

The 1980s

- I. The Conservative movement
 - A. Definition of conservative
 1. Want small government/deregulation (appeals to businessmen)
 2. Social policy (appeals to religious people)
 3. Usually tied to Republican party
 - B. Called the “New Right” & “conservative coalition”
 1. “Christian right” = “moral majority”
 - C. 1980 election
 1. Reagan vs. Carter
 2. Conservative values
 3. Seen as strong militarily
 4. New economic plan to revive crumbling economy
- II. Reagan’s Presidency
 - A. Cuts to welfare (“We can lecture our children about extravagance until we run out of voice and breath, or we can cut their extravagance by simply reducing their allowance.”)
 - B. Supply-side economics/Reaganomics/trickle-down economics
 - C. SDI – strategic defense initiative (“Star Wars”)
 - D. Deregulation
 1. savings & loans (deregulation allows them to loan to whoever they want – risky real estate investments like strip malls – failures of many S&Ls)
 2. relaxed environmental standards
 - a. head of EPA thought regulations on air quality & toxic waste disposal were problematic
 3. trade imbalance & increasing national debt lead to less industrial; more service industry jobs
 - E. assassination attempt – John Hinckley, Jr.
 1. jokes increase his popularity
 - F. 1984 election
 1. vs. Mondale & Ferraro
 - G. Nicaragua – U.S. gives weapons to anti-Communist opposition forces (called Contras)
 1. Got portion of \$\$ from illegally selling arms to Iran
 - a. Iran Contra scandal
 2. Invaded Grenada to fight Communism
 - H. Fall of Communism
 1. Berlin Wall comes down
 2. Mikhail Gorbachev
 - a. Glasnost & Perestroika
 - b. No more U.S.S.R.
- III. ‘80s Culture
 - A. Moral issues – abortion
 1. Toward a more conservative stance, in spite of 1974’s Roe v. Wade
 - B. Education – Nation at Risk ‘83
 1. Reagan/Bush suggested “school choice”
 - C. Rodney King riots - 1992
 - D. Finally – equal pay for equal work for women
 - E. Flood to sunbelt (from rustbelt [where they make cars])

IV. George Herbert Walker Bush Presidency

- A. Panama – 1989 – overthrow dictator Manuel Noriega (drug smuggler)
 - B. Trial in FL for drug trafficking – sentence 40 years, reduced to 30, done @ 17 for good behavior (Sep. 9 '07) – released from prison in 2010 & extradited to France for trial on money laundering
 - C. Operation Desert Storm
- V. Fall of Communism continues
- A. E. Europe – inc. Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland
 - B. Tiananmen Square