

The Conservative Tide

President Ronald Reagan's election marks a rightward shift in domestic and foreign policy. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cold War ends and the U.S. confronts a host of domestic problems.

The Conservative Tide

SECTION 1 A Conservative Movement Emerges

SECTION 2 Conservative Policies Under Reagan and Bush

SECTION 3 Social Concerns in the 1980s

SECTION 4 Foreign Policy After the Cold War

Section 1

A Conservative Movement Emerges

Conservatism reaches a high point with the election in 1980 of President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush.

SECTION

1 A Conservative Movement Emerges

The Conservative Movement Builds

Conservative Issues

- **Entitlement programs** provide guaranteed benefits to specific groups
- High cost of programs, stories of fraud upset taxpayers
- Many skeptic of civil rights rulings like busing over long distances

The New Right

- **New Right**—collection of grass-roots groups promoting single issues
- **Affirmative action**—special consideration for women, minorities
 - many say it's **reverse discrimination**, favoring one group over others

Continued . . .



SECTION

1

continued **The Conservative Movement Builds****The Conservative Coalition**

- Business, religious, other groups form **conservative coalition**
- Conservative periodicals, think tanks discuss, develop policies
- Goals are small government, family values, patriotism, business

The Moral Majority

- 1970s religious revival uses TV, radio; strong among fundamentalists
- Jerry Falwell's **Moral Majority**—Christians for traditional morals

SECTION

1

Conservatives Win Political Power

Reagan's Qualifications

- **Ronald Reagan** wins 1980 Republican nomination
 - George H. W. Bush is running mate
- Reagan served 2 terms as governor of California

The 1980 Presidential Election

- Reagan runs on conservative issues, weak economy, Iran crisis
- Called Great Communicator: can simplify issues, give clear answers
- Gets 51% popular vote, 44 states in electoral race, Senate majority

Section 2

Conservative Policies Under Reagan and Bush

Presidents Reagan and Bush pursue a conservative agenda that includes tax cuts, budget cuts, and increased defense spending.

SECTION

2 Conservative Policies Under Reagan and Bush

“Reaganomics” Takes Over

Reagan’s Economic Policies

- Reagan encourages private investment by cutting federal government
- **Reaganomics**: budget cuts, tax cuts, increased defense spending

Budget Cuts

- Maintains entitlement programs that benefit middle class
- Cuts programs that benefit poor, urban population

Continued . . .



SECTION

2

continued “Reaganomics” Takes Over**Tax Cuts**

- **Supply-side economics** holds that lower taxes result in:
 - investment, greater productivity, more supply, lower prices
- Congress decreases taxes by 25% over 3 years

Increased Defense Spending

- Defense Dept. budget almost doubles; offsets cuts in social programs
- Reagan asks scientists for **Strategic Defense Initiative**
 - anti-missile defense system

Continued . . .

SECTION

2

continued **“Reaganomics” Takes Over****Recession and Recovery**

- July 1981–Nov. 1982, worst recession since Great Depression
- Early 1983 consumer spending fuels economic upturn:
 - more consumer confidence, decrease in inflation, unemployment
- 1987, market crashes, then recovers, continues up

The National Debt Climbs

- Spending outstrips revenues; new 1982 taxes do not balance budget
- National debt almost doubles by end of Reagan’s first term

SECTION

2

Judicial Power Shifts to the Right

Supreme Court Appointments

- Reagan appoints **Sandra Day O'Connor** first woman justice
- Other Reagan, Bush appointments make Court more conservative
- Clarence Thomas confirmed after sexual harassment hearings
- Court places restrictions on civil rights, abortion



SECTION

2

Deregulating the Economy

Reducing the Size of Government

- Reagan reduces government by **deregulation**—
less industry regulation
 - increases competition, results in lower prices
- Cuts budget of **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - fights pollution, conserves natural resources
- Interior Dept. permits more oil drilling, lumbering, coal mining
 - sells millions of acres of public lands

SECTION

2

Conservative Victories in 1984 and 1988

The Reagan Coalition

- Reagan forges large coalition of diverse groups
 - businesspeople, Southerners, Westerners, Reagan Democrats

The 1984 Presidential Election

- Democrat Walter Mondale chooses **Geraldine Ferraro** as running mate
 - first woman on major party's presidential ticket
- Reagan, Bush win by landslide

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

2

continued **Conservative Victories in 1984 and 1988****The 1988 Presidential Election**

- Most Americans economically comfortable
 - attribute comfort to Reagan, Bush
- Republican candidate **George Bush** stresses conservatism
 - promises “no new taxes”
- Gets 53% popular vote, 426 electoral votes
 - electoral victory seen as conservative mandate

Section 3

Social Concerns in the 1980s

Beneath the surge of prosperity that marks the conservative era of the 1980s lay serious social problems.

SECTION

3 Social Concerns in the 1980s

Health, Education, and Cities in Crisis

Health Issues

- **AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome)**
caused by virus
 - destroys immune system, makes body prone to infections, cancer
- 1980s, epidemic grows; increasing concern over prevention, cure

Abortion

- 1980s, battle over abortion intensifies
 - opponents are pro-life; supporters are pro-choice
- 1989, Supreme Court rules states may place restrictions on abortion

Continued . . .



SECTION

3

continued **Health, Education, and Cities in Crisis****Drug Abuse**

- Reagan administration prosecutes drug users, dealers
- First Lady Nancy Reagan has “Just say no!” to drugs campaign

Education

- 1983 commission: U.S. students lag behind students in other nations
- Bush initiative calls for using public money for school choice

The Urban Crisis

- Cities deteriorate as whites move to suburbs; businesses follow
- 1992 riots in LA after officers taped beating Rodney King acquitted

SECTION

3

The Equal Rights Struggle

Political Losses and Gains

- ERA not ratified by 1982; Reagan names 2 women to cabinet in 1983
- 1992, increased number of women elected to Congress

Inequality

- Women earn less than men; 31% female heads of household poor
- **Pay equity**—pay reflects education, physical effort, responsibility
- Women seek pay equity, family benefits; some employers comply
- Reagan cuts budget for daycare, similar programs

SECTION

3

The Fight for Rights Continues

African Americans

- By mid-1980s, many cities have African-American mayors
- Numerous communities elect blacks to local, state office, Congress
- **L. Douglas Wilder** of Virginia is first African-American governor
- Reverend **Jesse Jackson** runs for Democratic presidential nomination
- Middle-class blacks hold professional, managerial positions
- Supreme Court limits affirmative action

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued **The Fight for Rights Continues****Gains for Latinos**

- Latinos fastest growing minority; some states elect Latino governors
- Reagan appoints **Lauro Cavazos** as secretary of education
- Bush names Dr. **Antonia Coello Novello** surgeon general
- From 1968 bilingual education available; mid-1980s opposition rising

Native Americans Speak Out

- Reagan cuts aid to Native Americans for health, education, services
- Many tribes open casinos to bring in additional funds

Continued . . .

SECTION

3

continued **The Fight for Rights Continues****An Expanding Asian-American Population**

- Asian Americans second-fastest growing minority
- Cited as example of success; also have high unemployment, poverty

The Gay Rights Movement Advances

- Movement suffers setbacks from conservative opposition, AIDS
- Late 1980s new surge of activism, calls for end to discrimination
- Some states, communities outlaw discrimination

Section 4

Foreign Policy After the Cold War

The end of the Cold War, marked by the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, leads to a redirection of many U.S. goals and policies.

SECTION

4 Foreign Policy After the Cold War

The Cold War Ends

Gorbachev Initiates Reform

- **Mikhail Gorbachev**—general secretary of Soviet Communist Party
- Soviet economy stressed; Reagan's defense spending adds pressure
- Gorbachev adopts **glasnost**—allows criticism, some freedom of press
- Plans **perestroika**—some private enterprise, move to democracy
- Wants better relations with U.S. to cut U.S.S.R. military spending
 - arms-control **INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty)**

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

4

continued **The Cold War Ends****The Soviet Union Declines**

- 1991, 14 republics declare independence; Gorbachev forced to resign
- Commonwealth of Independent States forms; 1993 START II signed

The Collapse of Communist Regimes

- Gorbachev reduces Soviet control of Eastern Europe, urges democracy
- 1989, Berlin Wall torn down; 1990, 2 Germanys reunited
- Czechoslovakia, Baltic states, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania democratic
- Ethnic civil war breaks out in Yugoslavia

Continued . . .

NEXT

SECTION

4

continued **The Cold War Ends****Communism Continues in China**

- 1980s, China loosens business restrictions, stops price controls
- Students demand free speech, voice in government
- 1989, demonstrations in Beijing's **Tiananmen Square**, other cities
- Premier Li Peng orders military to crush protesters
 - unarmed students killed

SECTION

4

Central American and Caribbean Policy

Nicaragua

- **Sandinistas**—rebel group, takes over Nicaragua; Carter sends them aid
- Reagan calls them communists; helps **Contras**—opposition forces
- 1990, Contra supporter Violeta de Chamorro elected president

Grenada

- 1983 Reagan sends troops; pro-Cuba government replaced with pro-U.S.

Panama

- Bush sends troops to arrest dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega
- Noriega convicted of drug trafficking in U.S., sentenced to 40 years

SECTION

4

Middle East Trouble Spots

The Iran-Contra Scandal

- 1983, terrorists loyal to Iran take Americans hostage in Lebanon
- Reagan says no negotiating with terrorists; sells arms for hostages
- Staff divert some profits to Contras; violate Boland Amendment
- 1987, Congressional committees hold joint TV hearings
- 1988, several staffers indicted; 1992, Bush pardons Reagan officials

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

4

continued Middle East Trouble Spots**The Persian Gulf War**

- Iran-Iraq War leaves Saddam Hussein with great war debt
 - 1990, invades Kuwait to take its oil, threatens U.S. oil supply
- Bush, Secretary of State James Baker organize international coalition
- 1991, **Operation Desert Storm** liberates Kuwait from Iraq
- Victory parades greet returning soldiers
- Under 400 coalition casualties; 100,000 Iraqi deaths

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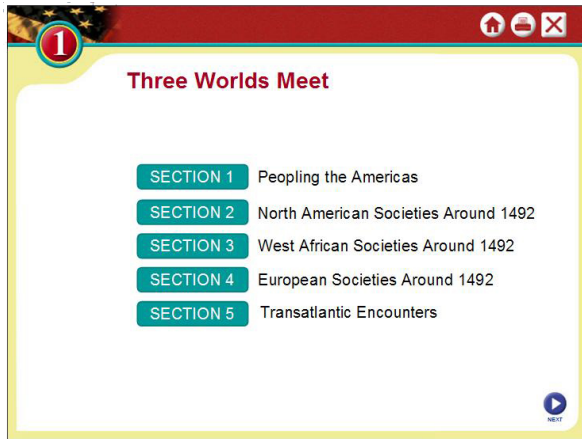
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continued **Middle East Trouble Spots****Bush's Domestic Policies**

- Bush hurt by rising deficit, recession of 1990–1992
- Forced to raise taxes despite campaign promise
- 1992, approval rating drops to 49%



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