

The Reagan Revolution and Cold War: 1980-1991

I. The Election of 1980

A. Nominations

1. Democrats renominated Jimmy Carter after a challenge from Massachusetts Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy.
2. Republicans nominated **Ronald Reagan** of California
 - a. He was the leading spokesman for American conservatism
 - b. Became a B-grade movie star in the 1940s and was a New Deal Democrat until he became a spokesman for General Electric in 1954 (during the "red scare")
 - c. President of the Screen Actor's Guild in the 1950s who helped purge communists from the film industry.
 - c. California governor from 1966 to 1974
3. **John Anderson**, an independent Congressman, ran on a third party ticket.

B. Campaign

1. Reagan called for reductions in government spending and taxes, a shift in power from the federal gov't to the states, and advocated "traditional American values": family, religion, hard work, and patriotism.
 - a. Blasted the Soviets for their aggression and vowed to rebuild the U.S. military.
 - b. Received vigorous support from the "New Right" including evangelical Christian groups like Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority.
 - The "Religious Right" denounced abortion, pornography, homosexuality, the ERA, and affirmative action.
 - Championed prayer in public schools and tougher penalties for criminals.
 - c. Reagan denounced the activist federal gov't and failed "social engineering" of the "Great Society" in the 1960s.
 - He promised to get the "government off people's backs."
2. Carter defended his record, but was uninspiring in style.
 - a. His inability to deal with "double digit" inflation was damaging.
 - b. The Iran-Hostage crisis was especially damaging.
 - c. Carter charged that Reagan was a war-monger who might push the country into nuclear war.

Use space below for notes

C. Results: Reagan d. Carter 489 to 49

1. Reagan got over 51% of vote; Carter 41%; Anderson 7%.
2. Carter was the first sitting president to be unseated by voters since Herbert Hoover in 1932
3. Republicans gained control of the Senate for the first time in 25 years.
4. Ushered in the conservative "**Reagan Revolution**" that would continue into the 21st century.

D. Reagan as the "**Great Communicator**"

- Reagan's superb communication skills and optimism gave Americans a renewed sense of hope and destiny in the 1980s following the very frustrating and cynical 1970s.

II. Reagan and the Cold War

A. Reagan's early rhetoric regarding the Soviet Union was harsh.

1. U.S. concerned about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979
2. Sought to deal with Soviets from a position of strength by embarking on a massive new round to the arms race.
 - Americans could better bear the economic burden of a renewed arms race while the Soviets couldn't.
3. October 1981, Reagan seemed to endorse the concept that the U.S. might fight the Soviets in a "limited" nuclear war on European soil.
 - a. Western Europeans were horrified and an anti-nuclear movement emerged there by 1982.
 - b. Reagan called for intermediate-range missiles to be placed in Western Europe to counter the Soviet implementation of intermediate range missiles in Eastern Europe.
4. "**Evil Empire**" speech (March 1983)
 - a. Reagan called the USSR "the evil empire" and the "focus of evil in the modern world."
 - b. The speech justified his military build-up as necessary to thwart the aggressive Soviets.

B. "**Solidarity**" movement in Poland (1982) sought reforms but was ultimately stopped by the Polish military who was intimidated by the Soviets to restore order.

1. Reagan imposed economic sanctions on Poland and Russia.
2. U.S. grain sales were not cut off since it would hurt U.S. farmers.

C. **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) -- "Star Wars"**

1. March 1983, Reagan announced his intention to pursue a high-technology missile-defense system.
 - a. Plan called for orbiting battle stations in space that could fire laser beams or other forms of concentrated energy to vaporize

- Soviet intercontinental missiles on lift-off.
- b. Reagan claimed SDI would offer a nuclear umbrella over U.S. cities.
 - c. Most scientists viewed SDI as impossible and it became the cause of much ridicule in the scientific community.
2. Diplomatically, Reagan sought to use SDI to scare the Soviets.
3. NUTS vs. MAD
- a. SDI upset four decades of strategic thinking about nuclear weapons.
 - b. Nuclear Utilization Theory (NUTs) advocated the *winning* of a nuclear war.
 - Reagan's staff drew up estimates of so-called reasonable losses in the event of a nuclear war (some as high as 40%).
 - c. Hitherto, **Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)**, had assured a "balance of terror" for 4 decades.
 - d. Reagan's dramatic increase in defense spending placed enormous pressures on the Soviet economy.
 - When Gorbachev came to power in 1985, he would try to reform the Soviet system rather than outcompete the U.S.
 - Some historians today credit Reagan's aggressive policies for winning the Cold War and forcing the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- D. Reagan Doctrine: U.S. gave overt and covert support for anti-communist guerrillas and resistance movements in order to "roll back" communist expansion
1. Represented an aggressive move away from containment
 2. Continued Carter's support for Afghani *mujahideen* against the Soviets in Afghanistan
 - Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan in 1988; Gorbachev called it a "bleeding wound"
 3. U.S. aided Nicaraguan Contras in an effort to overthrow the Sandinistas (communists)
 - a. "Sandinistas" were socialist revolutionaries who condemned capitalism and U.S. policies in Latin America
 - Supported by Cuba
 - b. Reagan accused the Sandinistas of turning their country into a forward base for Soviet and Cuban military penetration of all of Central America.
 - c. Reagan sent covert aid including CIA-led mining of harbors to the "**Contra**" rebels ("freedom fighters") opposing the anti-U.S. gov't in Nicaragua.
 - d. Atrocities committed by Contras resulted in U.S. Congress banning further aid
 - e. Continued secret and illegal funding of the Contras by Reagan resulted in the Iran-Contra Scandal (1987)

- f. Sandinistas were eventually voted out of office in early 1990s
 4. El Salvador
 - a. Reagan sent military "advisors" to prop up pro-U.S. (anti-communist) gov't of El Salvador as well as gaining congressional approval for \$5 billion in aid.
 - b. Public opinion soured after news of gov't "**death squads**" eliminating hundreds, perhaps thousands of opposition.
 - 5. Grenada**
 - a. In 1983, Reagan sent 6,000 troops to tiny Grenada in the Caribbean where a military coup had killed the prime minister and brought a Marxist regime to power.
 - b. U.S. forces successfully overran the island
 6. Angola: U.S. supported the anti-communist UNITA movement
- E. KAL 007, September 1983
1. The Soviets destroyed a Korean airliner carrying hundreds of civilians, including many Americans.
 - The plane had accidentally veered into Soviet airspace.
 2. By end of 1983, all arms-control negotiations with the Soviets were broken off.
- F. Middle East foreign policy challenges
1. **Lebanon**
 - a. Reagan sent U.S. Marines to Lebanon in 1983 as part of an international peacekeeping force after Israeli attacks against Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon caused chaos.
 - b. October 23, 1983, a suicide bomber crashed his truck into a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Marines.
 - Reagan soon pulled the remaining American troops out of Lebanon while suffering no political damage from the attack.
 2. Bombing of **Libya**
 - a. Reagan ordered the bombing of Libya in 1986 in retaliation for an alleged Libyan-sponsored bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed a U.S. serviceman.
 - b. **Col. Mommar Qaddafi** had long been a sponsor for terrorism against the West.
 3. Iran-Iraq War
 - a. U.S. backed Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein as Iran and the U.S. had become bitter enemies since 1979 Iranian Revolution.
 - b. The war ended in a stalemate but Saddam later used weapons he received from the U.S. to launch an attack on neighboring Kuwait in 1990.

III. The End of the Cold War

A. Mikhail Gorbachev

1. 1985, Gorbachev, a reform-minded leader, became leader of the Soviet Union.
 - He allowed for free-speech (“glasnost”), capitalist economic reforms (“perestroika”) and some democracy.
2. Gorbachev courted the West
 - a. He stated the Soviets would cease deployment of intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) targeted on Western Europe if the U.S. would also agree to their elimination.
 - b. Reagan and Gorbachev met in Geneva in 1985 to discuss improving relations and in Iceland in 1986 to discuss arms reductions.
 - Gorbachev proposed dramatic cuts in nuclear forces if Reagan agreed to suspend SDI; Reagan refused.
3. INF Treaty signed in Washington, D.C. in December 1987 (after 2 years of negotiations)
 - a. All intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe banned.
 - b. Represented a dramatic break through in the Cold War.
 - c. Reagan & Gorbachev: "Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought"

B. Fall of the "Iron Curtain" in 1989

1. The costs of maintaining satellite countries, both politically and economically, were too much of a burden for the USSR to handle.
2. Gorbachev's political reforms opened the floodgates for the democratization of Eastern Europe and the decline of Soviet influence.
2. Solidarity prevailed in Poland in August 1989, removing the communist government, and a wave of freedom spread throughout Eastern Europe.
 - A wave of freedom spread through Eastern Europe.
3. Hungary broke from Soviet influence in October
4. The **Berlin Wall** fell in November; Germany was reunited in October 1990
5. Bulgaria broke away in November
6. Czechoslovakia broke away in December
7. Romania removed its communist government in December (but was the most violent of the 1989 European revolutions)

C. Reduction of nuclear weapons

1. President **George Bush** & Gorbachev agree to dramatic cutbacks in **ICBMs** in the early 1990s.
2. START -- strategic arms reduction treaty.
 - a. Would cut 10% of U.S. nuclear weapons and 25% of Soviet nukes and limit ICBM warheads to 1,100 each.

- b. A later treaty called for 50% reductions within a few years.
3. American analysts began discussing a possible "peace dividend" which could be used for social programs, rebuilding infrastructure, and reduction of the national debt.

D. **Fall of the Soviet Union** (December 25, 1991) resulted in the end of the Cold War

1. Russia assumed the Soviet position in the United Nations Security Council.
2. Fifteen new countries emerged from the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

IV. Reagan's domestic policy -- 1st term

A. Assassination attempt in March 1981 nearly killed Reagan

1. White House Press Secretary James Brady was shot in the head and debilitated for years after.
2. Although Reagan publicly handled the crisis with aplomb, his aides began to notice a decline in Reagan's mental acuity.

B. **Reaganomics -- Supply-side economics**

1. Reagan cut taxes based on the "trickle down" idea that if the people had more money, they would invest rather than spend the excess on consumer goods.
 - a. Results would be greater production, more jobs, and greater prosperity
 - b. Gov't revenues would increase despite lower taxes.
2. **Economic Recovery Tax Act, 1981**
 - Congress granted Reagan a 25% cut, spread over three years.
3. Meanwhile, Reagan enacted large budget cuts in domestic programs including education, food stamps, public housing, and the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.
 - Reagan said he would maintain a "safety net" for the "truly needy" focusing on those unable to work because of disability or need for child care.
4. Defense budget increased by \$12 billion.
5. Result: huge budget deficits resulted in rise in the national debt from \$1 trillion in 1980 to \$3 trillion in 1988
 - a. Taxes had to be implemented in 1984 in order to make up for budget deficits.
 - b. In the mid-1980s, the U.S. became a debtor nation for the first time since WWI.

C. Recession

1. By Dec. 1982, the economy was in recession due to the Federal Reserve's "tight money" policy: 10% unemployment.

2. Yet, inflation fell from 12% in 1979 to 4% in 1984.
 - Resulted from the lower demand for goods and the oversupply of oil.
3. The Federal Reserve Board began to lower interest rates which together with lower inflation and more income due to lower taxes, resulted in an increase in business.
 - Unemployment fell to less than 8%.

D. **Deregulation** (began under Carter)

1. Reagan and Congress deregulated AT&T (the nation's largest telephone company), and the airline and trucking industries.
 - Consolidation of industries resulted with many smaller companies going under.
2. **Savings and Loan (S & L) bailout**
 - a. In 1982, many savings and loan institutions were threatened with insolvency.
 - b. Reagan pushed for the deregulation of the savings and loan industries
 - Banks began to make riskier loans and corrupt administrators bilked millions of dollars from investors.
 - Third World countries were unable to repay risky loans.
 - A wave of mergers, acquisitions, and leveraged buyouts (LBOs) left companies saddled with heavy debt.
 - Bankruptcy became a convenient way to escape debt and became a hefty tax write-off.
 - c. Starting in 1989, the federal gov't was forced to bail out over \$500 million worth of bank failures; U.S. taxpayers covered the bill.

E. **Air Traffic Controllers strike**

1. August 1981, federally employed air traffic controllers began an illegal strike.
2. Reagan fired 11,400 of them after they refused to follow his order to return to work.
 - Airports began training replacements and used military controllers during the interim.
3. The air traffic controllers' union was destroyed as a result

F. Women and minorities

1. Reagan appointed **Sandra Day O'Connor** as the first female associate justice to the Supreme Court in U.S. history.
2. Yet, Reagan gave fewer appointments to women and minorities than the Carter administration.
3. Reagan opposed "equal pay for equal work" and renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

G. Election of 1984

1. Democrats nominated Walter Mondale, former vice president under Carter and a former senator from Minnesota
 - a. **Geraldine Ferraro** nominated as the first female vice presidential nominee from a major party in U.S. history.
 - b. Mondale criticized Reagan for his budget deficits, high unemployment and interest rates, and reduction of spending on social services.
2. Ronald Reagan and George Bush were renominated by the Republican party.
3. Reagan defeated Mondale 525 to 13 and gained 60% of popular vote; Reagan won 49 of 50 states.
 - a. Democratic coalition from the days of FDR consisting of industrial workers, farmers, and the poor was broken apart.
 - b. "Reagan Democrats" provided his decisive victory.
 - c. Only African Americans remained as a Democratic voting block.

V. Reagan's Domestic Policy -- 2nd Term

A. Tax Reform Act of 1986

1. Lowered tax rates, changing the highest rate on personal income from 50% to 28% and corporate taxes from 46% to 34%.
2. Removed many tax shelters and tax credits.

B. Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

1. Attempted to deal with the problem of illegal immigration
 - a. Increased penalties on employers hiring undocumented workers
 - b. Increased resources of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to enforce the law.
2. Offered resident alien status ("amnesty") to any individual who proved they had been living in the U.S. continually since 1982.
3. Result: Reduced the flow of immigration until the global recession of the early 1990s.

C. Iran-Contra Scandal (1987)

1. Represented the biggest crisis of Reagan's presidency
2. The Reagan administration continued to fund the Nicaraguan "Contras" even though Congress had forbidden it.
 - a. The money came from the U.S. secret sale of weapons to Iran (America's sworn enemy) in return for uncertain Iranian guarantees that U.S. hostages being held in the Middle East would be released.
 - b. When the press discovered the illegal flow of money, Reagan publicly denied any "sales of arms for hostages"
3. Congressional hearings led to the admission of guilt by several high ranking administration officials

4. Reagan was shielded from any wrong-doing in the scandal but his credibility among many Americans was damaged.

D. Mergers

- a. Encouraging by deregulation under Carter and Reagan as well as an emerging international economy, and fueled by funds released by new tax breaks, mergers became a widespread phenomenon in the 1980.
- b. **Multinational corporations** began to dominate the international economy.

E. Stock Market Crash (Black Monday), October 19, 1987

- a. Stock prices had soared in the early 80s due in part to Reagan's easing of controls on the stock market, brokerage houses, banks, and savings and loan institutions.
- b. October 19, 1987, Dow Jones stock market average dropped over 500 points but did not seriously damage the economy.
- c. Fearing a recession, Congress reduced 1988 taxes by \$30 billion.
- d. By the mid-1990s, stock market indexes doubled in light of a more stable economy.

F. **Challenger explosion**, February 1986

- a. 7 astronauts died in the blast (including the first teacher in space)
- b. The tragedy damaged NASA's credibility and reinforced doubts about the complex technology required for the SDI program.

G. Reagan's economic legacy

1. 1980s saw low inflation and reduction of interest rates.
 - This combination sparked a dramatic economic recovery that fueled optimism among a majority of Americans.
2. Tax cuts and increased military spending created lost revenue of \$200 billion per year.
3. National debt tripled from about 1 billion in 1980 to about 3 billion in 1988.
4. Deficits did not begin to diminish until Clinton's presidency in the mid-1990s
5. The debt was serendipitous for conservatives: The reduced growth of gov't led to cuts in social spending since less money available for gov't to spend.

VI. Election of 1988

A. Democrats nominated Michael Dukakis, the governor of Massachusetts

- Dukakis defeated a field of candidates that included African-American candidate Jesse Jackson, whose "Rainbow Coalition" showed surprising strength

B. Republicans nominated Vice President **George Bush** with Dan Quayle as his running mate.

1. Bush was a former Congressman, CIA head, experienced diplomat, and a successful oil businessman.
2. Bush promised “no new taxes,” advocated strong defense policy, toughness on crime, opposition to apportionment.
3. Bush’s candidacy benefited from long-running but moderate economic expansion during the Reagan years.

C. Result

1. Bush defeated Dukakis 426 to 112; 47.6 million to 40.8 million
2. The Democrats held on to their seats in Congress

VII. The Culture War (1980 to the Present)

A. Liberalism in the late-20th century continued to challenge what many Americans considered core “traditional American values”

1. Since the late-1970s, the culture war increasingly polarized Americans around such issues as abortion, gay marriage, evolution vs. creationism, and affirmative action policies.
2. The debate over what constituted “American values” was similar to the 1920s conflict between modernists and traditionalists.
3. Liberalism tended to be strongest in the “blue states” where large cosmopolitan populations welcomed a more open society.
 - The coasts were the strongest bastions of liberalism (e.g. California, New York and Massachusetts)
4. Social conservatives dominated the South, the Great Plains states and certain states in the Midwest.

B. Rise of the “Religious Right”

1. The 1970s experienced a major revival of Conservative Christianity among both the fundamentalists and the more moderate evangelicals.
 - a. In a 1977 survey, about 70 million (roughly 30%) Americans considered themselves “born-again” Christians.
 - b. Jimmy Carter was the most prominent example as he was a devout Baptist
2. Rev. Jerry Falwell and his organization, the “Moral Majority” became politically active, favoring prayer and the teaching of creationism in the public schools, opposing abortion, pornography, homosexuality, the ERA, and supporting a strong national defense.
3. Born-again activists came to be called the “Religious Right” and was led by several prominent leaders in the late 1980s and 1990s including Pat Robertson, head of the Christian Coalition.
4. President Reagan supported many ideas of the “Religious Right”
5. The abortion issue affected many local and state political

elections in 1980s and 90s and became the single most important social issue of the late-20th century, leading to the polarization of politics between Democrats and Republicans.

- a. Liberals saw *Roe v. Wade* (1973) as a bastion for women's rights and the rights and for separation of church and state
 - b. Conservatives saw abortion as murder and against Biblical principles.
6. Religious conservatives made runs at local school board elections.
7. Multiculturalism came under attack as well.

C. Women's issues

1. **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**

- a. Effort for the ERA was led since the 1960s by the National Organization for Women (NOW)
- b. ERA advocates sought to extend the same guarantees to women that were contained in the 14th Amendment regarding racial and religious minorities.
- c. The ERA passed House in 1971 and the Senate in 1972
- d. The ERA failed to get the required 38 states necessary for ratification by 1982
 - The ERA failed to pass as supporters were largely limited to middle class women while pro-life groups argued against it.
 - Opposition was spearheaded by social conservative **Phyllis Schlafly**
 - Women who did not work outside the home strongly opposed it.
 - Feared the ERA would deny women traditional rights to financial support in divorce cases, and other "protective" courtesies that existed in a male-dominated society.

2. Abortion rights became a cornerstone of women's rights advocates who argued women should have control over their reproductive rights.

- They overwhelmingly supported the Democratic party

D. Sexual Orientation

1. **AIDS** (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

- a. Initially received little attention as the earliest victims were gay men and intravenous drug users.
- b. The issue entered the culture war as conservatives opposed government funding for AIDS research.
 - The controversy was exemplified by President Reagan's son, Ron Reagan, Jr., criticizing his father's administration for its seeming indifference to the AIDS issue.
- c. By the end of the 1980s, at least 600,000 people were infected.

- Many were heterosexual and the nation became intensely alerted.
- d. By mid-1990s drugs to prevent the onset of AIDS showed promise.
- 2. Gays in the military
 - a. Up until 1993, the military required those who enlisted to declare, under oath, that they were not homosexual.
 - b. For decades, policy makers and military leaders argued that allowing gays in the military would hurt morale and disrupt the readiness of the nation's armed forces.
 - c. In 1993, President Bill Clinton lifted the ban on gays in the military.
 - A political firestorm erupted and most Republicans and some Democrats severely criticized Clinton's policy.
 - d. **Don't Ask, Don't Tell, 1993**
 - A political compromise ensued whereby the military would no longer require enlistees to declare their sexual orientation.
 - Openly gay servicemen and women would continue to be discharged dishonorably.
 - e. Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell occurred in December, 2010 when President Barack Obama signed legislation ending the policy.
 - As of July 2011, the implementation of the new policy of allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military was still being worked out.
- 3. Same-Sex Marriage
 - a. During the 1980s, the gay rights movement became increasingly vocal in their demands for equal treatment before the law.
 - b. Conservatives often argued that sexual orientation should not be protected under civil rights laws and that gay marriage contradicted Biblical principles.
 - c. In the 1990s a few states began allowing gay marriage with certain restrictions.
 - d. **Defense of Marriage Act, 1996**
 - In 1996, an election year, President Bill Clinton signed legislation that established that the federal government only recognized marriage as between a man and woman.
 - Each state would determine their own policies
 - Gay married couples were denied the right to federal aid and could be denied right to state aid and benefits that applied to heterosexual spouses
 - Many Democratic supporters of Clinton criticized him for caving into conservative demands for such legislation.
 - e. In the 2000s, a half dozen states recognized gay marriage

- In 2011, New York became the largest state to recognize same-sex marriages.

E. Affirmative Action

1. Conservatives saw affirmative action as “reverse discrimination” and sought to abolish it at the federal and state level.
 - White men were the most likely group to be opposed to affirmative action policies.
2. Liberals argued that the American economic and political system was still dominated by whites and that affirmative action was still necessary to even the playing field.
3. Supreme Court decisions in the 1990s and 2000s weakened affirmative action at the fringes although the policy remained largely intact in most university systems, the public sector, and in many industries.
4. Public support for affirmative action policies gradually eroded to a bare majority by the 2000s.

F. Welfare

1. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) originated as part of the Social Security Act of 1935.
2. Lyndon Johnson increased AFDC funding as part of his “Great Society”
3. By the 1970s and 1980s, conservatives criticized AFDC as creating a generation of people dependent on government largesse
 - The term “welfare queen” was used referring to unwed mothers who allegedly continued to have children in order to get welfare payments.
 - Liberals argued that minorities were more likely to need welfare assistance and ending the safety net was inhumane
4. **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, 1996**
 - a. Placed five-year lifetime cap on welfare benefits; 2-years maximum at one time
 - b. Provided block grants to states to devise and administer their own welfare system.
 - c. Ended welfare benefits for legal immigrants.
 - d. Banned federal, state and local public assistance to illegal immigrants except emergency medical care, school lunches, and treatment for communicable diseases.
 - e. Impact:
 - The welfare caseload had dropped from 14.4 million in 1994 to 12.1 million *before* Clinton signed the bill.
 - By August, 1997, the welfare rolls dropped to 10.7%, the lowest since 1970.
 - States around the country began creating their own welfare-

to-work programs.

G. Sex and Violence in the Media

1. By the 1980s, millions of American parents grew increasingly concerned with the level of gratuitous sex and violence on TV, in the movies, and in the recording industry.
 - Social conservatives in particular decried the entertainment industry, especially “Hollywood,” of corrupting American culture and eroding traditional values.
2. Some liberals argued that any attempt to limit freedom of expression constituted an infringement on the First Amendment
3. By the late 1980s, warning labels were placed on records, tapes and CDs to warn parents of material they might deem objectionable for their children.
4. The movie industry added the distinction “PG-13” for movies as a way of warning parents of material that might be inappropriate for younger viewers.
5. The TV industry began using a ratings system although complaints about the level of violence and sexual content persisted.

VIII. Important trends in the late-20th century

A. Family

1. Divorce rates doubled in the decade after 1965
 - a. By 1990, 50% of marriages ended in divorce.
 - b. The social impact of broken families had a profound impact on the lives of millions of children
2. Proportion of adults living alone tripled between 1950 and 1980.
3. Children born to unmarried mothers increased
 - a. By the 1990s, 1 of 6 white babies was born to an unwed mother; for Latinos, 1 out of 3; for African Americans, 1 out of 2
4. TVs came to “replace” many parents as the average child in the 1990s watched up to 15,000 hours of TV by age 16.

B. The “Graying of America”

1. The “baby boom” generation was the largest in American history.
2. In 2000, the first of the baby boomers turned 60 years of age.
3. As Medicare and Social Security costs increased, a proportionally smaller percentage of Americans under the age of 60 were paying into the system.
4. By the 21st century, the financial strain of paying for increased numbers of retirees strained the federal budget considerably.
5. As the percentage of Americans over age 55 continued to rise, the elderly exercised an increasing level of political and social

influence relative to previous generations.

C. Immigration

1. **Immigration Act of 1965** ended the quota system established in the 1920s
2. **Immigration Control and Reform Act** (see p. 8)
3. By 2000, Latinos became the largest non-white group in America (Mexicans were largest Latino group)
 - a. An estimated 12 million illegal (undocumented) immigrants lived in America by the 2000s.
 - b. The Latino population comprised 16% of the U.S. population in 2010 (up from 13% in 2000)
4. Immigration from Asia increased dramatically as well
5. Recession of 1991 resulted in the rise of nativism
 - a. Proposition 187 in California banned social services (including education) for illegal immigrants and their children -- The initiative was later invalidated in by the courts
 - b. Korean-Americans were targeted during the L.A. Riots of 1992
6. Arizona (2010) and Alabama (2011) passed strong anti-immigrant laws aimed at deporting illegal immigration
7. The deportation of illegal immigrants accelerated significantly during the Obama presidency.

D. Revolution in Communication and Technology

1. The personal computer
 - a. The **Apple personal computer**, developed by **Steve Jobs** and Steve Wozniak, in the late-1970s signaled a technological revolution.
 - b. By the late-1980s the IBM-based personal computer (PC) had become the industry standard and millions of American homes had at least one PC.
 - c. **Bill Gates**, the founder of **Microsoft**, developed a virtual monopoly on the operating systems used with PCs, becoming the wealthiest man on the planet by the 1990s.
2. Public access to the **Internet** in the mid-1990s resulted in a second revolution in communications technology.
 - a. Impact on business
 - b. Email
 - c. Social network sites
3. Cell phones were used by a majority of the population by the 2000s
4. The iPod, developed by Steve Jobs-led Apple, revolutionized how millions of Americans listened to music

E. Decline of Labor Unions

1. At the height of union power between 1955 and 1970, about 1 in 3 American workers belonged to labor unions.
2. The shift in the U.S. economy from an industrial economy to a service economy proportionally reduced the percentage of workers in unions.
 - a. Service industry jobs included accounting, tradesmanship (e.g. car repair, plumbing), computer services, restaurants, retail sales, and tourism.
 - b. Corporations in major industries began relocating their plants to other countries to take advantage of cheaper labor.
 - c. Service industry jobs were usually not unionized.
3. By 2010, the percentage of American workers in labor unions had declined to less than 10%.

Essay Questions

Note: This sub-unit is a low probability area for the essay portion of the AP exam. In the past 10 years, two questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter. Below are some questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.

1. To what extent was the "Reagan Revolution" truly a revolution in American politics?
2. Analyze the reasons for America's victory in the Cold War.

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