

## Reagan, Bush Sr., Clinton, and Bush Jr. Presidencies

### **The Conservative Movement Emerges Guided Reading Questions**

1. What are entitlement programs? What were American attitudes towards entitlement programs?
  - Programs that provide guaranteed benefits to Americans – about \$300 billion is spent annually.
  - Americans oppose entitlement programs because of the costs and stories of fraudulent benefits.
2. Describe the New Right.
  - Right-wing groups that focused on social issues like abortion, blocking the Equal Rights Amendment, and resisting court-ordered busing.
3. What is affirmative action?
  - Giving special consideration to women and minority groups even though some of these groups were not better qualified.
  - Some people called this reverse discrimination (white men.)
4. Describe the conservative coalition.
  - An alliance of businesses leaders, middle-class voters, disaffected democrats, and fundamentalists Christian groups.
  - Their focus was on promoting conservative policies.
  - Goals of CM – shrink the size of government, reduce spending, promote family values and patriotism, reducing

government regulation and taxes, and strengthening national defense.

5. Describe the Moral Majority.

- A group made up of evangelical and fundamentalists Christians.
- Two of its leaders were televangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.
- They wanted the restoration of traditional moral values.
- They promoted their beliefs through direct mail campaigns and raising money to support political candidates.
- They wanted to reduce the number of divorces, the number of out-of-wedlock births and encourage responsibility.

6. What were Ronald Reagan's qualifications?

- He was a spokesman for General Electric and spoke about free enterprise and against big government.
- He was a two-time governor of California starting in 1966.

7. Describe the election of 1980.

- Reagan ran against Carter and focused on issues like abortion, teaching evolution, pornography, and prayer in public schools.
- Reagan was committed to military and economic strength.
- Reagan was known as the Great Communicator.
- He won against Carter 489 to 49 electoral votes.

## **Foreign Policy After the Cold War Guided Questions**

1. What reforms did Gorbachev initiate?

- *Glasnost* – Openness – encouraged open criticism of the Soviet government initiated steps towards freedom of the press.
- *Perestroika* – was the restructuring of Soviet society which called for less control of the economy. There was private enterprise and the beginnings of capitalism and democracy.

## 2. Why did the Soviet Union decline?

- The Soviet Union could not compete with the United States when it came to defense spending.
- In 1991, 14 non-Russian republics declared their independence.
- Gorbachev resigned as the General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1991.
- The Cold War officially ended in 1992.

## 3. How did communist regimes collapse?

- In 1988, Gorbachev started encouraging Eastern European countries to move towards democracy.
- USSR troops were removed from communist countries.
- The Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and Germany was reunited.
- Countries like Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania declared their independence and adopt democracy.

## 4. Describe communism in China.

- The government had loosened its control of the economy and gotten rid of price controls.

- Students in China began to demand freedom of speech and a greater voice in the government.
- In 1989 in Tiananmen Square students faced off the military and the premier Li Peng ordered the crushing of the rebellion.

#### 5. Describe the Cold War in Nicaragua.

- In 1933, the US supported the dictator Somoza who went on to rule for 42 years.
- Somoza rigged elections and assassinated political rivals.
- In 1977 – 1979 – the Sandinistas who were communists fought a civil war against the Somoza dictatorship.
- The Sandinistas won and President Carter helped them with \$83 million dollars.
- When Reagan took office he started supporting the Contras who were against the Sandinistas.
- The CIA trained these men.

#### 6. What was the Iran-Contra Scandal?

- In 1983, the US agreed to sell weapons to Iran in return for American hostages being held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian terrorists.
- The money from the sale of the weapons went to finance the Contras in Nicaragua.
- Members of Reagan's administration were implicated in the scandal but most are going to be pardoned by President Bush Sr.

#### 7. Describe the Persian Gulf War.

- In 1990, Saddam Hussein the leader of Iraq invaded Kuwait because it was rich in oil.
- Iraq was reeling from fighting a war with Iran.
- With the approval of Congress and the UN, President Bush Sr. organized Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait in January of 1991.
- On February 28, 1991, a cease-fire was reached.
- The UN coalition forces suffered 400 casualties. Iraq suffered 100,000 military and civilian deaths.
- During the embargo that followed many children died from outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, enteritis, and other diseases.

8. Describe Bush's domestic policies

- There was a recession and rising debt so Bush Jr. had to raise taxes.

	Domestic Policy	Foreign Policy
Ronald Reagan 1981 - 1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reaganomics</b> - included budget cuts, tax cuts, and increased deficit spending.</li> <li>• There was a 10% budget cut to programs like urban transportation, food stamps, welfare, Medicaid, school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Defense Department budget doubled.</li> <li>• The president proposed the <b>Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI</b>.</li> <li>• SDI or Star Wars was supposed to be a system in space</li> </ul>

	<p>lunches, and student loans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supply-Side Economics (Trickle-Down Economics) called for tax cuts - the idea was that if people had more money they would spend it. Taxes were cut by 25% over a three-year period.</li><li>• Recession from July 1981 - November 1982</li><li>• National debt doubled</li><li>• Appointed conservative judges to the Supreme Court - Sandra Day O'Connor (the first woman,) Antonin Scalia, and Anthony M. Kennedy.</li><li>• Reagan engaged in deregulation - the cutting back of federal regulation of industry. He deregulated the oil</li></ul>	<p>that would shoot down missiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Berlin Wall fell in 1989.</li><li>• The US helped the Contras fight against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.</li><li>• Reagan sent troops to the small island of Grenada in the Caribbean because the island was developing ties with communist Cuba. (18 Americans died)</li><li>• <b>The Iran-Contra Affair (1985 - 1987)</b></li><li>• In 1983, the US agreed to sell weapons to Iran in return for American hostages being held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian terrorists.</li></ul>
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	<p>industry, healthcare industry, the airline industry, and the savings and loan industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut the budget for the <b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b> - millions of acres of public land was sold to private developers. Land was opened to gas and oil drilling. He eased restrictions on coal mining and encouraged the cutting of national forests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The money from the sale of the weapons went to finance the Contras in Nicaragua.</li> <li>• Members of Reagan's administration were implicated in the scandal but most are going to be pardoned by President Bush Sr.</li> </ul>
<p>George H. W. Bush 1989 – 1993</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominated conservative judges to the Supreme Court like David H. Souter and Clarence Thomas who was accused of sexual harassment.</li> <li>• In 1989 the court restricted a woman's right to an abortion and restricted civil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sent troops to Panama to overthrow and arrest General Noriega on charges of drug trafficking in 1989. The CIA has been helping Noriega. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.</li> </ul>

rights that were meant to protect women and minorities.

- Dealt with a recession and rising deficit by having to raise taxes.

- **Persian Gulf War**
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		<p>outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, enteritis, and other diseases.</p>
<p>William J. Clinton 1993 - 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanted to get people off of welfare</li> <li>• Promoted the growth of private business.</li> <li>• His wife Hillary Clinton proposed a health care reform bill in 1993 but Congress vetoed the bill.</li> <li>• Managed to have a budget surplus because spending was cut.</li> <li>• The economy was really strong because of the dot.com boom</li> <li>• Welfare reform succeed in moving people from welfare to jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2000 the US granted China permanent trade rights.</li> <li>• In 1991, Clinton sent troops to Haiti to stop a military coup.</li> <li>• Troops were sent to Yugoslavia - the leader Milosevic engaged in ethnic cleansing</li> <li>• <b>The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)</b> - free trade between the US, Canada, and Mexico.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbine High School (1999)</li> <li>• World Trade Center bombing in NYC (1993)</li> <li>• Oklahoma City Bombing (1995)</li> <li>• In 1998, Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice. But he was not convicted by the Senate.</li> </ul>	
<p>George W. Bush 2001 – 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9/11 Attacks</b>, 3,000 people died in WTC, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania.</li> <li>• Tax cuts \$1.3 trillion dollars (2001)</li> <li>• Created the Department of Homeland Security</li> <li>• Patriot Act - allowed the government to detain those suspected of terrorism.</li> <li>• No Child Left Behind - called for school accountability,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2002, the US went into Afghanistan to capture Osama bin Laden the leader of al-Qaeda the organization responsible for 9/11 but he was not found. He was assassinated in Pakistan in 2011.</li> <li>• In 2003, the US invaded Iraq because it was thought that Saddam Hussein</li> </ul>

	<p>testing, and school-choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarbanes-Oxley Act - set up a regulatory board to oversee the accounting industry.</li><li>• Tax cuts \$350 billion dollars in 2002</li></ul>	<p>had weapons of mass destruction. No WMD were found. Hussein was killed in 2006 after standing trial in Iraq.</p>
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