished.
September 11, 2001

The historical exhibition tells the story of 9/11 using artifacts, images, first-person testimony, and archival audio and video recordings.

About the Exhibition

The exhibition is divided into three parts. The first part covers the events of the day as they unfolded. The second section provides historical context leading up to the attacks, including the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and other precursors to 9/11. The third and final area addresses the world after 9/11, covering the immediate aftermath of the attacks through the end of the recovery at the three attack sites, and exploring the ongoing ramifications of 9/11.
Part 1: Events of the Day

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists who were members of the Islamist extremist network al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial airplanes shortly after their departures from three U.S. cities. In a coordinated attack, the hijackers intentionally flew two of the planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and another into the Pentagon. Learning about the other hijackings, passengers and crew members on the fourth plane launched a counterattack, spurring the hijacker pilot to crash the plane into a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed on that day, the single largest loss of life resulting from a foreign attack on American soil.

The attacks on the World Trade Center triggered the largest rescue operation in the history of New York City. Approximately 2,000 police officers and nearly 1,000 firefighters deployed in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center. More than 100 city and volunteer ambulances were dispatched to the scene within the first hour. As the situation at the World Trade Center escalated, civilians with training in first aid, crisis counseling, law enforcement, and firefighting made their way to the scene of the disaster. Many responders put their own lives at risk to help and save others.

Objects on View

Throughout the exhibition, artifacts serve as historical markers and entry points into the story. Learn more about the objects featured in the historical exhibition below.

Case belonging to Flight 93 passenger Toshiya Kuge

Courtesy of Yachiyo Kuge and Naoya Kuge

College sophomore Toshiya Kuge was heading home to Japan after vacationing for two weeks in the United States and Canada. Boarding Flight 93 for the first leg of his return journey, he carried his passport in a case that he and his mother had picked out.

Bandana belonging to Welles Remy Crowther

Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Gift of Alison and Jefferson Crowther and family

Welles Crowther, a 24-year-old equities trader for Sandler O’Neill & Partners, worked on the 104th floor of the South Tower. Wearing a red bandana over his mouth and nose to guard against smoke, Crowther drew on his training as a volunteer firefighter and guided survivors to the single viable stairwell.
Part 2: Before 9/11
9/11 was not the first attack on the World Trade Center. On February 26, 1993, terrorists detonated a bomb in a rented van parked in the World Trade Center’s underground parking garage. The bomb killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Though carried out by different groups of extremists, the attacks of 1993 and 2001 both occurred within the broader context of an emerging radical Islamist ideology. Al-Qaeda, the Islamist fringe group that perpetrated the 9/11 attacks, wished to attack symbols of American military, political, and economic power using hijacked American airplanes.

Leaders of al-Qaeda selected the hijackers who carried out the 9/11 attacks from a pool of young men who attended terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. By June 2001, all 19 hijackers had arrived in the United States.

In the early morning hours of September 11, the hijackers boarded four flights and began their assault.
Part 3: After 9/11
The story of the days, weeks, and months following the devastation of 9/11 is epitomized by acts of compassion, public service, and volunteerism that significantly contributed to the rescue, recovery, and cleanup efforts.

At Ground Zero, the scene of mass destruction at the World Trade Center site, the search for survivors began immediately. In less than a week, thousands of rescue personnel, investigators, engineers, laborers, and volunteers had arrived to join the effort. Over the next nine months, recovery workers cleared approximately 1.8 million tons of debris.

In late May 2002, with the ceremonial removal of the Last Column, the major work of cleanup and recovery at the World Trade Center site officially ended. Though grief was undiminished, the country faced forward. The legacy of the 9/11 attacks would continue to define policy debates, civic discourse, and reflections on public safety, global politics, civil liberties, and finding the right balance between remembering and rebuilding.
Lesson 5: Short Answer Questions - The End of the Cold War/The 2000 Election

The end of the Cold War was the end of an era that began after World War II and extended for parts of six decades. The Cold War was the dominant aspect of foreign policy and influenced much of domestic policy as well. Many people were surprised by how quickly communism collapsed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union once it began to unravel. The United States had emerged victorious in this ideological struggle. You may want to review the information in Lessons 1 and 3 on the end of the Cold War.

The 2000 Election was a close election with an interesting result. Prior to this, many Americans gave little thought to the workings of the electoral college system, but the dispute over Florida’s electoral votes brought it to the front and center of the political debate. Read the selection from Boundless found in the sidebar on the 2000 Election.
Below you find two topics. Write a short answer response to ONE of these questions. Remember that a short essay should be one half to one full page in length. Submit the short answer essay once complete.

1. Answer a, b, and c.
   a. Briefly explain ONE of the following factors relating the end of the Cold War.
      - The rise to power of Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union
      - The foreign policy strategy of Ronald Reagan
      - The Fall of the Berlin Wall
   b. In your choice for a, give an example of an event or development that is related to your choice.
   c. Briefly explain what you think was the main reason that the U.S. won the Cold War.

OR

Now the U.S. Supreme Court has spoken. While I strongly disagree with the court's decision, I accept it. For the sake of our unity and the strength of our democracy, I offer my concession. In one of God's unforeseen paths, this belatedly broken impasse can point us all to a new common ground, for its very closeness can serve to remind us that we are one people with a shared destiny.

-Al Gore, December 13, 2000

I have faith that with God's help we as a nation will move forward together as one nation, indivisible. And together we will create and America that is open, so every citizen has access to the American dream; an America that is educated, so every child has the keys to realize that dream; and an America that is united in our diversity and our shared American values that are larger than race or party.

I was not elected to serve one party, but to serve one nation...Whether you voted for me or not, I will do my best to serve your interests and I will work to earn your respect...The presidency is more than an honor. It is more than an office. It is a charge to keep, and I will give it my all.

-George W. Bush, December 13, 2000

2. Using the two quotes above and your knowledge of the 2000 election answer a, b, and c.
   a. Briefly explain the reason why George W. Bush was able to win the presidency in 2000 despite receiving fewer popular votes than Al Gore.
   b. Although he conceded, what does Gore make clear about his view of the Supreme Court decision in Bush v. Gore?
   c. What common themes do both Bush and Gore touch on in the quotes above?
Additional Resources for Lesson 5

Fall of the Soviet Union song
https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history

Reading Document *Boundless*: Election of 2000 (embedded in this document)
Lesson 5 – pages 1-2
Boundless Reading on the 2000 Election

The Election
The United States presidential election of 2000 was a contest between Republican candidate George W. Bush, then-governor of Texas, and Democratic candidate Al Gore, then-Vice President. Bush narrowly won the November 7 election, with 271 electoral votes to Gore’s 266 (with one elector abstaining in the official tally). Though Gore came in second in the electoral vote, he received 543,895 more popular votes than Bush (less than 1% of the total votes cast).

The election was noteworthy for a controversy over the awarding of Florida’s 25 electoral votes, the subsequent recount process in that state, and the unusual event of the winning candidate having received fewer popular votes than the runner-up.

Democratic Candidates
Al Gore of Tennessee was a consistent front-runner for the nomination. Gore easily defeated the other main Democratic candidate Bill Bradley in the primaries, largely because of support from the Democratic Party establishment and Bradley’s poor showing in the Iowa caucus. Al Gore unanimously won the Democratic nomination at the Democratic National Convention. Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman was nominated for Vice President.

Republican Candidates
Several Republican candidates appeared on the national scene to challenge Gore’s candidacy. George W. Bush became the early front-runner, acquiring unprecedented funding and a broad base of leadership support based on his governorship of Texas and the name recognition and connections of the Bush family.

Several aspirants withdrew before the Iowa Caucus because they were unable to secure funding and endorsements sufficient to remain competitive with Bush. McCain emerged as the main contender. However, Bush won the nomination, selecting former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney as his running mate.

Campaign Issues
Although the campaign focused mainly on domestic issues, such as the projected budget surplus, proposed reforms of Social Security and Medicare, health care, and competing plans for tax relief, foreign policy was often an issue. Bush criticized Clinton administration policies in Somalia and in the Balkans. Gore, meanwhile, questioned Bush’s fitness for the job, pointing to gaffes made by Bush in interviews and speeches and suggesting the Texas governor lacked the necessary experience to be president.

Bill Clinton’s impeachment and sex scandal cast a shadow on the campaign, particularly on his vice president’s run to replace him. Gore studiously avoided the Clinton scandals, as did Lieberman. Ralph Nader was the most successful of third-
party candidates, drawing 2.74 percent of the popular vote. Many Gore supporters claimed Nader votes would have been cast for Gore, and that Nader threw the election outcome to Bush.

**A Close Election**

**Florida: The Defining State**

As the night wore on, the returns in a handful of small-to-medium sized states, including Wisconsin and Iowa, were extremely close; however it was the state of Florida that would make clear the winner of the election. As the final national results were tallied the following morning, Bush had clearly won a total of 246 electoral votes, while Gore had won 255 votes. 270 votes were needed to win. Florida’s 25 electoral votes became the key to an election win for either candidate. The outcome of the election was not known for more than a month after the balloting ended because of the extended process of counting and then recounting Florida’s presidential ballots.

**Florida Recount**

The final result in Florida was slim enough to require a mandatory recount (by machine) under state law; Bush’s lead had dwindled to about 300 votes by the time it was completed later that week. A count of overseas military ballots later boosted his margin to about 900 votes.

Most of the post-electoral controversy revolved around Gore’s request for hand recounts in four counties, as provided under Florida state law. In a highly controversial decision, Bush v. Gore, the Supreme Court ruled in a 7–2 vote that the Florida Supreme Court’s ruling requiring a statewide recount of ballots was unconstitutional, and in a 5–4 vote that the previously certified total should hold.

**Voting Machines**

Because the 2000 presidential election was so close in Florida, the U.S. government and state governments pushed for election reform to be prepared by the 2004 election. Many of Florida’s election night problems stemmed from usability and ballot design factors with voting systems. A proposed solution to these problems was the installation of modern electronic voting machines. In the aftermath of the election, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed to help states upgrade their election technology in the hopes of preventing similar problems in future elections.

Some (primarily Democrats) also called for a change to electing the President directly, rather than through the Electoral College system. This would require a constitutional amendment and despite some early interest, the issue faded and the current system remains.
Module Wrap-up

Assignment Checklist:
In this module you were responsible for completing the following assignments.

- Key Concepts Assignment
- Discussion: Ronald Reagan
- Document Analysis Assignment: America in Our Time
- Virtual Visit: 9/11 Memorial
- Short Answer: End of the Cold War, 2000 Election

Review:
In studying for the test, especially the multiple choice, a few strategies should be employed. Look over the information in this module. Go back and review the questions that you answered in Lesson 1 Key Concepts that related to the information and readings found there as well as the information in lesson 5 about the lead up to the Civil War. In addition, review the key terms for the module.

For the long essay portion of the test, be familiar with the topics for this unit, including the following:
1. The foreign policy of Presidents Carter, Reagan, and George W. Bush
2. Changes in the United States due to immigration and technology (as it relates to this module)

Memory Aid

Use this silly sentence to help you remember the Presidents of the Modern Era.

Communists Retreated Back, Cold War Battle Over

| Cold War   | Clinton, Bill (1993-2001)  |

Additional Resources:

http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/

https://www.khanacademy.org/

https://www.history.com/

https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/crash-course-us-history/

http://www.havefunwithhistory.com/movies/
• **History 10(A)** Describe Richard M. Nixon’s leadership in the normalization of relations with China and the policy of détente.

• **History 10(B)** Describe Ronald Reagan’s leadership in domestic and international policies, including Reaganomics and Peace Through Strength.

• **History 10(C)** Compare the impact of energy on the American way of life over time.

• **History 10(D)** Describe U.S. involvement in the Middle East such as support for Israel, the Camp David Accords, the Iran-Contra Affair, Marines in Lebanon, and the Iran Hostage Crisis.

• **History 10(E)** Describe the causes and key organizations and individuals of the conservative resurgence of the 1980s and 1990s, including Phyllis Schlafly, the Contract with America, the Heritage Foundation, the Moral Majority, and the National Rifle Association.

• **History 10(F)** Describe significant societal issues of this time period.

• **History 11(A)** Describe U.S. involvement in world affairs, including the end of the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Balkans Crisis.

• **History 11(B)** Identify significant social and political advocacy organizations, leaders, and issues across the political spectrum.

• **Geography 13(A)** Analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from migration within the United States, including the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt.

• **Geography 14(B)** Identify the roles of governmental entities and private citizens in managing the environment such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Endangered Species Act.

• **Economics 17(C)** Describe the economic impact of defense spending on the business cycle and education priorities from 1945 to the 1990s.

• **Economics 17(E)** Describe the dynamic relationship between U.S. international trade policies and the U.S. free enterprise system such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil embargo, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

• **Economics 18(A)** Discuss the role of American entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates, Sam Walton, Estée Lauder, Robert Johnson, Lionel Sosa, and millions of small business entrepreneurs who achieved the American dream.

• **Government 19(C)** Describe the effects of political scandals, Watergate and Bill Clinton’s impeachment, on the views of U.S. citizens concerning trust in the federal government and its leaders.

• **Government 19(D)** Discuss the role of contemporary government legislation in the private and public sectors such as the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

• **Government 19(E)** Evaluate the pros and cons of U.S. participation in international organizations and treaties.

• **Government 21(A)** Analyze the effects of landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Tinker v. Des Moines* [and] *Wisconsin v. Yoder*.

• **Citizenship 24(B)** Evaluate the contributions of significant political and social leaders in the United States such as Sandra Day O’Connor and Hillary Clinton.
In this chapter, you will learn about American society in the last 30 years of the twentieth century. Under President Nixon, the United States withdrew from Vietnam and opened diplomatic relations with Communist China. In the 1970s, U.S. prestige suffered from Watergate and the Iran Hostage Crisis. Under Presidents Reagan and Bush, America moved toward greater conservatism in government. Under President Clinton, Americans saw an end to the Cold War and enjoyed economic prosperity from the growth of the computer industry.

--- IMPORTANT IDEAS ---

A. Richard Nixon established relations with Communist China and began a policy of détente with the Soviet Union. He withdrew U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

B. To deal with inflation, Nixon cut domestic programs and even imposed temporary price and wage controls. Nixon also signed the law creating the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the Endangered Species Act.

C. Watergate Scandal: Former CIA agents were caught breaking into the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate building. During Senate hearings, a Presidential aide admitted that Nixon knew of the cover-up. It was revealed that President Nixon secretly tape-recorded conversations in the White House. Nixon refused to hand them to Congress, claiming Executive Privilege. The U.S. Supreme Court ordered Nixon to hand over the taped conversations to Congress. Faced with impeachment, Nixon resigned the Presidency in August 1974.

D. Following Nixon's resignation, Vice President Gerald Ford became President. As President, one of Ford's first acts was to pardon Richard Nixon. This action greatly angered many Americans.

E. President Ford faced the new problem of stagflation — inflation (rising prices) and stagnation (sluggish economy). Rising oil prices contributed to the problem.

F. President Jimmy Carter campaigned on a promise to clean up Washington, D.C. He created the Department of Energy and a strategic oil reserve in case of a national emergency, but failed to halt stagflation.

G. Carter wanted the United States to set a moral example to other nations. He signed the Panama Canal Treaty and negotiated the Camp David Accords. When the Shah of Iran was overthrown, Iranian students seized the staff of the U.S. Embassy and held them for more than a year in the Iran Hostage Crisis.

H. Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980. Conservative groups like the National Rifle Association and Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority helped in his election. Reagan promised to reduce the role of the federal government in American life. He slashed federal programs, cut taxes on businesses, and reduced federal regulations to encourage private competition. He believed if producers were encouraged, the supply of goods would increase, prices would drop, employment would increase, and stagflation would end. Economist called his strategy "supply-side" economics, or Reaganomics.

I. Reagan was a firm believer in Peace through Strength. He increased both military spending and the federal deficit, which helped stimulate the economy.
J. With the **Reagan Doctrine**, President Reagan announced he would not just contain Communism but try to roll it back. He sent U.S. forces to Grenada, and provided anti-Communist rebels in Nicaragua and Afghanistan with funds.

K. Reagan introduced the **Strategic Defense Initiative** (*Star Wars*), a research program to protect America from nuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

L. **Iran-Contra Affair**: Officials sold weapons to Iran to free hostages; the proceeds helped to supply Contras in Nicaragua, despite a Congressional ban.

M. President **George H.W. Bush** continued Reagan’s policies. The Cold War ended during his Presidency. Bush sent troops into Panama, Kuwait and Somalia.

N. President **Bill Clinton** attempted to enact a comprehensive health care reform but failed to do so. Reduced defense spending after the Cold War coupled with a rise in the computer industry made the 1990s a time of general prosperity.

O. **Impeachment** charges were brought against President Clinton for lying about an affair he had with a White House intern. Attempts to convict him of these charges failed in the Senate. Clinton was able to successfully push **NAFTA** through Congress and saw the creation of the **World Trade Organization**.

P. A talented and hard working group of diverse entrepreneurs — including **Bill Gates**, **Sam Walton**, **Estée Lauder**, **Robert Johnson**, and **Lionel Sosa** — helped the American economy.

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**Key Terms and People in this Chapter**

- Richard Nixon
- Tinker v. Des Moines
- Wisconsin v. Yoder
- Phyllis Schlafly
- Environmental Protection Act (EPA)
- Endangered Species Act
- Détente
- Watergate Scandal
- Gerald Ford
- OPEC
- Jimmy Carter
- Camp David Accords
- Iran Hostage Crisis
- Newt Gingrich
- Ronald Reagan
- Sun Belt
- Peace through Strength
- Star Wars
- Reaganomics
- Reagan Doctrine
- Sandra Day O’Connor
- GATT / WTO
- NAFTA
- National Rifle Association (NRA)
- Heritage Foundation
- Moral Majority
- Iran-Contra Affair
- Contract with America
- George H.W. Bush
- Rust Belt
- Persian Gulf War
- Bill Clinton
- Impeachment
- Hillary Clinton
- Bill Gates
- Sam Walton
- Estée Lauder
- Robert Johnson
- Lionel Sosa
THE NIXON PRESIDENCY, 1969-1974

THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY

The authors of the U.S. Constitution had attempted to strike a balance between the separate branches of government, but since the 1930s, Presidential power has increased greatly. During the Great Depression, the New Deal gave the President an expanded role in managing the national economy. The two World Wars and the Cold War added to the President’s role in foreign affairs.

Unlike Congress, the President can act rapidly and decisively. Radio and television increased the President’s ability to appeal directly to voters. Presidents also began relying on their own advisors instead of on Cabinet members, who Congress had to approve. Some historians have viewed this growth of Presidential power as creating an Imperial Presidency. The expansion of Presidential power may have reached its peak under President Richard Nixon. Nixon failed to consult Congress about the bombing of Cambodia and Laos, and the mining of North Vietnam’s harbor. Nixon also used public funds to remodel his private homes, and used the CIA and FBI to collect information about his political enemies. When Congress voted for programs he did not like, Nixon simply refused to spend those funds.

DOMESTIC POLICY

Nixon, a Republican, moved the nation in a more conservative direction. He believed federal social programs were often inefficient and that these issues could be better dealt with at the local level. He eliminated several Great Society programs and gave federal funds to state and local governments so that they could decide how to spend them.

Besides his belief in revenue sharing, Nixon sought to put an end to the draft, create a series of strong anticrime laws, and advance a broad environmental program. During his campaign, he had promised to appoint Supreme Court Justices with a conservative philosophy.
First Amendment Rights. During Nixon’s Presidency, the Supreme Court continued to protect First Amendment rights. In *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969), John Tinker and his sister were suspended from school for wearing black armbands to protest the Vietnam War. The Supreme Court ruled that this violated the students’ First Amendment rights, and that students have the right to wear armbands to protest the war. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Wisconsin state law that required Amish children to attend school beyond Grade 8. The Court found that this state law violated the parents’ freedom of religion since the state’s secondary education conflicted with Amish values and beliefs and was contrary to their way of life.

Inflation. The 1970s saw rising prices, a new trade deficit, and rising unemployment. To combat inflation, Nixon cut spending on social programs, and took America off the gold standard. When these measures did not work, he imposed the first peacetime wage and price controls. All of these attempts to control inflation proved unsuccessful.

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

President Nixon signed a law that created the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, to protect the environment. The EPA sets air and water pollution standards for cities, and engages in monitoring and enforcement activities. New construction projects must pass through detailed environmental impact reviews before being approved. Private citizens can file lawsuits against polluters under the EPA.

Nixon also signed the *Endangered Species Act* (1973). This law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to list species of plants and animals that are threatened with extinction, and then to take further steps to protect them.

**THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)**

In 1923, Alice Paul, a suffragist leader and founder of the National Woman’s Party, proposed the Equal Rights Amendment: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” For almost fifty years, the amendment was introduced in each session of Congress, but it failed to pass.

In 1972, the amendment was finally approved by Congress and sent to the states with a seven-year time limit for ratification. The deadline was extended to 1982, but the amendments still fell three states short of the support needed for ratification. It has been reintroduced into every Congress since that time.

One outspoken critic of the Women’s Liberation Movement was Phyllis Schlafly. Her book attacking liberal Republicans was used by Goldwater supporters in his 1964 Presidential campaign. Schlafly also campaigned against the Equal Rights Amendment, which she believed would reduce the rights of wives and harm family life. Schlafly further claimed it would deprive women of the “right” to be “supported and protected” by men. For example, Schlafly believed the amendment might lead to unisex restrooms and require women to serve in combat roles.
Nixon believed the President’s most important role was directing the country’s foreign policy. You have already learned about Nixon’s withdrawal from Vietnam. He reduced the number of U.S. troops but increased bombing raids and financial aid to South Vietnam. Assisted by foreign policy expert Henry Kissinger, Nixon had two great foreign policy successes: opening diplomatic relations with Communist China and beginning a détente with the Soviet Union.

RE-OPENING RELATIONS WITH CHINA, 1972

Ever since the Communist Revolution in China in 1949, U.S. leaders had refused to establish diplomatic relations with the Communist government. The United States treated the Nationalist Chinese government, which had established itself on the island of Taiwan, as the official government of China, and vetoed attempts by Communist China to enter the United Nations. Nixon, however, wanted to create a more flexible situation in Asia in order to put more pressure on North Vietnam.

Although a strong anti-Communist, he surprised the world by restoring diplomatic relations with Communist China. In 1972, Nixon became the first American President to visit mainland China. Reopening relations with China was Nixon’s greatest foreign policy achievement.

DÉTENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, 1972

President Nixon believed in pursuing a policy of détente — a relaxing of tensions. Nixon introduced the policy of détente to relations with the Soviet Union. Nixon and Kissinger especially wanted to halt the build-up of nuclear weapons. In 1972, Nixon became the first President to visit Moscow, where he signed an agreement (SALT) with Soviet leaders, limiting the development of defensive missile systems. Nixon further agreed to sell American grain to the Soviet Union to help them cope with food shortages. In 1973, when war broke out in the Middle East, the United States and Soviet Union further cooperated in pressuring Israel and the Arab states to conclude a cease-fire.

VICE PRESIDENT FORD TAKES OFFICE

In his election campaign, Nixon had promised Americans a return to “law and order,” but Americans soon learned that his own government was corrupt. In 1973, Nixon’s Vice-President Spiro Agnew resigned when it was discovered that he had taken bribes while serving as Governor of Maryland. Under the Twenty-fifth Amendment, Nixon appointed Gerald Ford, a Michigan Congressman, as his new Vice-President.
THE WATERGATE CRISIS

Meanwhile, in 1972 a group of former CIA agents, working for Nixon’s re-election as President, were caught breaking into Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. This would soon lead to an even greater scandal than Agnew’s resignation.

THE COVER-UP

President Nixon tried to cover up an investigation of the Watergate break-in on the grounds that it involved national security. Two investigative reporters were the first to report possible links between the break-in and the White House. The Senate appointed a committee to investigate the incident. The Attorney General also appointed a Special Prosecutor to examine possible wrongdoing.

THE WATERGATE TAPES

In the Senate hearings, a Presidential aide stated that Nixon had participated in the cover-up. Next, it was revealed that Nixon had secretly recorded all of his own White House conversations.

When the Senate Committee asked to listen to the tapes, Nixon refused, claiming executive privilege. Nixon asserted that Congress had no authority to question members of the executive branch about internal communications advising the President without Presidential approval. In the case of United States v. Nixon (1974), Nixon further contended that if he obeyed the district court order to turn over the tape-recordings, it would lead to judicial control of the Presidency, violating the separation of powers in the Constitution. When the case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it ruled that Nixon must turn over the tapes, reaffirming the principle that no one is above the law.

NIXON RESIGNS

When the tapes were made public, they revealed that Nixon had in fact lied when he said he was not involved in the cover-up. Based on this and other allegations, the House of Representatives moved to impeach Nixon. Fearing removal from office by the U.S. Senate, Nixon became the first President to resign.
ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

In a televised address, Nixon spoke to the nation on August 8, 1974:

“I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is opposed to every instinct in my body. But as President, I must put the interests of America first. America needs a full-time President, particularly at this time with [the] problems we face at home and abroad. To continue to fight through the months ahead for my personal vindication would totally absorb the time of both the President and the Congress.... Therefore, I shall resign the Presidency effective at noon tomorrow.”

Did Nixon tell the truth when he made this statement resigning the Presidency? Use the Internet or your library to review newspaper editorials or Congressional speeches given in July and August 1974 to research public opinion about whether Nixon should have continued as President. Summarize your findings in a presentation to the class.

| Lowered public confidence in government officials. | Showed that growth of Presidential power created new opportunities for abuse. | Showed that our government is based on laws, not individuals, and that the system of checks and balances works. | Proved that the two-party system works; the party out of power serves as a watchdog over the other. |
| | | | |
| Reaffirmed the role of the press in uncovering government misconduct and informing the public. | The Supreme Court preserved its independence, ordering Nixon to hand over the tapes. | Congress passed new laws to curb Presidential power, restoring the balance between the executive and legislative branches. | |

THE IMPACT OF WATERGATE

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Make a cartoon strip or dialogue dealing with President Nixon. Include three episodes: (1) domestic policies; (2) Vietnam, China, and détente; and (3) Watergate.

THE FORD PRESIDENCY, 1974-1977

Gerald Ford became the next President. Ford had not even been elected as Vice-President; instead, he had been appointed by Nixon, who had now resigned in disgrace. One of Ford’s first acts as President was to pardon Nixon for any crimes he had committed. The pardon came under heavy public criticism.
ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

Ford later said he intended to spare Mr. Nixon and the nation from further turmoil as a result of the Watergate scandals. In his Autobiography he wrote:

"I simply was not convinced that the country wanted to see an ex-President behind bars. We are not a vengeful people; forgiveness is one of the roots of the American tradition. And Nixon, in my opinion, had already suffered enormously .... But I wasn't motivated by concern over the state of his health. It was the state of the country's health at home and around the world that worried me ...."

★ Do you think President Ford was truthful when said he was more concerned with the health of the country than that of Nixon? Explain your answer.

★ Do you think President Ford, in pardoning Nixon, did the right thing? Explain your answer.

CONTINUING STAGFLATION

Once in office, Ford's main worries were economic ones. Economists had always believed that inflation (rising prices) accompanied economic growth and full employment, not recession: this was because when most workers had jobs, they would ask to raise their wages; when consumers were actively buying goods, manufacturers would tend to raise their prices. But now, Americans suffered from stagflation — high unemployment combined with inflation.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had been formed by oil-producing countries in 1960. Most OPEC members were Arab countries. In 1973, the Arab nations of OPEC used oil as a political weapon by imposing an oil embargo on the United States and Western European for siding with Israel in the 1973 war. Overnight, the price of oil shot up. Even when the war ended, the members of OPEC continued to push oil prices higher to enrich their own economies. The higher cost of energy had a significant impact on the American economy — from the cost of heating a home to the prices of food, electricity and gasoline.
THE HELSINKI ACCORDS

Ford continued Nixon’s policy of détente with the Soviet Union. In 1975, the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, and most European countries signed an international agreement known as the Helsinki Accords, recognizing post-World War II borders and promising respect for human rights.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Pretend you are a student living in the late 1970s. Write a letter to a friend about the new problem of stagflation. Describe what it is and explain why it has surprised economists. You might add details like the rising price of gasoline.


Many Americans continued to blame Republicans for the Watergate scandal. Jimmy Carter, a former Governor of Georgia, was nominated by the Democratic Party to oppose President Ford in the 1976 election. Carter was elected as an “outsider” who promised to end corruption and “clean up” Washington.

DOMESTIC POLICY

Like Ford, Carter’s chief problem at home was the economy. The United States depended on imported oil, and oil prices continued to rise. Inflation was more than 10%. That meant that in single year, prices were ten percent higher at the end of the year than at the beginning. Interest rates rose to 20%, and unemployment remained high. In the face of such troubles, Carter took the following steps:

The Energy Crisis. To deal with the crisis, Carter created the Department of Energy. He also increased the oil in the nation’s “Strategic Petroleum Reserve.” Carter sought a special tax on large automobiles, and the power to ration gas, but Congress denied him those powers.

Stagflation. Inflation and interest rates soared in 1979, partly due to the oil crisis. Carter cut federal spending, but inflation did not come down until two years later during the Reagan Presidency.

CARTER’S DOMESTIC PROGRAM

The Environment. Carter provided funds to clean up toxic dumpsites. Following an accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in 1979, Carter created the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop stricter standards for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Diversity. Carter appointed women and minority members to government posts. He also sponsored a bill requiring public schools to provide instruction to students in their native language while trying to learn English.
Many banks excluded people in low-income neighborhoods from loans and other financial services. This practice was sometimes known as "redlining" because it was possible to draw a red line on a map clearly delineating these neighborhoods. The practice especially affected minorities. Carter pushed through Congress the Community Reinvestment Act (1977), which required banks to make credit available in poor communities, preventing the decay of low-income neighborhoods in inner cities.

FOREIGN POLICY

In foreign policy, Carter wanted the United States to set a moral example for other nations. Carter made human rights a high priority: he condemned apartheid in South Africa, pressured the Soviet Union to allow its Jews to emigrate, and cut aid to dictatorships that violated human rights.

THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, 1977

Carter wanted to set an example by having the United States act fairly in its dealings with Panama. He signed a treaty returning control of all of the Canal Zone, except for the canal itself, to Panama. The United States further agreed to turn over the canal to Panama by the end of the century.

CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, 1977

Israel had been established as a homeland for the Jewish people by the United Nations in 1948 in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Many Jews had already been living in the area, but there were also many Palestinian Arabs. Truman had strongly supported the creation of Israel, and ever since 1948, U.S. policy had been generally supportive of Israel, a pro-Western democracy in the Middle East. U.S.-Israeli relations were also influenced by the strong support of American Jews for Israel. Israel relied on U.S. economic and military aid for its survival.

Egypt and Israel had fought one another in a series of wars ever since the creation of Israel back in 1948. In 1977, President Carter invited Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, to the Presidential retreat at Camp David in Maryland. After face-to-face negotiations, an agreement between the two leaders was reached. Under the Camp David Accords, Israel agreed to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, which Israel had taken in the Six-Day War in 1967. In exchange, Egypt offered a peace treaty and the establishment of normal diplomatic relations with Israel — ending thirty years of warfare.
Sadat and Begin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but many Arab leaders denounced the agreement for failing to provide a homeland for Palestinians. Several Arab nations temporarily broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt. Sadat was later assassinated by Muslim Fundamentalists, who opposed any peace with Israel.

**U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS**

Carter initially continued Nixon’s policy of détente with the Soviet Union. However, in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. This aggressive act brought a temporary end to détente. Carter halted grain sales to the Soviets, boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, and postponed ratification of a new arms control agreement, known as SALT II.

**THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION AND HOSTAGE CRISIS**

The Shah (ruler) of Iran was an ally of the United States. However, Shah Pahlavi was also a dictator who used brutal measures against his opponents. In the early 1960s, he had promised the people of Iran greater personal freedoms and other social reforms, but failed to deliver on his promise. In 1978, widespread demonstrations broke out across Iran against the Shah. When the Shah fled the country early in 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini and other religious leaders took control. These Fundamentalist Shiite Muslims were generally hostile to Western influence. They resented America for helping the Shah and for backing Israel.

In October 1979, the Shah entered the United States for medical treatment. Two weeks later, angry Iranian students seized the staff of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran. The hostages were blindfolded, tied up and accused of working for the CIA. Days dragged into weeks and weeks into months. The embassy staff was held hostage for more than a year.

The United States imposed economic sanctions on Iran, and other countries around the world supported the United States. Nevertheless, America’s image suffered because of its inability to free the hostages. An attempt to rescue the hostages with a surprise helicopter raid failed. Negotiations finally led to their release on the day that Carter left office and Ronald Reagan became President.
The 1970s were a time of crisis and achievement for American Presidents. Complete the balance sheet below by describing some of the problems and accomplishments of the Nixon, Ford and Carter Presidencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
<th>Problems/Crises</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening of Red China.</td>
<td>Watergate Scandal.</td>
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<td>Détente with Soviets.</td>
<td>Stagflation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panama Canal Treaty.</td>
<td>Fall of Saigon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp David Accords.</td>
<td>Iran Hostage Crisis</td>
</tr>
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THE NEW CONSERVATISM:  
THE REAGAN AND BUSH PRESIDENCIES

The 1980s witnessed a resurgence of conservatism — the philosophy once championed by Barry Goldwater. Since the New Deal, the responsibilities and role of the federal government in American society had been steadily increasing. Presidents Reagan and Bush decided to cut down the size of the federal government, reducing taxes and federal regulations on business, while increasing private competition. At the same time they favored strong military establishments, expanding the size of government in one direction even as they reduced it another.

THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY, 1981-1989

A popular Hollywood actor in the years after World War II, Ronald Reagan became president of the actors’ union before he entered politics. Originally a Democrat, he grew more conservative when he came to the conclusion, like Goldwater, that the federal government had become too powerful and intrusive. As Governor of California, he had take a tough stand against student protesters in the 1960s. Reagan lost in the race for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1968 and 1976, but won it in 1980. He picked Texas Congressman George H.W. Bush as his running mate. Voters faced with inflation and the Iran Hostage Crisis swept Reagan into office over Jimmy Carter.

President Reagan and Vice President Bush.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

In his Inaugural Address of 1981, Reagan explained his views on government:

“In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. From time to time we’ve been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. Well, if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? All of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.”

★ Based on his Inaugural Address, how did Reagan view government? Support your answer with evidence from his speech.

★ Why does Reagan’s view of government continue to appeal to many citizens today?
ROOTS OF THE NEW CONSERVATISM

After the problems faced by recent Presidents, conservative beliefs suddenly enjoyed an unexpected resurgence in the United States in the 1980s. In Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher had come into office in 1979 with similar ideas — combating unions, reducing taxes, cutting government spending, and reducing the amount of government regulations. In the 1980 Presidential election, Ronald Reagan received the support of a number of leading American conservative groups:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The NRA was begun to promote rifle shooting and marksmanship skills. After the assassinations of President Kennedy, his brother Robert, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congress enacted the Gun Control Act of 1968. The NRA had traditionally steered clear of politics, but now it became more political. Most of its members tended to be politically conservative. In the 1980 election, the NRA endorsed Ronald Reagan, marking the first time in its history the NRA supported a Presidential candidate.

THE MORAL MAJORITY

Another highly influential conservative group that helped elect Reagan was the Moral Majority, mainly composed of Fundamentalist Christians. Begun in 1979 by evangelist Rev. Jerry Falwell, the Moral Majority favored a strict interpretation of the Bible, and an agenda that was socially conservative and anti-Communist. The group also opposed the Equal Rights Amendment. The Moral Majority made telephone calls and held rallies to help get Ronald Reagan elected as President. The group was dissolved in 1989 when Falwell announced that “our mission is accomplished.”

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Many of Reagan’s policies were strongly influenced by the Heritage Foundation, a “think-tank” based in Washington, D.C. The Heritage Foundation seeks to promote conservative policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, values, and a strong national defense. It provides an example of a non-profit lobbying group that attempts to influence legislators on various bills.
Reagan projected a confident, optimistic outlook. Many Americans welcomed this change after the Ford and Carter years. Reagan introduced far-reaching changes that brought a return to prosperity to many, although not to all Americans. Reagan felt that individuals and businesses were better able to solve economic problems than government agencies and reversed the trend of increased federal control that had started with the Progressive Era.

**Reaganomics.** When Reagan took office, the main problem facing the nation was still stagflation. Reagan tried to solve the problem with "supply-side economics." Previous government economists had focused on the lack of consumer demand. To increase employment, they had increased government spending to give more money to consumers. They hoped this would encourage an increased demand for goods.

Reagan’s economic advisers concentrated on supply. By reducing taxes and business regulations, they hoped to make it easier to produce more goods. They reasoned this larger supply of goods would drive down prices and stop inflation. It would also lead to fuller employment. Some called this new strategy "Reaganomics." By 1983, the economy began to come out of recession. Reagan’s tax cuts, deregulation and military spending encouraged greater business activity, while new supplies of oil from Alaska and the North Sea stabilized oil prices.

**The Federal Deficit and the National Debt.** The federal deficit is the amount of money that the federal government spends beyond what it collects in taxes. Reagan had promised a budget in which government spending would be limited to the amount of taxes it raised. But because of military spending, the federal deficit actually increased greatly, and the national debt more than doubled.

**The Trade Imbalance.** During the Reagan years, Americans bought more goods and services from abroad than they sold overseas. This imbalance led to the loss of millions of jobs, the closing of steel mills and auto plants, and a drop in the disposable income of many Americans.
Immigration Policy. President Reagan introduced new changes to our immigration laws. To deal with the problem of illegal immigration, the Mazzoli-Simpson Act (1986) "legalized" illegal aliens who had lived continuously in the United States since 1981.

Sandra Day O'Connor. In 1981, President Reagan nominated Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Born in El Paso, Texas, she studied in California before moving to Arizona. O'Connor had served as Arizona's Assistant Attorney General, State Senator, and a Superior Court Judge. During her early years on the U.S. Supreme Court she was a conservative who preferred "judicial restraint." She emerged in the late 1990s as a swing vote between the conservative and liberal groups on the Court.

The Impact of Geography on History

Until the 1970s, most Americans lived in the Northeast and Midwest, with its hot summers and cold winters. The Southeast was considered too hot and humid in summers, while the West was too dry and remote.

A number of technological developments altered this situation. Government-built dams made more water available to Western cities. With rising oil prices, more Americans preferred mild winters over frigid and snowy ones. Lastly, air conditioning and hydro-electric power made it possible to keep homes, offices, and factories cool in the summer.

As a result, the West and South, known as the "Sun Belt," saw a sharp rise in their populations. Since the 1960s, when air conditioning first came in wider use, the Northeast and Midwest have increased in population just 27%, while the South and West have grown more than four times as much. California and Texas have become the nation's largest states, while urban regions like Atlanta and Las Vegas are the nation's fastest growing urban centers.

As the population density of cities in the Sun Belt grew, the environment of the area changed. Shopping malls and factories sprang up in place of grasslands, mountains, and deserts. Cities demanded more scarce supplies of water and energy, which sometimes had to be brought from great distances, placing a greater burden on the environment.
Reagan set out to rebuild American confidence in the aftermath of Vietnam, Watergate, and the Iran Hostage Crisis. He believed that the United States had to continue to act as the world’s principal defender of freedom and democracy.

**THE REAGAN DOCTRINE**

In 1983, Reagan sent U.S. Marines to the small Caribbean island of Grenada after Communists had taken control in order to protect Americans on the island and to prevent Cuba from attempting to export Communism elsewhere. This intervention showed Reagan’s willingness to use force against Communism. In 1985, Reagan announced the **Reagan Doctrine**. He stated that the United States would not simply confine itself to the containment of Communism. It would also attempt to “roll-back” Communism by aiding anti-Communist “freedom fighters” in Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua, and Cambodia.

Reagan strongly believed in a policy of **Peace through Strength** — “Let he who desires peace prepare for war.” Under this policy, Reagan felt the best way to prevent war was to make America’s enemies think that the United States had both the means and the will to stop aggression. To carry out this new foreign policy, Reagan sharply increased military spending. He also proposed research into an anti-ballistic defense system, the Strategic Defense Initiative (also known as **Star Wars**), using lasers to shoot down missiles in order to prevent a nuclear attack. Reagan’s repeated announcements disturbed Soviet leaders, who feared the expense of developing their own system.

**THE WAR ON TERRORISM**

**Terrorism** refers to the use of bombing, assassination, kidnapping, or other acts of terror to ensure that a political group’s voice is heard, and even that governments will yield to their demands.

In 1982, an Israeli force invaded Lebanon, setting off a civil war between Christians and Palestinian refugees. Lebanon requested a multinational force of U.S. Marines and French paratroopers to restore order. In 1983, a suicide bomber attacked the American and French barracks in Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon. As a result, 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers were killed. Shortly thereafter, President Reagan withdrew American forces from Lebanon.

Reagan announced that he would not negotiate with terrorists and even bombed two cities in Libya in 1986 when he thought its leader, Muammar Gaddafi, had supported terrorist activities that had caused an explosion in Berlin. Libya had admitted it was responsible for blowing up a Pan Am flight over Scotland in 1988.
THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

The Iran-Contra Affair arose out of a secret foreign policy operation by officials in the Reagan White House. In 1986, officials in the Reagan Administration acted against the policy of refusing to negotiate with terrorists by secretly selling arms to Iran as part of a deal in exchange for the release of American hostages in Lebanon. Profits from the sales of the arms to Iran were then diverted to support the anti-Communist “Contra” rebels fighting the Communist government of Nicaragua. This was done even though Congress had specifically prohibited any U.S. aid to the Contras.

When the affair was revealed, it shocked the nation since the Reagan administration had denounced Iran as a supporter of global terrorism. An investigation cleared the President of any direct wrong-doing, although he had failed to monitor the actions of some of his top officials. Several officials were convicted of lying to Congress and sent to prison.

The Iran-Contra Affair greatly tarnished America’s credibility in the world. After the Watergate Scandal, it led many citizens to seriously question their trust in their government officials. Nevertheless, President Reagan continued to enjoy strong support among many members of the American public.

THE TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

Reagan’s second term witnessed the triumph of democracy in many parts of the world. In the Philippines and Latin America, dictatorships and military governments were suddenly replaced by democratically-elected civilian governments.

The final years of the Reagan Presidency saw the beginnings of the end of the Cold War. Early in his Presidency, Reagan had called the Soviet Union an “Evil Empire.” Mikhail Gorbachev became head of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985. The failure of the Soviet economic and political system forced Gorbachev to introduce reforms inside the Soviet Union. Gorbachev also agreed to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan and to allow peaceful changes to take place in Eastern Europe. Reagan and Gorbachev then held a series of conferences, and even signed an agreement dismantling thousands of nuclear missiles.

Historians hold conflicting views on Reagan’s role in winding down the Cold War. His critics contend that Reagan was an accidental beneficiary of Gorbachev’s reforms, and that he does not deserve credit for winning the Cold War. Reagan’s supporters believe he played an essential role in this process. They point to Reagan’s forthright defense of freedom and democracy, his policy of “roll-back,” and the threat of the Star Wars program, all of which placed so much economic and military pressure on Soviet leaders that they felt compelled to reform their system.

Reagan speaks at the Berlin Wall in Germany.
In June 1987, Reagan gave a speech near the Berlin Wall. Many saw this address as the beginning of the end of the Cold War and the fall of Communism:

“We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom. Are these the beginnings of profound changes in the Soviet state? Or are they token gestures, intended to raise false hopes in the West? We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together. There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, [and] advance the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall! …”

What did President Reagan say he wanted to happen in Europe? Explain his statement.

Complete the graphic organizer below describing some of the main developments that took place during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan.

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<th>Reaganomics</th>
<th>Roots of the New Conservatism</th>
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**REAGAN’S PRESIDENCY**

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<th>Reagan Doctrine</th>
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The next President, George H.W. Bush, had served two terms as Reagan’s Vice President. Bush promised to continue Reagan’s policies, but with greater compassion in dealing with the homeless and the poor. He also promised to improve education and fight drug use.

DOMESTIC POLICY

Bush’s previous experience had mainly been in foreign policy, but he faced several important challenges at home. His greatest domestic challenge was to reduce the growing budget deficit. Events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union permitted cuts in military spending. In late 1990, Bush agreed to increase income taxes on the wealthy, but he was never able to make a significant reduction in the budget deficit.

The Impact of Defense Spending on the U.S. Economy. Experts disagree on the impact that military spending can have on a country’s economy. It can provide a short-term stimulus, pushing the nation through the business cycle from recession to prosperity. For example, military expenditures in World War II helped achieve full employment after the Great Depression. On the other hand, military spending can divert, or “crowd out,” resources from other more productive uses, and may thus slow long-term economic growth. Heavy military spending can mean less investment in peacetime projects, higher budget deficits, and more borrowing or higher taxes. Less money will be available, for example, for education. When President Johnson increased American involvement in Vietnam, he thus had to cut back on many Great Society programs.

Supreme Court Appointments. President Bush made several appointments to the Supreme Court, leading to a conservative majority on the Court. The new Supreme Court toughened the rules for criminal defendants, reduced the scope of abortion rights, and introduced other important changes.

The Recession. The United States gradually moved back into a recession by 1990. Economists blamed the economic downturn on reduced spending by consumers, corporations, and federal and state governments. In addition, greater foreign competition led to less demand for some American products. This resulted in lay-offs in several key industries.

While the 1970s and 1980s witnessed increases in population in the Sunbelt, the opposite was true of the “Rust Belt” — areas of the Northeast and Midwest with coal and iron resources, which had once been the center of American industry. With the collapse of the U.S. steel industry, cities such as Gary (Indiana), Detroit (Michigan), and Milwaukee (Wisconsin) have suffered a steady loss of manufacturing jobs to Mexico and overseas.
Civil Rights and Civil Unrest. Although great progress had been made in civil rights, the recession was especially hard on young African Americans. Riots erupted in Los Angeles and other cities in 1992, when a jury found policemen not guilty even though they were videotaped beating a young African American, Rodney King. Seventy people were killed in the disturbances. The riots highlighted the plight of minorities and continuing racial tensions.

Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. President Bush signed this landmark act which prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in employment and in public accommodations. The act guaranteed that they be given equal treatment. Restaurants, hotels, and theaters had to install accessible areas for those in wheelchairs. Employers had to make special “accommodations” (arrangements) wherever possible, to permit disabled Americans to work.

FOREIGN POLICY

Bush proved more successful in his foreign affairs than in his domestic policy.

The Invasion of Panama, 1989. Shortly after becoming President, Bush took steps against Panamanian dictator and drug-dealer Manuel Noriega. He sent U.S. forces to Panama, where they restored democratically elected leaders. Noriega was captured and taken back to the United States, where he was tried and convicted on drug charges.

The End of the Cold War, 1989–1991. The most important event of the Bush Presidency was the end of the Cold War. During Reagan’s Presidency, Mikhail Gorbachev had initiated reforms that set in motion a series of key events. From 1989 to 1991, Eastern Europe moved from Communism to democracy, the Berlin Wall was torn down, and Germany was reunited. In 1991, the Soviet Union itself dissolved and was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States. Bush recognized Russia and the other newly independent republics and offered them economic assistance.

President Bush declared a cease-fire but refused to go further by removing Saddam Hussein from power. The crisis was significant as the first major challenge to world order after the end of the Cold War. American prestige in the Middle East was greatly enhanced by its success in the war. Bush used America’s new stature to initiate peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors in late 1991.

**Somalia.** In 1992, President Bush began a humanitarian airlift of food and supplies to war-torn Somalia in northeast Africa, where millions of people faced starvation. When local warlords and bandits continued to steal and threaten food shipments, Bush sent in U.S. troops in the final month of his Presidency.

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**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

Select one incident or aspect of the domestic or foreign policy of President George H.W. Bush and create a graphic organizer describing it in greater detail.

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**THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY, 1993-2001**

Bill Clinton came from a poor Arkansas background. He studied as a Rhodes scholar in England and attended Yale Law School, where he met his wife Hillary Clinton. After law school, Clinton entered politics. He was elected Governor of Arkansas. The Presidential election of 1992 saw Clinton successfully unite different groups within the Democratic Party as well as attract independent voters. Many Americans believed Bush was not doing enough to fight the recession. The criticisms of a third-party candidate, Ross Perot, further weakened Bush’s authority. Perot received about 20% of the total vote, making him one of the most successful third-party candidates in history.

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**DOMESTIC POLICY**

Clinton promised Americans an ambitious agenda of reform. However, like many Presidents, he found difficulty in obtaining Congressional support for many of his proposals. Although Democrats controlled Congress during the first two years of his Presidency, Clinton had difficulty passing his early budgets. His first budget limited federal spending, increased income taxes to 40% on the richest Americans, cut taxes for low-income Americans, and introduced a federal gasoline tax.
Health Care Reform. In the election campaign, Clinton had promised to reform health care. He proposed to give every American guaranteed health insurance. Clinton appointed his wife, Hillary, to head a task force on health care. Ms. Clinton established herself as a leading advocate for better health care for uninsured and underinsured Americans. Many alternative plans were proposed, but no single plan was passed by Congress. Opponents feared that Clinton’s proposals might lead to long waits and health care rationing. Supporters found it shocking that many Americans still lacked health care. The failure to pass health care reform in Congress was a major defeat for Clinton.

Other Policies. President Clinton was a “New Democrat” who supported welfare reform, free trade, lower taxes on the middle class, and tough measures on crime. For example, he was successful in passing a bill that increased funds for police departments, introduced a five-day waiting period for buying handguns, increased federal money for prisons, and banned sales of assault weapons.

Economic Recovery. Clinton made it easier to export computers and other high-tech goods abroad by eliminating Cold War restrictions. Clinton’s policies and the achievements of the nation’s growing computer-related industries helped to restore the nation’s economy. A reduction of military spending and the closing of military bases at the end of the Cold War also boosted the civilian economy. By the end of Clinton’s Presidency, unemployment was down, consumer spending was up, and business profits were at all time highs. The economy was enjoying its best period in U.S. history. By 1999, Clinton had balanced the nation’s budget and could even point to a surplus of revenues over expenditures.

The Contract with America. In 1994, Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker of the House, proposed a program of conservative principles in the Contract with America. This book-length contract was endorsed by most Republican candidates in an attempt to win control of the House of Representatives during the mid-term elections. Gingrich argued the federal government was too large and was no longer responsive to the people it served: federal programs, he claimed, had taken away personal responsibility from families and individuals. The contract sought to restore the balance between government and its citizens. It was essentially a promise by Republican candidates to the American people, stating what they would do if elected. Many of its provisions concerned the conduct of Congress.
ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

The first Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives in 40 years, Newt Gingrich wrote about the Contract with America, that "there is no comparable Congressional document in our two-hundred-year history."

"We intend to restore accountability to Congress. On the first meeting of Congress, the new Republican majority will immediately pass the following reforms, aimed at restoring the trust of the American people in their government:

First, require all laws that apply to the country also apply equally to Congress;
Second, select an independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of Congress for waste, fraud or abuse;
Third, cut the number of House committees, and cut committee staff by one-third;
Fourth, limit the terms of all committee chairmen;
Fifth, require committee meetings to be open to the public.
Sixth, require a three-fifths majority vote to pass a tax increase;

★ Which of these do you think was most important? Explain your choice.
★ Would our current U.S. Congress benefit from a similar contract today? Explain your answer.

IMPEACHMENT AND SCANDAL

President Clinton became the subject of a major scandal in his second term of office. In 1999, for the second time in history, the Senate conducted an impeachment trial of a President. An independent prosecutor had uncovered a sexual affair between Clinton and a White House intern. After finding that Clinton had lied about the affair under oath, the prosecutor recommended impeachment. Removing the President from office requires a formal accusation, or impeachment, by the House of Representatives, and a trial and conviction by the Senate. Impeachment requires a majority vote of the House; conviction is more difficult, requiring a two-thirds vote in the Senate. Voting along party lines, the Republican House of Representatives impeached the President. In the Senate, the Republicans fell short of the required two-thirds votes needed to remove the President. Once again, Americans felt they could not trust their elected leaders.

FOREIGN POLICY

Unlike Bush, Clinton came to the White House with little experience in foreign affairs. Nevertheless, some of his greatest successes were in foreign policy.
Yugoslavia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. Yugoslavia was a country in the Balkan Peninsula formed by joining several ethnic groups together after World War I. Catholic Croats lived in the southwest; Bosnian Muslims occupied the southeast; while Orthodox Christian Serbs were in the north. The end of the Cold War saw renewed ethnic tensions in Yugoslavia, which divided into several separate states. The dissolution of Yugoslavia was accompanied by fierce fighting between Muslim Bosnians and Christian Serbs.

Some Serbs attempted to massacre Muslim civilians in parts of Bosnia and Kosovo in a policy of “ethnic cleansing,” in order to eliminate Muslims to regain these areas for themselves. Europeans were shocked when it appeared as though genocide, like the Holocaust, might be repeated again.

President Clinton helped negotiate a peace in Bosnia and afterwards spearheaded the use of NATO air strikes against Serbia to stop attacks in Kosovo. President Clinton’s intervention led to a compromise peace and an end to the bloodshed and killing.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Originally negotiated by President Bush, Clinton pushed NAFTA, or the North American Free Trade Agreement, through Congress. It created a new trade association with Mexico and Canada, which is gradually phasing out tariffs between the three countries. Most economists believe that free trade between nations actually helps to stimulate the economies of the nations involved. Each nation is able to produce those goods it makes best and import others. Critics say free trade has led to the loss of manufacturing jobs to countries where labor is cheaper. Such countries, critics contend, often have an unfair advantage since they do not have to worry about environmental laws, social services or paying workers a minimum wage.

GATT, or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was formed in 1947 to further trade by reducing tariff levels on many commodities. In 1994, GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organization, an international organization that establishes rules for global trade and helps to settle trade disputes. Formation of the WTO has accelerated globalization.

The United States has also participated in other international organizations besides NAFTA and the WTO. These organizations include the United Nations and regional associations such as NATO, SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), and the OAS (Organization of American States). Do the benefits outweigh the risks?
**Benefits of Participation in International Organizations**

- Global cooperation helps all countries improve their economies and security. It promotes peace in the nuclear age.
- Participation provides the United States with a place to state its views.
- Cooperation in organizations strengthens the relationship of the United States to other members.
- International cooperation is required to tackle many global problems, such as the environment.
- Participation helps Americans spread their brand of democracy around the world.

**Costs/Risks of Participation in International Organizations**

- Participation in international organizations may place voluntary limits on a nation's own sovereignty.
- International organizations involve the United States in problems around the world.
- International organizations cost the United States billions of dollars to support.

**China.** At first, President Clinton tried to protect human rights in China by proposing to link U.S. trade with China to the promotion of democracy and human rights. He abandoned this policy when it appeared to have no effect on China except hurting U.S. economic interests. Although Clinton continued to press China for human rights reform, he separated this demand from trade issues.

In 1999, U.S. missiles accidentally hit the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia. Chinese nationalists, suspicious that this incident was no accident, marched on the U.S. embassy in Beijing, throwing rocks and chanting anti-U.S. slogans. U.S.-Chinese relations suffered a setback, but there was no attempt to halt U.S.-Chinese trade. By the end of the year, U.S. officials even helped China join the World Trade Organization, further cementing economic ties.

**President Clinton's Other Foreign Policy Initiatives**

- **Russia.** Both George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton followed a policy of maintaining friendly relations with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.
- **Israel.** The Clinton Administration followed Bush's lead in working towards peace between Israel and its earlier opponents, the PLO and Jordan.
- **Somalia.** American and United Nations forces were unable to end the fighting between rival war lords in Somalia. President Clinton withdrew U.S. troops when no further progress was in sight.
- **Haiti.** Haitian military leaders threw out Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a priest who had won U.N.-supervised free elections in 1990. Clinton sent U.S. troops to Haiti, resulting in the return of Aristide to power in 1994.
- **Iraq.** Clinton airlifted U.S. troops to the Middle East to pressure dictator Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi troops from along the Kuwait border. Later he took steps to force Hussein to allow U.N. inspectors to enter Iraq to continue their inspections for nuclear and biological weapons.
In Chapter 4, you read about Alexis de Tocqueville’s impressions when he visited the United States in the 1830s. Even then, there was the feeling that there were more opportunities and greater freedom in the United States than elsewhere in the world. For two centuries, immigrants have been drawn to this nation by this hope. The “American Dream” refers to the idea that any American can be successful through the right combination of ambition, talent and hard work. Even today, the United States continues to hold out the possibility of wealth and success. This can be seen by looking at the lives of the following entrepreneurs:

**Bill Gates**, co-founder of Microsoft, created one of the most recognized brands in the computer industry. Like Steve Jobs, Gates was among the first to recognize the potential of the personal computer. In the 1980s, he obtained a contract from IBM to produce the software operating all of their personal computers. Today, Microsoft’s software is a part of nearly every personal computer in the world.

In 1962, **Sam Walton** started his own five-and-dime store in Arkansas. His vision was to create a chain of stores offering a large variety of products at low prices. Through hard work and determination, Walmart and Sam’s Club grew to become the world’s largest retailer.

**Estée Lauder**, a Jewish New Yorker, founded a cosmetics company with her husband. She pioneered the “giveaway promotion” in cosmetics. Much of her early success came from word-of-mouth advertising. Eventually, she invested in larger marketing concepts, such as using beautiful models to sell her products.


**Lionel Sosa** saw the potential in the Hispanic market. He identified this cultural group as an important target for advertising and politics. Sosa founded the largest Hispanic advertising agency in the United States. Sosa has motivated Latinos to successfully “compete and win.” As a political consultant, he has also advised several Republican Presidents.

This group of diverse entrepreneurs, along with millions of other small business owners, shows that through hard work and determination the American dream continues to be attainable even today.
Complete the graphic organizer below by describing some of the key developments of the Reagan, Bush and Clinton Presidencies.

### The Reagan, Bush, and Clinton Presidencies

#### President Ronald Reagan

Reaganomics: 

Star Wars: 

Iran-Contra Affair: 

#### President George H.W. Bush

Persian Gulf War: 

End of the Cold War: 

Americans with Disabilities Act: 

#### President Bill Clinton

Economic Recovery: 

Balkan Crisis: 

Impeachment: 

CHAPTER STUDY CARDS

★ Imperial Presidency. Growth in Pres. powers.
★ Domestic Policy.
- Created Environmental Protection Agency.
- Equal Rights Amendment fails. Phyllis Schlafly outspoken critic of the ERA.
- V.P. Agnew: Corruption led to his resignation.
★ Foreign Policy.
- Reopened relations with Red China, 1972.
- Followed détente with the Soviet Union.
★ Watergate Crisis (1972).
- Nixon claimed executive privilege.
- Watergate Tapes. Revealed Nixon’s role.
- Resigned rather than be impeached.

The Ford Presidency, 1974–1977
★ Only President appointed, not elected.
★ Pardon to Nixon was very unpopular.
★ OPEC Oil Boycott (1973).
★ Helsinki Accords (1975).

★ Stagflation. Inflation and unemployment.
★ Created a Department of Energy.
★ Seeks morality in foreign policy.
★ Panama Canal Treaty. U.S. gave up canal.
★ Camp David Accords. Between Prime Minister Begin (Israel) and President Sadat (Egypt).
★ Iran Hostage Crisis (1979).
- U.S. embassy officials held for 444 days.

★ Reaganomics.
- Reversed trend of large government.
- Supply-side economics to end stagflation.
- Deregulation of many industries.
- Tax cuts and cuts in domestic spending.
★ Sandra Day O’Connor first woman appointed to U.S. Supreme Court (1981).
★ People fled the Rust Belt for the Sun Belt.
★ Iran-Contra Affair. Negotiated with Iran to free hostages in Lebanon. Sold arms to Contras.

The Bush Presidency, 1989–1993
★ Domestic Policy.
- Faced a growing budget deficit.
- Civil unrest after Rodney King beating.
★ Foreign Policy.
- Cold War Ends. Soviet Union dissolves.
- Invasion of Panama.
- Persian Gulf War. U.S. forces sent to prevent invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.
- Somalia: Humanitarian airlift of food.

The Clinton Presidency, 1993–2001
★ Domestic Policy.
- Cut federal spending; raised taxes on rich.
- Proposed health care reform; failed to pass.
- Computer industry success and “peace dividend” led to economic prosperity.
★ Impeachment proceedings along party lines.
★ Foreign Policy.
- NAFTA Treaty eventually phased out tariffs.
- War in Kosovo. U.S. forces sent as part of a NATO coalition to halt “ethnic cleansing.”

Notable Entrepreneurs
★ Bill Gates. Microsoft founder, and one of the first to recognize the potential of the personal computer.
★ Sam Walton. Founder of Walmart, the five-and-dime department store that grew to become a worldwide chain.
★ Estée Lauder. Founder of one of the world’s largest cosmetic lines.
★ Lionel Sosa. Hispanic advertising genius who saw the enormous potential of the U.S. Hispanic market.
• History 2(D) Explain the significance of the following years as turning points: 2001 (terrorist attacks on World Trade Center and the Pentagon), and 2008 (election of the first black President, Barack Obama).
• History 10(C) Compare the impact of energy on the American way of life.
• History 10(F) Describe significant societal issues of this time period.
• History 11(A) Describe U.S. involvement in world affairs, including 9/11, and the global War on Terror.
• History 11(D) Analyze the impact of third parties on presidential elections.
• History 11(E) Discuss the historical significance of the 2008 Presidential election.
• Geography 12(A) Analyze the impact of physical and human geographic factors on the levee failure in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.
• Geography 13(B) Analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from legal and illegal immigration to the United States.
• Economics 18(B) Identify the impact of international events, multinational corporations, government policies, and individuals on the 21st century economy.
• Government 19(B) Explain constitutional issues raised by federal government policy changes during times of significant events, including 9/11.
• Government 19(D) Discuss the role of contemporary government legislation in the private and public sectors such as the ... USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
• Government 20(B) Evaluate the impact of relationships among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, including the Presidential election of 2000.
• Culture 25(A) Describe how the characteristics and issues in U.S. history have been reflected in various genres of art, music [and] film.
• Culture 25(C) Identify the impact of popular American culture on the world over time.
• Culture 25(D) Analyze the global diffusion of American culture through the entertainment industry via various media.
• Culture 26(C) Explain how the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, gender and religious groups shape American culture.
• Culture 26(D) Identify the political, social, and economic contributions of women such as Sonia Sotomayor and Oprah Winfrey to American society.
• Science, Technology, and Society 27(A) Explain the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations such as computers on the economic development of the U.S.
• Science, Technology, and Society 27(B) Explain how specific needs result in scientific discoveries and technological innovations in agriculture, the military, and medicine, including vaccines.
• Science, Technology, and Society 27(C) Understand the impact of technological and management innovations and their applications in the workplace and the resulting productivity enhancements for business and labor such as time-study analysis, robotics, computer management, and just-in-time inventory management.
• Science, Technology, and Society 28(A) Analyze how scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the application of these by the free enterprise system, including those in transportation and communication, improve the standard of living in the United States.
• Science, Technology, and Society 28(C) Understand how the free enterprise system drives technological innovation and its application in the marketplace such as cell phones, inexpensive personal computers, and global positioning products.
In this chapter, you will learn about American society in the new millennium — the twenty-
first century. Under Presidents George W. Bush and Barrack Obama, America faced several
challenges to both its security and economic well-being.

— IMPORTANT IDEAS —

A. The 2000 Presidential election was the closest in U.S. history. Al Gore won
the popular vote, but the winner in the Electoral College depended on who won
Florida. Many Florida voters had failed to correctly punch in their ballots. The
Florida Supreme Court demanded a recount. The U.S. Supreme Court overruled
it by a 5 to 4 decision, making George W. Bush President.

B. On September 11, 2001, Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists hijacked commer-
cial airliners and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A
third plane crashed into the ground in Pennsylvania. Osama bin Laden and his
organization, al-Qaeda, had carried out these acts of terror.

C. In response to the September 11th attack, President Bush declared a global
War on Terror. With its allies, the United States invaded Afghanistan when its
Taliban rulers refused to hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States.

D. In response to September 11th, President Bush created the Department of
Homeland Security, the TSA, and pushed through Congress the USA
PATRIOT Act. These measures were introduced in response to the threat of
terrorism. Some suspected terrorists were imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in
Cuba where they were not given the full benefits of the Bill of Rights.

E. Critics argued that some of these measures against suspected terrorists violated
the U.S. Constitution, but officials responded that they were necessary to com-
bat terrorism and to save the lives of thousands of innocent Americans.

F. President Bush authorized the invasion of Iraq when he believed that dictator
Saddam Hussein of Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction (WMDs),
such as biological and chemical weapons, and also felt that UN inspectors’ find-
ings were inadequate. The United States and its allies invaded Iraq. Hussein’s
forces were quickly defeated, but coalition forces later became tied down in
fighting an insurgency in Iraq that developed after the invasion.

G. In 2008, America suffered a severe financial crisis. The crisis began when many
homeowners could not pay their mortgages after interest rates rose. Mortgage-
backed securities then lost much of their value, threatening banks and investors.
The Bush Administration provided $700 billion in emergency relief, making the
U.S. government a partner to many private businesses.

H. In 2008, Barack Obama was the first African American to be elected President
after a hard-fought campaign in which he defeated Hillary Clinton in the pri-
maries and John McCain in the Presidential election.
I. Under President Obama’s leadership, Congress passed the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, pumping more federal money into the economy. Obama also gave financial relief to the leading automobile manufacturers to prevent them from going bankrupt.

J. President Obama pushed **health care reform** and the reform of banks and credit card lenders through Congress. He also appointed **Sonia Sotomayor** as the first Hispanic to the U.S. Supreme Court.

K. President Obama began to withdraw forces from Iraq and added troops to the war in Afghanistan. In 2011, U.S. forces apprehended and killed Osama bin Laden, who had been found hiding in Pakistan. In Spring 2011, local populations in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya overthrew their dictators. President Obama encouraged local Arab leaders not to use force against the demonstrators.

L. Scientific discoveries and technological innovations drive the American economy today. The **free enterprise system**, with its **profit motive** and system of copyrights and patents, helps drive innovation forward. Often, scientists and engineers make innovations to address specific needs.

M. The United States is now part of a global economy. The use of energy and protection of the environment are important aspects of this economy.

N. American popular culture, spread by music, film, television, and the Internet — now has global reach. These media depict the American culture and way of life to other nations around the world.

O. **Demography** is the study of population. Since World War II, the size of the U.S. population has more than doubled. During this period, the center of the nation’s population has shifted away from the Northeast towards the **Sun Belt**. Much of the recent population growth in the United States has been due to both legal and illegal immigration.

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**Essential Questions**

1. In what way were both 2000 and 2008 unique Presidential election years?
2. How did Americans react to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001?
3. How did Presidents Bush and Obama respond to the 2008–2009 financial crisis?
4. What impact has American popular culture had on rest of the world?
George W. Bush, the son of former President George H.W. Bush, was the Governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000. In November 2000, Bush became President after winning a majority of the Electoral College in the closest Presidential election contest in U.S. history.

The 2000 Election: Bush vs. Gore

Bush’s Democratic opponent was Bill Clinton’s Vice President, Al Gore. Despite Clinton’s successes, the Democrats were weakened by Clinton’s impeachment scandal. Gore was also hurt by the emergence of a third-party candidate, author and consumer advocate Ralph Nader, as well as by a downturn in the American economy. Bush gained further support when he performed better than expected in the Presidential debates.

On election night, Gore won the popular vote by a half a million votes. In some states the margin was so narrow that the winner of the Electoral College remained unclear for weeks. Bush appeared to hold a narrow lead in Florida, pending a final count. If either candidate won Florida, where Bush’s brother was Governor, it would give him enough electoral votes to win the Presidency.

At first, it appeared that Bush had carried the state. But after a mandatory recount, his lead was fewer than 1,000 votes. Not only was the Florida vote close, but there were also questions regarding its accuracy. Thousands of voters had not fully punched in the holes in their paper ballots to indicate the candidate they were voting for. During the count, vote-counting machines had ignored these ballots. Gore demanded a recount by hand in four Florida counties. State officials refused to extend the deadline for this recount, and were supported by a lower state court. State officials certified Bush as the winner of Florida’s electoral votes.
Gore appealed to the Florida Supreme Court, which demanded a statewide recount. Bush appealed this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled, by a narrow 5 to 4 vote, to order an end to the recount. The Florida Supreme Court had instructed those making the recount to evaluate the voter's intent in cases where the ballot was not correctly punched in. The U.S. Supreme Court majority objected to this, saying there were no consistent standards for reviewing the ballots. Critics felt that the U.S. Supreme Court had voted along party lines — 5 conservative Justices vs. 4 liberal ones. Some thought the Court, with a majority of Justices appointed by Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Bush, was acting against the will of the people, as expressed in the popular vote, to put a minority candidate whom they favored into office.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

With the election results and balloting practices being debated in the courts, the nation faced a constitutional crisis. The U.S. Supreme Court said the following in delivering its majority decision:

"None are more conscious of the vital limits on judicial authority than are the members of this Court, and none stand more in admiration of the Constitution's design to leave the selection of the President to the people, through their legislatures, and to the political sphere. When contending parties invoke the process of the courts, however, it becomes our unsought responsibility to resolve the federal and constitutional issues the judicial system has been forced to confront. The judgment of the Supreme Court of Florida is reversed."

★ Do you think the U.S. Supreme Court was correct to halt the recount and to declare Bush as the winner, even though Gore had won the popular vote? Explain your answer.

★ The Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was unanimous. In *Bush v. Gore*, the vote was 5 to 4. What did this show?

**DOMESTIC POLICY UNDER BUSH**

As President, George W. Bush pushed through a tax cut in an attempt to revitalize the economy. The Federal Reserve Board also dropped interest rates to their lowest levels in decades. The tax cuts revived the economy, but also brought a return to high federal budget deficits. The cuts also mainly favored the wealthy. Bush claimed that the cuts were needed to get the economy growing again.

As Governor of Texas, Bush had been active in promoting educational reform. As President, he introduced the *No Child Left Behind Act*, requiring states to test all students in English and mathematics each year from the third to the eighth grade.
AMERICA UNDER ASSAULT: SEPTEMBER 11

On September 11, 2001, Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists boarded four different U.S. airliners. Once airborne, the planes were hijacked. The hijackers threatened to kill the passengers and the crew in order to get access to the pilot’s cockpit. The terrorists included trained pilots. Then they flew the planes into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, when passengers resisted the terrorists.

Three thousand people were killed, making this the worst attack in U.S. history. Osama bin Laden and his organization, al-Qaeda, took credit for these terrorist attacks. Bin Laden came from a wealthy Saudi Arabian family. His father founded a construction company in Saudi Arabia and became a billionaire. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 stirred bin Laden to recruit Islamic soldiers from around the world to resist the Soviets. This organization later became the basis of al-Qaeda.

After the attacks on the United States, bin Laden was sheltered by the Taliban-controlled government of Afghanistan. The Taliban, a group of Islamic Fundamentalists, refused to surrender bin Laden to the United States.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

On September 20th, nine days after the attack on the United States, President Bush addressed a joint session of Congress:

“On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have many questions tonight: Who attacked our country? The evidence we have gathered points to a ... terrorist organization known as al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda is to terror what the mafia is to crime. But its goal is not making money; its goal is remaking the world — and imposing its radical beliefs on people everywhere. Our war on terror begins with al-Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated.”

In this speech, President Bush issued an ultimatum to Afghanistan, where bin Laden was thought to be hiding. He told the Taliban to “hand over the terrorists, or ... share in their fate.” Was he justified in making this ultimatum? Explain your answer.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

President Bush vowed to launch a global “War on Terror” against those nations that harbored terrorists. In October 2001, Bush ordered air and ground assaults, which toppled the Taliban and destroyed al-Qaeda’s bases. Although many members of al-Qaeda were caught, Osama bin Laden himself managed to elude capture.
President Bush also took steps to curb terrorism at home. A new federal agency, the Transportation Security Agency (TSA), took over security at U.S. airports, and all passengers and luggage were subjected to a thorough screening.

In 2003, President Bush created a new Cabinet post, the Department of Homeland Security. Its mission was to keep the United States secure from all threats. Its activities range from nuclear detection and intelligence coordination to the protection of high-level government officials.

Bush also sponsored the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, which greatly expanded the government’s law enforcement powers. The September 11th terrorists had been organized into four teams. Some had trained as pilots in America. They had cell phones and computers to communicate, and bank accounts funded by international terrorist groups. The new act allowed law enforcement officials and intelligence agencies the power to conduct sweeping searches and surveillance, detain immigrants and monitor bank accounts. President Bush authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to wiretap suspected callers without first obtaining a warrant. Some felt that the USA PATRIOT Act gave the executive branch too much power, threatening individual liberties. Its “warrantless” wiretaps were later held to be unconstitutional.

President Bush also imprisoned suspected terrorists, captured in Afghanistan at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, where the rights required by the U.S. Constitution did not have to be given to the accused. Prisoners who went on a hunger strike were force-fed. The Department of Justice believed that limited torture techniques, such as “water-boarding” — pouring water on the face of a prisoner to create the sensation of drowning — were justified to obtain information from the suspects about future attacks, which might save thousands of lives. Critics felt torture is rarely successful or necessary for obtaining accurate information. They claimed prisoners were treated inhumanely, even though some of them might be innocent. They wished to see Guantánamo Bay closed.

**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

Which of these post-9/11 steps, in your opinion, were necessary and which were unnecessary? Support your answer with examples and logical reasoning.
CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES RAISED AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The attack on the United States on September 11, 2001 led to important changes in the policies of the federal government. The Constitution grants Congress the power to provide for the common defense. Those who support a vigorous pursuit of international terrorists want to see government powers expanded to accomplish this goal. However, recent laws have raised constitutional issues. Although the federal government is responsible for protecting Americans from such attacks, this fact does not authorize all actions directed towards this purpose.

**USA PATRIOT Act.** The USA PATRIOT Act greatly expanded the authority of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to monitor private communications and obtain personal information. Many Americans feel that this act has given the federal government too much power, threatening individual liberties. For example, the act authorizes the FBI to use wiretaps and grants the government access to "any tangible items" of a person under surveillance, including surveillance of individuals and groups not connected to a terrorist group. As you know, the Act's "warrantless" wiretaps were later held to be unconstitutional.

**The TSA.** The attacks by terrorists using planes raised questions about the effectiveness of airport security at checkpoints before passengers board an aircraft. Since 9/11, security at American airports has been greatly increased. The procedures carried out by the TSA raise several constitutional questions: What authority does the TSA have to search a person or luggage? How can Americans protect themselves against unreasonable and overly intrusive searches? Since airlines are private entities, what authority do government representatives have to conduct searches of private individuals using them?

**Military Tribunals.** Under President George W. Bush, the federal government established military tribunals on American soil to try legal residents who were not citizens of the United States on charges of terrorism. The Fifth Amendment grants individuals the right to due process of law. Do "due process" rights apply only to U.S. citizens?

Did the USA PATRIOT Act and other steps taken after the September 11, 2001 attack upset the delicate balance under the U.S. Constitution between the powers of government and individual liberties?
President Bush next turned his attention to Iraq. Bush and his top advisors feared that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein might provide biological, chemical, or even nuclear weapons to Islamic terrorists like Osama bin Laden.

**A FAILED ULTIMATUM LEADS TO AN INVASION**

Hussein had used chemical weapons against the Kurds in the 1980s. Although Hussein denied that he possessed “weapons of mass destruction” (WMDs), he at first refused to allow U.N. inspectors to search in Iraq. Later, U.N. inspectors found no WMDs, but some questioned whether their inspection was thorough enough. The United States, Britain, and Spain warned Iraq to surrender its WMDs or face invasion. France, Germany, and Russia favored a more cautious approach, calling for additional inspections. American leaders feared Hussein would use any delay to hide his weapons. In March 2003, President Bush gave Hussein 48 hours to leave Iraq or face invasion. When Hussein rejected the ultimatum, coalition forces took military action.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

In March 2003, President Bush informed Americans that the United States and several of its allies were attacking Iraq:

“Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly. The United States and our allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now, with our [military], so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of fire fighters and police on the streets of our cities. Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. I assure you, this will not be a campaign of half measures. We will accept no outcome but victory.”

★ In this speech, President Bush gave Americans his reasoning for the war in Iraq. Explain his justification in your own words.

★ President Bush said the United States was going to go to war sooner rather than later so that Americans would not face “armies of firefighters and police on the streets of our cities.” Compare this viewpoint with the earlier Domino Theory.

The United States began its campaign with a series of air strikes. In early April, U.S. forces entered Baghdad. Hussein’s dictatorship quickly collapsed. Later, Hussein himself was captured, tried for crimes against Iraqi citizens during his long reign, and executed by Iraqis in 2006.
Meanwhile, coalition forces established a provisional government in Iraq. In early 2005, Iraqi voters elected representatives to draw up a constitution. Soon afterwards, a newly elected Iraqi national government took power, becoming the first Arab democracy in the Middle East.

THE WAR EFFORT IN IRAQ

Although Hussein was defeated, the war was far from over. An insurgency consisting of former supporters of Hussein, Shiite radicals, and Iraqis angry at foreign intervention soon arose. Differences between the major ethnic groups of Iraq added greatly to this conflict. American forces also committed some key missteps. For example, Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison were tortured and humiliated, adding to the unpopularity of foreign troops on Iraqi soil.

At home, President Bush decided to run for a second term. Bush defeated Senator John Kerry, an outspoken critic of the war, in another closely contested election.

By the end of 2006, as many as 1,000 people were still being killed in Iraq each month. President Bush announced a new “surge” strategy, sending more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops to Iraq to secure local neighborhoods, protect the Iraqi population, guard Iraq’s borders, and strike at al-Qaeda forces. This surge greatly reduced violence in Iraq. American withdrawal from Iraq then became a central issue in the 2008 U.S. Presidential campaign.

HURRICANE KATRINA

President George W. Bush’s second term (2005–2009) also witnessed the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. This hurricane led to the evacuation and flooding of almost 80% of New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast. Katrina brought the highest storm surge and waves ever recorded to hit the North American continent. Its surge and waves greatly exceeded the engineering design of the New Orleans levees.

_Hurricane Katrina was responsible for $81.2 billion in damages._
Hurricane Katrina was also the costliest hurricane on record. Much of the damage occurred when the levees in New Orleans failed to hold back the storm water. More than 1,800 people lost their lives in the flooding, making Katrina one the deadliest natural disasters in American history. It caused devastation as far as 100 miles from the storm’s center. Rescue efforts were so delayed that many citizens found themselves stranded for days on rooftops and in attics. Almost 20,000 people were trapped in New Orleans’ Superdome, crammed together in sweltering heat and unsanitary conditions.

**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, ABC television interviewed people in New Orleans affected by the storm. They asked: "Do you harbor any anger toward President Bush because of the slow federal response?" Some Americans blamed the Bush Administration for its slow reaction. Many respondents also claimed the City of New Orleans and Louisiana state government should have been more active, even before the federal government was called in. Who do you think was to blame for the loss of lives? Explain your answer. You may wish to conduct research on the Internet for more information.

**THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008–2009**

The end of Bush’s second term coincided with the worst financial crisis in the United States since the Great Depression. For decades, the federal government and Federal Reserve had followed policies to reduce swings in the economy. These efforts, combined with the growth of globalization, now contributed to an unexpected collapse.

**ROOTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS**

When the stock market dropped sharply back in 2000, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates to stimulate the economy. Many took advantage of these lower interest rates to buy new homes. Some banks lent money to borrowers who could not really afford their homes. Increasing homeownership caused house prices to rise, leading to speculation in housing. Later, these mortgages were bundled with other investments and sold to other banks or investors.

By 2007, overbuilding led to falling house prices. Some people had special mortgages that adjusted to higher interest rates. When interest rates began to rise, some homeowners found they could not afford their mortgages. This led to a rising number of home foreclosures (when a homeowner cannot pay the mortgage, and the bank takes back the house to sell it). Meanwhile, the federal government gave rebates to taxpayers and businesses in February 2008 to stimulate the economy.
In September 2008, the federal government took over the nation’s largest mortgage lenders. Despite these actions, the financial crisis still spiraled out of control. Firms that held mortgage-backed securities started to fail. In the final months of the Bush Presidency, several large investment firms showed signs of collapsing. The government allowed the investment firm of Lehman Brothers to fail. Others threatened to follow. Banks stopped lending, and credit dried up for individuals and businesses.

In October, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (2008) authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to spend up to $700 billion to buy distressed investments and to provide funds to banks to prevent them from failing. The Treasury and Federal Reserve provided emergency funding to the insurance giant AIG, several brokerage houses, and the nation’s largest banks.

**THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY**

The 2008 Presidential campaign was one of the hardest-fought elections in U.S. history. It began long before the financial crisis became so severe. Democrats attacked the conduct of the war in Iraq, while Republicans supported it. Former First-Lady Hillary Clinton was seen as the early Democratic frontrunner because of her popularity with women. However, a young Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, emerged as the Democratic nominee after one of the closest primary contests in history. A top student at Harvard Law School, Obama had become a community organizer and politician in Chicago. The Republican Party nominated Senator John McCain, a candidate with a distinguished war record and a former prisoner-of-war in Vietnam.

Obama’s campaign received a tremendous boost when Oprah Winfrey, one of the world’s wealthiest women and the highest paid entertainer in the world, publicly endorsed him over Hillary Clinton. Winfrey was a self-made superstar. With the nation’s most watched daytime television show at the time, Winfrey was able to provide important support to Obama, especially among women.

**OBAMA ELECTED PRESIDENT**

In the campaign, Obama criticized the decision to go to war in Iraq, which he had opposed. He also promised health care reform. His candidacy especially appealed to young people, African Americans, and opponents of the Iraq war. Obama called for closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay. He also promised millions of undocumented aliens a path to eventual citizenship. Obama spoke against tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, but promised no tax increases on middle class Americans. His opponent, John McCain, emphasized his record as an independent-minded Republican. McCain chose a woman, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE 2008 ELECTION**

The son of a Kenyan father and a white American mother, Obama was the first African-American to be elected President — 135 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and 45 years after Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech.
His election was also significant for a number of other reasons. Obama campaigned on a promise of change that powered him through the longest, most costly Presidential campaign in U.S. history. His election was remarkable for his rapid rise in American politics from a position of obscurity just a few years before. Obama used the Internet to gather supporters and to raise campaign contributions. With a stunning grassroots movement, he won the Presidency.

*Obama is sworn in as the first African-American President.*

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**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

In January 2009 President Obama delivered this Inaugural Address to the nation:

“For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of our economy calls for action, bold and swift. And we will act, not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We’ll restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. All this we will do.”

Based on his Inaugural Address, how did President Obama intend to deal with some of the nation’s economic difficulties? Explain your answer.

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**OBAMA RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS**

President Obama sought to prevent a depression like the 1930s. His objective was to simulate the economy by creating jobs, rebuilding roads, schools, bridges and tunnels. Obama also proposed important changes to the nation’s health care system and system of education.

In April 2009, Obama and Congressional leaders agreed to the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, to jumpstart the American economy. More than $700 billion was to be spent by the federal government in a bailout package designed to create new jobs, save existing ones, spur economic activity, and invest in long-term infrastructure development. Part of the money would be spent directly by the federal government. Other funds were to be supplied to state governments.

The Obama Administration further responded to the financial crisis by passing legislation to regulate credit cards, lending and other banking practices. He also took steps to save the U.S. auto industry. After much controversy, a health care reform act was passed, which sought to make health care available to more Americans.
A SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT

Sonia Sotomayor was raised in a South Bronx housing project by working class parents. After a brilliant legal career, she was nominated as a federal judge by the first President Bush; soon after, President Clinton nominated her for the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 2009, Obama nominated Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first Hispanic Justice and the third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

FOREIGN POLICY

Like President Carter, Obama sought to exercise moral leadership and work more closely with allies. He faced several threats to American security from overseas.

- **Afghanistan.** President Obama increased the level of U.S. troops in Afghanistan in an effort to stabilize the country and revitalize its development.
- **Pakistan.** President Obama encouraged Pakistan to take a more aggressive stance in fighting terrorism. U.S. troops, acting on a special mission, entered Pakistan, where they were able to track down and kill al-Qaeda terrorist Osama bin Laden.
- **Iran.** Iran is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, which would tip the power balance in the Middle East. Iran sponsors terrorist groups in the Middle East, and its leaders have openly threatened Israel's existence.
- **Israel.** President Obama seeks to work with Israelis and Palestinians to achieve a two-state solution—a Jewish state and a Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace.
- **Iraq.** President Obama gradually withdrew U.S. troops which were replaced by Iraqi security forces.
- **Europe.** President Obama has maintained close ties with Europe. The European Union has experienced its own financial crisis, similar to that faced by the United States.
- **China.** China continues to sell a large number of goods to Americans while its investors buy a great deal of U.S. Treasury notes, supporting the large American debt.
- **The "Arab Spring."** President Obama discouraged dictators from using force to suppress democracy movements in Tunisia, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, and Libya in 2011.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Investigate one of the policies or events that have taken place during the Obama Presidency. In a report or oral presentation, describe its background, explain how President Obama has attempted to handle that concern, and evaluate how successful his administration has been in its attempt to deal with that problem.
Complete the graphic organizer below describing some of the developments of the George W. Bush and Obama Presidencies.

### The George W. Bush Presidency

**Election of 2000:**

**September 11, 2001:**

**War in Afghanistan and Iraq:**

**Financial Crisis:**

### The Obama Presidency

**Election of 2008:**

**Health Care Reform:**

**Financial Crisis:**

**Foreign Policy:**

**Supreme Court Appointment:**
THE UNITED STATES IN A GLOBAL ERA

Just as important as recent government policies have been several long-term technological, economic, and social developments. These are gradually changing the American way of life.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Technology is the use of tools and techniques to meet human needs. Modern technology, based on science, has led to many changes in manufacturing and productivity. Modern technology is often based on the application of scientific discoveries to solve practical problems.

INNOVATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

Innovation consists of two steps: first, inventing a product or process; second, producing it or putting it into effect. The first step requires creativity, while the second demands resources and organization. Over the past half century, the United States has been at the forefront of scientific discovery and technological innovation. For example, Americans developed the transistor, integrated circuit, computer, Internet, light emitted diode (LED), Global Positioning System (GPS), and UNIX computer operating system.

Such innovations can spur workplace productivity. New ways of managing human and natural resources can have the same effect. For example, many companies now use robotics to aid in manufacturing.

Others employ “just-in-time” (J-I-T) production, in which parts arrive at the precise time in the manufacturing process they are needed by workers. The ability of computers to track inventory has made this technique, which requires precise communication, possible.

J-I-T production benefits the manufacturer by eliminating the need for a large inventory of parts. For example, when Hewlett Packard introduced J-I-T production, it reduced the time to manufacture a group of 31 circuit boards from 15 days to 11 hours. The cost of inventory for these boards fell from $670,000 to only $20,000.

Time-study analysis was first developed more than 50 years ago. A trained observer records how long it takes a qualified worker to perform a particular task at a given rate (or speed) of working. This information helps managers to improve production methods and to become more efficient.
FREE ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The free enterprise system allows people to use their own economic resources to produce goods and services for sale to others. Copyright and patent laws give writers and inventors exclusive rights to their own creations and inventions. In a free enterprise system, scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs have a powerful incentive to pay attention to the needs of consumers. Since they can profit by meeting consumer needs, they continually strive to improve established products and to create new ones. Both the producers and the consumers benefit. By allowing people to pursue their own interests, free enterprise can drive technological innovation and achieve extraordinary results. Running shoes, personal computers, gel toothpaste, cellular phones, BlackBerrys, iPhones, and global positioning system products are just some of the products created as a result of innovation by our free enterprise system.

INNOVATIONS ADDRESSING SPECIFIC NEEDS

Attempts to address specific needs often lead to scientific discoveries and technological innovation. For example, in the 1950s, Dr. Jonas Salk specifically developed a vaccine to cure polio. In the 1980s, a new disease appeared known as AIDS. Those who contracted the disease had no immunity to other illnesses. Scientists set about discovering what caused AIDS and finding a cure. They discovered it was caused by the HIV virus, which attacks the human immune system. The virus can be transmitted during sexual contact or blood transfusions. Scientists were able to develop a number of specific drugs that slow down the reproduction of the HIV virus and help restore the immune system. Scientists are now attempting to find a vaccine to prevent AIDS.

Scientists have also developed new drugs to reduce the levels of cholesterol, lowering the risk of heart attacks, and they are working on a cure for Alzheimer’s, a disease that attacks an older person’s memory and mental abilities. Scientists have also developed more insect-resistant foods with greater nutritional value, making it possible to support the world’s growing population.

Both the U.S. military and space program have used teams of scientists and engineers to design solutions to specific problems. These solutions often have more general applications: the jet engine, for example, is now used by commercial airlines to power their airplanes, and the Internet, developed for scientists, is now used to communicate by everyone.

THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION

Much of the increased productivity of the American economy in the last few decades has been due to advances in information technology (IT). Computers are machines that use a binary system to store and manipulate information.
A computer is able to carry out a series of logical or mathematical operations. The computer has a memory that stores the information or data, and a central processing unit that carries out the steps. The first computers used vacuum tubes, which were then replaced by transistors and later by integrated circuits based on silicon chips. The use of silicon chips has launched a technological revolution. Each year, computers have become smaller and capable of faster processing. Computers now make possible the use of countless labor-saving machines. The computer industry has created millions of jobs in manufacturing, programming and services. For example, computer management deals with developing software solutions and products. Microsoft, Intel, Apple, Cisco, and Google are household names.

The Internet, a world-wide linking of computers, has made it easier to communicate and find information. E-commerce (doing business on the Internet), is now gradually replacing many traditional brick-and-mortar forms of business.

The United States leads the world in supercomputing. Supercomputers have helped the United States achieve a competitive advantage in defense, medicine, energy, environment, finance, manufacturing and product development. The American economy continues to attract scientific and engineering talent from around the world. However, other countries are catching up. For example, China now has 24 of the world’s 500 most powerful supercomputers.

**MEDICINE AND HEALTH**

Progress has also been made in medicine. Since World War II, the development of antibiotics, new vaccines, and other medicines have enabled Americans to cure many diseases. Americans have also become more health-conscious: limiting the fat, sugar and salt in their diets; drinking less alcohol; and exercising more. Federal and state governments have limited tobacco advertising. Scientists have been identifying the estimated 100,000 human genes on our 23 chromosomes, allowing genetic engineering. Thousands of diseases, such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, and sickle-cell anemia, may some day be cured through these techniques.

**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

Create an illustrated foldable, concept map or timeline showing American advances in technology since the end of World War II.
APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Choose one of the fields discussed and research information about it from the Internet or library. Then make an oral presentation summarizing your findings.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

In the 1950s, American manufacturers mainly sold to consumers in the U.S. market. Today, our economy is integrated into the global economy. A multinational corporation is a corporation that has set up local companies, or subsidiaries, in several countries. Today, multinationals make and sell their products in every corner of the world. At the start of the twenty-first century, multinationals controlled more than half of the industrial assets of the United States and employed millions of workers here and abroad.

For example, McDonalds is a franchise with over 30,000 restaurants in 113 countries. Starbucks sells coffee in 40 overseas markets, operating 12,000 stores. Nike has stores on six continents. Wal-Mart has 2,700 global retail units employing 500,000. Exxon-Mobil and Chevron have subsidiaries in several countries.

Globalization. The emergence of multinational corporations has contributed to globalization. This has had a serious impact on government policies. For example, when a government bans its factories from dumping toxic waste into rivers and harming the environment, a national company must comply by changing its procedures. However, a multinational company can decide to simply move its production abroad to a more friendly country rather than comply. Multinationals can move their production to countries where labor is less expensive, environmental regulations are more lax, and taxes are lower or non-existent. This freedom of movement penalizes those governments that seek to maintain higher standards of social welfare, environmental regulation or tax policies. Competition among multinational corporations is now intensifying. For example, American automobile manufacturers now face stiff competition from multinational corporations originating in Japan, Germany, Britain, and Korea.

ENERGY

Population growth and rising living standards have led to a greater demand for energy, at home and abroad. It was once thought that nuclear power plants might meet most of our energy needs without pollution. The Three Mile Island accident in 1979 and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011 have raised fears that nuclear power might impose more dangers than first thought.
New sources of oil in Alaska and the world’s seas have helped meet some of our energy needs, but a damaged BP oil derrick in the Gulf Coast led millions of barrels of oil to pour into the Gulf waters, revealing additional dangers from fossil fuels as well.

**Energy’s Impact on the American Way of Life.** Americans once benefited from low-cost energy. OPEC’s raising of crude oil prices in the 1970s has changed this outlook. With more than nine million jobs in the American economy dependent on energy production, energy plays a critical role in our economic future. Some economists believe that a sharp rise in oil prices in the first decade of the 21st century contributed to the slowdown in the U.S. economy and the dramatic rise in unemployment. High energy consumption continues to be an aspect of the American way of life. Americans now emphasize energy conservation and the need to develop new energy sources such as solar power.

**MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT**

In the past several decades, Americans have become increasingly aware of the growing danger to our environment. As countries become more developed and the world’s population grows, pollution of the Earth’s air, water, and other resources becomes an ever-increasing threat to the future survival of humankind.

**Global Warming.** Some pollutants in the atmosphere prevent heat from escaping into space. This greenhouse effect may permanently raise temperatures to dangerous levels. The United States has been a leading offender, producing 25% of the gases that cause this effect.

**Acid Rain.** Many pollutants released by industry and automobile exhausts turn into acids that are washed out of the air when it rains. When these pollutants return, they are highly toxic, often killing fish, destroying forests, and eroding soil.

**Erosion of the Ozone Layer.** The ozone layer absorbs ultraviolet radiation passing through the Earth’s atmosphere. Too much of this radiation can cause skin cancer. The ozone layer was being rapidly eroded by the widespread use of certain types of fluorocarbons once found in pressurized aerosol spray cans. These are now prohibited.
Water Pollution. As cities have become more crowded, their ability to handle increased sewage and waste is strained. This can lead to the dumping of raw sewage into surrounding waters, contaminating drinking water, killing wildlife, and threatening the health of everyone in society.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

There is a growing belief among Americans that protection of the environment is a governmental responsibility. This is based on the realization that we all need to breathe clean air and drink safe water. Only the government is capable of managing these resources and preventing pollution since it has the ability to punish violators. Government decisions, however, are often linked to the costs involved: how much are Americans willing to sacrifice to protect their environment? This question makes protection of the environment especially challenging.

Creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Endangered Species Act gave the federal government special powers for protecting the environment. States also have their own laws and agencies for environmental protection. Both the federal and state governments also directly own some forest, desert, and mountain areas. Governments are responsible for meeting the costs of floods, droughts, and other environmental disasters. Governments undertake the construction of dams, roads, bridges. Both the federal and state governments have their own programs related to environmental protection, environmental awareness, and pollution control. Lastly, private groups and voluntary organizations play an increasing role in promoting public awareness and protecting the environment, such as the Sierra Club, founded in California by conservationist John Muir in 1892.

ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN

★ Contact a federal, state, or local agency that is engaged in environmental protection and arrange for a speaker to visit your class.

★ Have a debate in your class over this issue: Does the environment need greater protection or is it already overprotected with too many regulations?

THE GLOBAL REACH OF AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE

Since World War II, American popular culture has exercised a great influence both on the lives of Americans and on people in the rest of the world.
MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS

American companies record the music of such artists as Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand, the Supremes, Madonna, and Michael Jackson, or country and western musicians like Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson. They produce vinyl records, cassette tapes, compact discs, and most recently, digital downloads. This music is often played on radio and television and can now even be heard on the Internet. Visual arts, once reserved solely for the wealthy or museums, is now commercially reproduced in magazines, newspapers, television programs, advertising and on the Internet. Artists like Andy Warhol exploited this trend by developing Pop Art.

FILMS, TELEVISION, AND THE INTERNET

Hollywood studios produce films shown around the world. Many of the movies made today, like Avatar, have stunning digital effects. Most American television programs are also made in Los Angeles. The spread of cable and satellite television has greatly expanded the number of channels and programs available. These films and television programs often depict American culture and the American way of life. First and foremost, they influence Americans themselves.

American media can also now be seen around the world. After World War II, American music and movies became popular in Europe. Later, they spread to every continent. Today, people throughout the world watch American movies and TV programs, dance to American music, wear American fashions, and even eat and drink American foods. English has emerged as an international second language. Google, Facebook and Wikipedia have also helped spread American culture. American popular culture is now found in every walk of life — thanks to American entrepreneurs, television, movies, computers, and the Internet. It influences other cultures and their views of the United States.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Your teacher should divide your class into small groups. Each group should be assigned one of these categories: fashion, food and drink, music, film, and television. Using the Internet or your library, each group should search for examples of American culture in other countries. Then paste them onto a poster board. Create labels describing each item and explaining what the cultural influence is.

CHANGES IN AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHY

Demography is the study of population. Since World War II, there have been significant changes in the demography of the United States.
First, the size of the total U.S. population has more than doubled since the end of World War II:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>151,325,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>179,323,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>203,211,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>226,545,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>248,709,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>281,421,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>308,745,538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fact, the United States is the third largest nation in terms of population, after China and India.

Secondly, the center of population of the United States has shifted away from the Northeast and Midwest and towards the Sun Belt. The map below shows an ever westward shift of the population. California had 10.5 million in 1950 and 37 million in 2010. Texas’ population grew from 7.7 million in 1950 to 25 million in 2010, while Florida had only 2.8 million people in 1950, it has grown to 18.8 million today.

Thirdly, much of the recent population growth of the United States has been due to immigration. About 13% of the population living in the United States today are immigrants. The United States has both legal immigrants — those who apply for and receive visas for permanent residence, known as green cards — and millions of illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants are people who cross America’s borders with Mexico or Canada, or who land on American shores, without officially entering the country. Some estimate there are as many as 15 million illegal aliens now living in the United States. These numbers are not part of the official population count of the United States.

Illegal immigrants often work for low wages that others might be unwilling to accept. Their jobs frequently involves agriculture, construction, landscape maintenance or domestic services.
At the same time, some illegal immigrants do not pay taxes and may require social services by sending their children to public school or requiring emergency medical attention. To complicate matters, many illegal aliens have lived in the United States for decades as law-abiding individuals, pay taxes, and have children who, because they were born on American soil, are U.S. citizens. How to handle these millions of illegal aliens poses an important social issue.

All Americans have contributed to the rich diversity of American life. As you have seen throughout this book, people of every racial, ethnic, religious, and gender group have made important contributions to help shape American culture and American ways of life.

**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

How is the United States different today from what Tocqueville observed in the 1830s? Consider its demography, cultural life, economy, and politics.

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**CHAPTER STUDY CARDS**

**George W. Bush Presidency, 2001–2009**

- **Election of 2000.** Al Gore won popular vote; in some states margin was close. Supreme Court halted a Florida recount to give Bush victory.
- **Terrorist Attack 9/11/01.** Terrorists attacked World Trade Center and Pentagon.
  - Bush declared a Global War on Terror.
  - Created Dept. of Homeland Security.
  - Sponsored the USA PATRIOT Act.
- **War in Iraq.** Coalition forces invaded Iraq.
  - Saddam Hussein toppled from power.
  - Abu Ghraib added to unpopularity of war.
- **Financial Crisis of 2008.** Housing market crashed, setting off sharp economic decline.

**Barack Obama Presidency, 2009–**

- **Obama Wins Election.** Beat John McCain (R).
  - First African American elected President.
  - Stunning rise from obscurity to President.
  - Promised great changes in Washington.
  - Passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to stimulate economy.
- **He pushed health care reform, banking and credit reform through Congress.**
- **Sonia Sotomayor** appointed to Supreme Court; was the first Hispanic on Court.
- Obama has sought to exercise moral leadership in U.S. foreign affairs.

**Living in A Global Age**

- **Technology.**
  - U.S. world leader in technology: GPS, LED, transistor, integrated circuits, computers.
  - Productivity advances: Assembly line, robotics, “just-in-time” production, time-study analysis.
- **Computer Revolution.** Has revolutionized American production and workforce.
  - U.S. leader in supercomputing.
  - Greatest growth has been in Sun Belt.

**America’s Influence in Global Economy**

- **Role of Multinational Corporations.**
  - Companies doing business all over world.
- **Managing Environment.** Rise of pollution threat in the environment.
- **Energy.** Growing population and rising living standards raised demands for energy.

**Impact of American Culture on World**

- American culture passed to world through its music, movies, television, and Internet.
- American dress styles, foods, and music.
Period 8 Essential TEKS
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
Correlation to APUSH Unit 8
(Period 8 of College Board Framework)

Objective: Analyze main events in the post World War II era that correlate to the specific objectives for the Texas end-of-course exam (S.T.A.A.R. Test).

Directions: Review the T.E.K.S. by reviewing the objectives and principles outlined and completing the historical review and analysis in the spaces provided. The entries that have been completed for you should SERVE AS MODELS FOR COMPLETE ENTRIES. Read all directions and don’t forget to highlight relevant items!

Period 8, 1945-1980; Cold War and Civil Rights Movements

From the 2015 Revised College Board Content Outline for Period 8

**Key Concept 8.1:** The United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and working to maintain a position of global leadership, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences.

**Key Concept 8.2:** New movements for civil rights and liberal efforts to expand the role of government generated a range of political and cultural responses.

**Key Concept 8.3:** Postwar economic and demographic changes had far-reaching consequences for American society, politics, and culture.

1. Complete the graphic below by identifying major characteristics for each era.

T.E.K.S.- (2) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history from 1877 to the present.
   (A) identify the major characteristics that define the era.
   (B) identify the major eras in U.S. history from 1877 to the present.
   (C) apply absolute and relative chronology through the sequencing of significant individuals, events, and time periods.

Identify each turning point:
- 1945:
- 1954:
- 1957:
- 1964:
- 1968:
- 1980:
2. Explain the goals of Cold War policy, and analyze its impact on the United States.

T.E.K.S. (8) History. The student understands the impact of significant national and international decisions and conflicts in the Cold War on the United States.

(A) describe U.S. responses to Soviet aggression after World War II, including the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Berlin airlift, and John F. Kennedy’s role in the Cuban Missile Crisis

(C) explain reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in the Korean War and its relationship to the containment policy

(D) explain reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in foreign countries and their relationship to the Domino Theory, including the Vietnam War

(E) analyze the major issues and events of the Vietnam War such as the Tet Offensive, the escalation of forces, Vietnamization, and the fall of Saigon

The following list of key terms (highlighted in the TEKS above and in chart below as well as elaborated in course content) represent important cause-effect relationships in analyzing how the United States transitioned from pre WWII isolationism and neutrality to post WWII interventionism. It is important to keep in mind that knowing simple definitions (historical content) is important, however you must also be able to analyze that content on a higher level if you intend to earn a commended score on the end of course exam. Complete the chart by finishing each topical analysis. As you read the analysis that has been provided for you, highlight key ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Terms &amp; Examples</th>
<th>Definitions and explanations of COLD WAR policies’ causes and effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Truman Doctrine</strong></td>
<td>DEFINITIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marshall Plan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Berlin airlift</strong></td>
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<td><strong>John F. Kennedy &amp; the Cuban Missile Crisis</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Korean War</strong></td>
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<td><strong>containment policy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Domino Theory</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Vietnam War</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tet Offensive</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXPLANATIONS OF HOW COLD WAR POLICY IMPACTED THE UNITED STATES...</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnamization</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>fall of Saigon</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
T.E.K.S. (8) History. The student understands the impact of significant national and international decisions and conflicts in the Cold War on the United States.

(B) describe how Cold War tensions were intensified by the arms race, the space race, McCarthyism, and the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), the findings of which were confirmed by the Venona Papers.

(F) describe the responses to the Vietnam War such as the draft, the 26th Amendment, the role of the media, the credibility gap, the silent majority, and the anti-war movement.

(20) Government. The student understands the changing relationships among the three branches of the federal government.

(A) describe the impact of events such as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the War Powers Act on the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government.

(26) Culture. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity.

(E) discuss the meaning and historical significance of the mottos “In God We Trust”.

Key Terms & Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Definitions and explanations of COLD WAR policies’ causes and effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arms race</td>
<td>atomic age, hydrogen bombs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>space race</td>
<td>Sputnik</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCarthyism</td>
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<td>Venona Papers</td>
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<td>Vietnam War</td>
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<td>Gulf of Tonkin Resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft</td>
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<td>26th Amendment</td>
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<td>media</td>
<td>TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>credibility gap</td>
<td>Pentagon Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>silent majority</td>
<td>Richard Nixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>anti-war movement</td>
<td>Kent State, Jackson State</td>
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<tr>
<td>War Powers Act</td>
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<td>3 branches of government</td>
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<tr>
<td>“In God We Trust”</td>
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</table>

Continued from previous page, refer to directions for questions #2 on page 3...
3. Analyze the contributions and impact of Civil Rights activists in the post WWII era.

T.E.K.S. (9) History. The student understands the impact of the American civil rights movement.
(A) trace the historical development of the civil rights movement in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries
(B) describe the roles of political organizations that promoted civil rights, including ones from African American, Chicano, American Indian, women's, and other civil rights movements
(C) identify the roles of significant leaders who supported various rights movements, including Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks, Hector P. Garcia, and Betty Friedan
(D) compare and contrast the approach taken by some civil rights groups such as the Black Panthers with the nonviolent approach of Martin Luther King Jr.
(E) discuss the impact of the writings of Martin Luther King Jr. such as his "I Have a Dream" speech and "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on the civil rights movement
(G) describe the role of individuals such as governors George Wallace, Orval Faubus, and Lester Maddox and groups, including the Congressional bloc of southern Democrats, that sought to maintain the status quo

(26) Culture. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity.
(D) identify the political, social, and economic contributions of women such as... Dolores Huerta... to American society

(25) Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created. The student is expected to:
(B) describe both the positive and negative impacts of significant examples of cultural movements in art, music, and literature such as... the Chicano Mural Movement... on American society

(24) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic.
(B) evaluate the contributions of significant political and social leaders in the United States such as... Thurgood Marshall...

Key Terms & Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitions and explanations of THE IMPACT of the Civil Rights Movement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American civil rights movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Letter from Birmingham Jail&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I Have a Dream&quot; speech</td>
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<td>Black Panthers</td>
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<td>Betty Friedan</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Wallace</td>
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<td>Orval Faubus</td>
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<td>Lester Maddox</td>
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<td>Cesar Chavez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolores Huerta</td>
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<td>UFW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hector P. Garcia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicano Mural Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional bloc of southern Democrats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurgood Marshall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TEKS correlation written by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School, using the Texas Education Agency's objectives for 11th grade United States History (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and College Board’s 2015 Revised Framework.
### Key Terms & Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitions and explanations of reform efforts and THE IMPACT of the Civil Rights Movement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957 Civil Rights Act, signed by President Eisenhower, increased voting rights by creating the Civil Rights Commission and Division in the Justice Department which gave the federal courts the power to register voters. 1964 Civil Rights Act was signed by President Johnson and it banned discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, sex (gender), or national origin in any place doing business with the federal government or any business involved in interstate commerce. This Act gave the federal government the power to register people to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed the discriminatory practice of poll taxes and literacy tests. The 24th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. Mendez v. Westminster (1946) ruled that the segregation of Mexican and Mexican Americans into special schools only for Hispanic children was unconstitutional. Delgado v. Bastrop (1948) ruled that it is illegal to separate Hispanic children within schools because of their ethnicity, but it did allow for separate classes based on language deficiency which schools often used to continue segregation. Sweat v. Painter (1950) separate law school for Blacks would be inferior as the mere separation from the majority of law students harmed students' abilities to compete in the legal arena. Hernandez v. Texas (1954) ruled that the 14th Amendment should apply to Mexican-Americans and all ethnic groups and juries should be chosen from among all qualified persons regardless of national origin or descent. Hernandez set free because jury not of his peers. Brown v. Board of Education (1954) &quot;We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.&quot; overturned Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) Tinker v. Des Moines (1969) decided that the Tinkers had the right to wear the armbands, with Justice Abe Fortas stating that no one expects students to &quot;shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.&quot; Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972) held that individual's interests in the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment outweighed the State's interests in compelling school attendance beyond the eighth grade. Amish traditions preserved. White v. Regester (1973) unanimously concluded that the multimember House districts for Dallas and Bexar counties were unconstitutional. They asserted that every racial or political group has a constitutional right to be represented in the state legislature. Texas v. Johnson (1989) determined that Johnson's actions of burning an American flag in protest of government decisions were symbolic speech protected by his First Amendment Rights. Edgewood I.S.D. v. Kirby (1989) ruled that property taxes collected in wealthy districts must be shared equally among districts that collect less (often this is referred to as the Rob in Hood plan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1965 Amendments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brown v. Board of Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mendez v. Westminster</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hernandez v. Texas</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14th Amendment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Delgado v. Bastrop I.S.D.</strong></td>
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</table>

**TEKS correlation written by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School, using the Texas Education Agency’s objectives for 11th grade United States History (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and College Board’s 2015 Revised Framework**
4. Explain the impact of WWII and Cold War – including scientific discovery and technological development -- on the American economy and the changing role of government.

T.E.K.S. (17) Economics. The student understands the economic effects of World War II and the Cold War.

(B) identify the causes of prosperity in the 1950s, including the Baby Boom and the impact of the GI Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944), and the effects of prosperity in the 1950s such as increased consumption and the growth of agriculture and business;

(C) describe the economic impact of defense spending on the business cycle and education priorities from 1945 to the 1990s;

(D) identify actions of government and the private sector such as the Great Society, affirmative action, and Title IX to create economic opportunities for citizens and analyze the unintended consequences of each

(19) Government. The student understands changes over time in the role of government.

(B) explain constitutional issues raised by federal government policy changes during times of significant events, including... the 1960s

(27) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science, technology, and the free enterprise system on the economic development of the United States.

(A) explain the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations such as satellite communications on the economic development of the United States

(27) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science, technology, and the free enterprise system on the economic development of the United States. The student is expected to:

(C) understand the impact of technological and management innovations and their applications in the workplace and the resulting productivity enhancements for business and labor such as robotics, computer management, and just-in-time inventory management.

(28) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the influence of scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the free enterprise system on the standard of living in the United States. The student is expected to:

(B) explain how space technology and exploration improve the quality of life

Key Terms & Examples

Baby Boom
GI Bill
Satellites
Robotics
Computer management
Just-in-time inventory management
Great Society
Affirmative action
Title IX

Definitions and explanations of reform efforts and THE IMPACT of the war and changing role of gov’t

DEFINITIONS...

EXPLANATIONS OF IMPACT OF WWII, COLD WAR, TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVISM...
5. Analyze how America’s role in the world changed during the 1970s.

T.E.K.S.: (10) History. The student understands the impact of political, economic, and social factors in the U.S. role in the world from the 1970s through 1990.

(A) describe Richard M. Nixon’s leadership in the normalization of relations with China and the policy of détente

(C) compare the impact of energy on the American way of life over time;

(D) describe U.S. involvement in the Middle East such as support for Israel, the Camp David Accords, and the Iran Hostage Crisis

As you read the analysis that has been provided for you, highlight key ideas.

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<th>Key Terms &amp; Examples</th>
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<td>Détente</td>
<td><strong>EXPLANATIONS OF AMERICA’ CHANGING ROLE IN THE WORLD…</strong></td>
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<td>Energy</td>
<td>By the 1970s, U.S. dependence on oil (we could not produce enough energy on our own) largely from OPEC producing nations such as Iran left us vulnerable to economic sanctions or embargos. The 1973 Oil Embargo was punishment for our support of Israel. Oil prices quadrupled, gas and oil supply shrank, inflation impacted many parts of the economy because of the role of oil in the economy, and the economy stagnated in the 1970s largely due to this. OPEC controls much of the world supply. Another shortage happened in the late 1970s. Nixon addressed this by lowering the speed limit to 55 and encouraging conservation. Ford tried to W.I.N. (Whip Inflation Now) which failed, and Carter also tried voluntary measures including his malaise speech in which he urged Americans to reduce consumption and materialism… epic fail. Nixon’s détente aimed to relax tensions and he met with Mao Zedong to begin normalizing relations as well as meeting with Leonid Brezhnev which led to diplomatic talks and <strong>SALT I</strong> and Helsinki Accords in which the U.S. and U.S.S.R. agreed to reduce armaments and formally recognize the Soviet Union, respectively. President Ford actually signed these measures but it was Nixon’s foreign policy which led to them. Tensions in the Middle East included issues over the nation of Israel which the U.S. defended in 3 wars following its creation in 1948. That combined with our intervention in their political systems (we wanted them to be capitalistic and pro-West) led to the <strong>hostage crisis</strong> in which Americans were held for a ransom of returning the Shah to Iran for trial. Carter refused to send the Shah and he tried to rescue the hostages but that failed. Hostages were released after Carter left office. The hostage crisis illustrates the slow transition from Cold War to War on Terror. Carter’s greatest accomplishment was brokering the Camp David Accords, however long term peace in the Middle East remains a lofty dream. Overall our role in the world in the 1970s included détente, brokering agreements to reduce Cold War tensions and tensions in the Middle East and securing oil supply for our economy. Cold War rhetoric declined in the 70s as we officially recognized the U.S.S.R. (something we refused to do since their creation in the 1920s) and communist China (something we refused to do following their creation in the 1940s).</td>
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<td>Oil</td>
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<td>Camp David Accords</td>
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6. Analyze the causes and effects of demographic changes in the United States and environmentalism in modern times.

T.E.K.S.: (14) Geography. The student understands the relationship between population growth and modernization on the physical environment. The student is expected to:

(B) identify the roles of governmental entities and private citizens in managing the environment such as the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Endangered Species Act.

(13) Geography. The student understands the causes and effects of migration and immigration on American society. The student is expected to:

(A) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from migration within the United States, including the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt.
(B) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from legal and illegal immigration to the United States.

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<th>Key Terms &amp; Examples</th>
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EXPLANATIONS OF CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS...
TEKS correlation written by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School, using the Texas Education Agency’s objectives for 11th grade United States History (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and College Board’s 2015 Revised Framework.

Period 9, Essential TEKS
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
Correlation to APUSH Unit 9
(Period 9 of College Board Framework)

Objective: Analyze main events in the modern era that correlate to the specific objectives for the Texas end-of-course exam (S.T.A.A.R. Test).

Directions: Review the T.E.K.S. by reviewing the objectives and principles outlined and completing the historical review and analysis in the spaces provided. The entries that have been completed for you should SERVE AS MODELS FOR COMPLETE ENTRIES. Read all directions and don’t forget to highlight relevant items!

Period 9, 1980-Present; Modern Times
From the 2015 Revised College Board Content Outline for Period 9

Key Concept 9.1:
A newly ascendant conservative movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980s and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades.

Key Concept 9.2:
Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes.

Key Concept 9.3:
The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and role in the world.

1. Complete the graphic below by identifying major characteristics for each era.

T.E.K.S.- (2) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history from 1877 to the present.
(A) identify the major characteristics that define the era.
(B) identify the major eras in U.S. history from 1877 to the present.
(C) apply absolute and relative chronology through the sequencing of significant individuals, events, and time periods.
(D) explain significant turning points including 1991 (Cold War ends), 2001 (terrorist attacks on World Trade Center and the Pentagon), and 2008 (election of first black president, Barack Obama).

| Modern Times (1980-Present), Reagan Era/Conservative Resurgence 21st Century |
|---|---|
| Identify each turning point: |
| 1991: |
| 2001: |
| 2008: |

Broad Economic Characteristic

Broad Cultural Characteristic

Other Broad Characteristic

Broad Political Characteristic
Review each objective and skill, then record your notes in the space provided.

T.E.K.S. (10) History. The student understands the impact of political, economic, and social factors in the U.S. role in the world from the 1970s through 1990. The student is expected to:

(B) describe Ronald Reagan’s leadership in domestic and international policies, including Reaganomics and Peace Through Strength;

(C) describe the causes and key organizations and individuals of the conservative resurgence of the 1980s and 1990s, including Phyllis Schlafly, the Contract with America, the Heritage Foundation, the Moral Majority, and the National Rifle Association;

(D) describe significant societal issues of this time period.

The following list of key terms (highlighted in the TEKS above and in chart below as well as elaborated in course content) represent important cause-effect relationships in analyzing how the United States’ role in the world change, how conservatism increased, and how Reagan impacted the nation. It is important to keep in mind that knowing simple definitions (historical content) is important, however you must also be able to analyze that content on a higher level if you intend to earn a commended score on the end of course exam. Complete the chart by finishing each topical analysis. Highlight key ideas/terms in your definitions and explanations. Explanations should be written in complete sentences. These directions apply to each section of this review, FYI!

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<th>Key Terms &amp; Examples</th>
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| Ronald Reagan’s Leadership | **Definitions**
Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980 as part of conservative resurgence which was largely a reaction to the liberal growth of government in the 1960s. Reaganomics is supply side economic policy reducing taxes in order to increase consumer demand which would then lead to economic growth. It also included increased military spending (to win Cold War), decrease government spending (including deregulation). Peace through strength was Reagan’s approach to national security to deter war by simply being the most prepared for it. Energy prices (oil especially) impacted foreign policy in the Middle East. Israel was an ally and Arab nations hated us for it. The Iran-Contra Affair was a scandal in which members of Reagan’s administration secretly sold weapons to Iran and used the profits to fund the Contras in Nicaragua. Marines in Lebanon were attacked by terrorists and American hostages were taken in the 1980s. Phyllis Schlafly helped to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment and championed the preservation of traditional gender roles. The Heritage Foundation is a non-profit group based on Reagan’s ideals that works to strengthen conservatism by educating people and lobbying government on the value of federalism, free-market capitalism, liberties, and the need to be militarily strong. The Moral Majority was made up of Christians who wanted Biblical principles championed as well as communism - which has no religion - snuffed out. The National Rifle Association supported conservatism because they resented the new gun laws that were passed following the assassination of MLK and Kennedy in the 1960s. The Contract with America was a set of conservative principles in the 1990s which helped Republicans increase their influence during the Democratic presidency of Bill Clinton. |

| Reaganomics | Peace Through Strength |
| Energy | Middle East |
| Israel | Iran-Contra Affair |
| Marines in Lebanon | Conservative Resurgence |
| Phyllis Schlafly | Heritage Foundation |
| Moral Majority | National Rifle Association |
| Contract With America | **Explanations**... |
Key Terms & Examples | Definitions and explanations of emerging political, economic, and social issues...
---|---
End of the Cold War | DEFINITIONS...
Persian Gulf War | Cold War - Between USSR and USA ended. The Persian Gulf War was a reaction to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. The Balkan Crisis resulted from destabilization following the end of Cold War and the breakup of Yugoslavia with many ethnic tensions. Clinton was impeached by House but not removed from office by Senate (acquitted) after lying under oath about an affair with a White House intern. 9/11 was a terror attack on the U.S. with Islamic Terrorists from Al-Qaeda under the leadership of Osama Bin Laden used airplanes as "suicide bombs." The Patriot Act increased the government's ability to gather intelligence through FBI investigations and connecting law enforcement groups. Third Parties represent concerns not addressed by the two main parties. 2000: Bush elected. 2008: Obama elected who signed ARR Act to bailout businesses. Social Security - payments to retired workers funded by those who are working (tax). Medicare - government healthcare funded through tax. Solvency means the ability to pay an expense. GATT reduced tariffs in 1947 and was replaced with the World Trade Organization in 1994 to reduce trade barriers. NAFTA removed trade barriers for Canada, U.S., and Mexico.
Balkans Crisis | EXPLANATIONS...
Clinton's Impeachment | The Cold War was officially over in 1991 when the Soviet Union broke up. The post-Cold War era was marked by war on terror and wars in the Middle East. The Persian Gulf War included a coalition of dozens of nations to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein (George H.W. Bus). It illustrates the commitment to stop totalitarianism and also work to maintain balance of power in the Middle East and secure oil. The Balkans Crisis included genocide, and the U.S. sent troops to help stabilize the region known as the "powder keg" of Europe (Clinton). Following World War II, the U.S. has participated in many global organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, the World Trade Organization, NAFTA of many other economic agreements, etc. These partnerships illustrate globalization but also reflect increased risk of loss of sovereignty. There are many pros and cons to these memberships. ...continued on next page...
Continued from previous page...

For example, while it costs a LOT of money, it also helps to spread American ideals. Americans didn’t lose as much trust in government when Clinton was impeached as they did in the 70s following Watergate. Conservatives did however seek candidates with stronger family values. 9/11 resulted in the destruction of the World Trade Center towers in NYC and damage to the Pentagon in D.C., and led to the invasion of Afghanistan to defeat Al-Qaeda and Iraq to secure weapons of mass destruction that could further destabilize the world (bad intelligence... WMDs not found). The government added the Department of Homeland Security and a plethora of new security policies including the Patriot Act to prevent future terror attacks. Part of that act which allowed for unwarranted eavesdropping on phone calls (or wiretapping) was found unconstitutional. Third parties disrupted traditional electoral results in the elections of 1992 and 2000. Ross Perot (Reform Party) in 92 helped Clinton win by pulling votes from Bush, and Ralph Nader (Green Party) pulled votes from Gore (Democrat) while Buchanan (Reform Party) pulled votes from Bush (Republican). The 2000 election was noteworthy because it was one of only a few in which the winner had a majority of electoral votes but not popular votes. The Supreme Court ruled in Bush vs Gore that the Florida recount which was ongoing should end which resulted in Bush winning. The election of 2008 was also noteworthy as the U.S. elected its first African American president, Barack Obama. Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which spent nearly a trillion dollars trying to jumpstart the economy. Concerns among voters included government spending on entitlements like Social Security and Medicare which cannot be funded as designed and leads to massive deficit spending. Attempts to reform entitlements have been ineffective.

(12) Geography. The student understands the impact of geographic factors on major events. The student is expected to:
(A) analyze the impact of physical and human geographic factors on the levee failure in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina;
(13) Geography. The student understands the causes and effects of migration and immigration on American society. The student is expected to:
(B) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from legal and illegal immigration to the United States.

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<td>Changing demographics from legal and illegal immigration</td>
<td><strong>EXPLANATION OF THE TACTICS AND IMPACT OF Geography and Migration...</strong></td>
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Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science, technology, and the free enterprise system on the economic development of the United States. The student is expected to:

(A) explain the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations such as telephone and satellite communications, petroleum-based products, and computers on the economic development of the United States; 

(C) understand the impact of technological and management innovations and their applications in the workplace and the resulting productivity enhancements for business and labor such as robotics, computer management, and just-in-time inventory management.

Science, technology, and society. The student understands the influence of scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the free enterprise system on the standard of living in the United States. The student is expected to:

(A) analyze how scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the application of these by the free enterprise system, including those in transportation and communication, improve the standard of living in the United States; 

(B) explain how space technology and exploration improve the quality of life; and

(C) understand how the free enterprise system drives technological innovation and its application in the marketplace such as cell phones, inexpensive personal computers, and global positioning products.

### Key Terms & Examples

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<td>Standard of living</td>
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<td>Inexpensive personal computers</td>
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<td>Global positioning products</td>
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**EXPLANATION OF THE Impact...**
(18) Economics. The student understands the economic effects of increased worldwide interdependence as the United States enters the 21st century. The student is expected to:
(A) discuss the role of American entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates, Sam Walton, Estée Lauder, Robert Johnson, Lionel Sosa, and millions of small business entrepreneurs who achieved the American dream; and
(B) identify the impact of international events, multinational corporations, government policies, and individuals on the 21st century economy.

(24) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. The student is expected to:
(A) describe qualities of effective leadership; and
(B) evaluate the contributions of significant political and social leaders in the United States such as Sandra Day O’Connor, and Hillary Clinton.

(26) Culture. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity. The student is expected to:
(A) explain actions taken by people to expand economic opportunities and political rights, including those for racial, ethnic, and religious minorities as well as women, in American society;
(C) explain how the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, gender, and religious groups shape American culture;
(D) identify the political, social, and economic contributions of women such as Sonia Sotomayor and Oprah Winfrey to American society;

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<td>American dream</td>
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EXPLANATIONS OF the ECONOMIC and CULTURAL IMPACT OF individuals from various groups...