

SSUSH23 Assess the political, economic, and technological changes during the Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama administrations.

a. Analyze challenges faced by recent presidents including the collapse of the Soviet Union, Clinton's impeachment, the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the war against terrorism.

b. Examine economic policies of recent presidents including Reaganomics.

c. Examine the influence of technological changes on society including the personal computer, the Internet, and social media.

d. Examine the historic nature of the presidential election of 2008.



Name a good outcome and a bad outcome from these president's time in office:

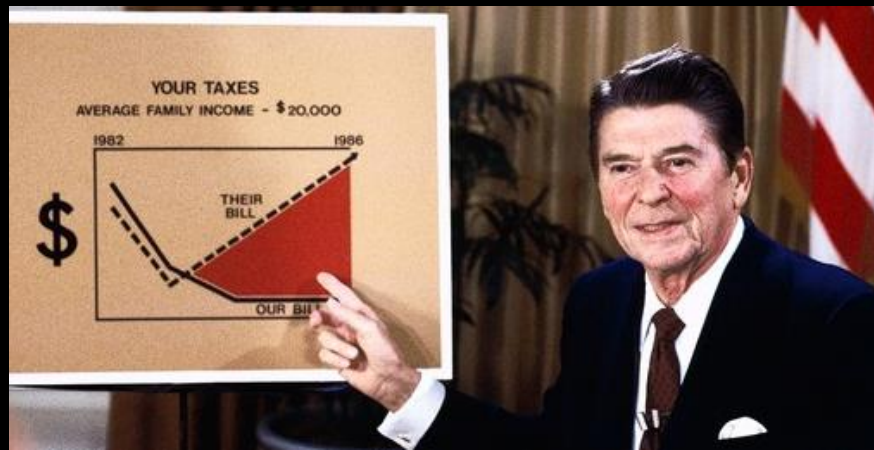
Nixon,

Ford,

Carter

# 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 was the nickname for Reagan's economic policy. It included budget cuts, tax cuts, and increased defense spending. By cutting social welfare budgets, his policy hurt lower-income Americans and, overall, Reaganomics led to a severe recession.



- • The Iran-Contra scandal was Reagan's biggest failure in international policy. Administration officials sold weapons to Iran—an enemy of the United States—and then violated more laws by using the profits from those arms sales to fund a 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.



# Berlin Wall

- On November 9, 1989, as the [Cold War](#) began to thaw across Eastern Europe, the spokesman for East Berlin's Communist Party announced a change in his city's relations with the West. Starting at midnight that day, he said, citizens of the GDR were free to cross the country's borders. East and West Berliners flocked to the wall, drinking beer and champagne and chanting "Tor auf!" ("Open the gate!"). At midnight, they flooded through the checkpoints.
- More than 2 million people from East Berlin visited West Berlin that weekend to participate in a celebration that was, one journalist wrote, "the greatest street party in the history of the world." People used hammers and picks to knock away chunks of the wall—they became known as "mauerspechte," or "wall woodpeckers"—while cranes and bulldozers pulled down section after section. Soon the wall was gone and Berlin was united for the first time since 1945. "Only today," one Berliner spray-painted on a piece of the wall, "is the war really over."
- The reunification of East and West Germany was made official on October 3, 1990, almost one year after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

# Isolation Vs. Globalization Timeline Assignment

- The students will make a timeline of US foreign affairs from 1945- 1989.
- This should include events such as the **Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the opening of China, Cuban Missile Crisis, Bay of Pigs Invasion, Iranian Hostage Crisis, Camp David Accords, Iran- Contra Scandal and the fall of the Berlin Wall.**
- **Students must include a short description for each event and a visual representation for each.**

- **Warm Up:**
- **1) The "Manhattan Project" was the code name for the**
  - A) U.S. plan to invade Japan.
  - B) German use of jet aircraft.
  - C) Allied plan to invade Europe.
  - D) U.S. plans to make an atomic bomb.
- **2) President Franklin Roosevelt said that December 7, 1941, would "live in infamy" because on that day**
  - A) Germany invaded Poland.
  - B) Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.
  - C) France was invaded by Germany.
  - D) Japan invaded the Philippines.
- **3) The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 came to an end when**
  - A) the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its nuclear missiles from Cuba.
  - B) CIA-backed rebels were defeated by the Cuban army at the Bay of Pigs.
  - C) the United Nations allowed the US to install nuclear missiles in Key West.
  - D) a nuclear disarmament plan for the US and the Soviet Union was agreed upon.



# George H.W. Bush

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# Intro to Persian Gulf

- The first major foreign crisis for the United States after the end of the Cold War presented itself in August 1990. Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, ordered his army across the border into tiny Kuwait. This was no ordinary act of aggression. Iraq's army was well equipped. The United States had provided massive military aid to Iraq during their eight-year war with Iran, giving them the fourth largest army in the world.
- Kuwait was a major supplier of oil to the United States. The Iraqi takeover posed an immediate threat to neighboring Saudi Arabia, another major exporter of oil. If Saudi Arabia fell to Saddam, Iraq would control one-fifth of the world's oil supply. All eyes were on the White House, waiting for a response. President Bush, who succeeded President Reagan, stated simply: "This will not stand."

- Challenges from abroad did not disappear with the end of the Cold War. The invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein's Iraq threatened a major percentage of the world's oil reserves. In the largest American military operation since the Vietnam War, the United States led a multinational force in the liberation of Kuwait.

The United States passed its first test of the post-Cold War world. Skillful diplomacy proved that the United Nations could be used as an instrument of force when necessary. Although Moscow did not contribute troops to the operation, they gave tacit approval for the attack. The potential for multinational cooperation was demonstrated. The largest American military operation since Vietnam was completed with smashing success. Most Americans felt confident in their military and technological edge once more.

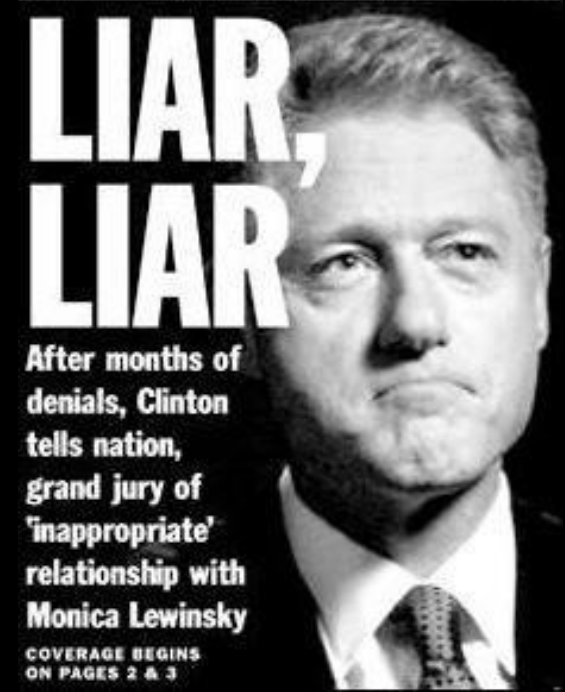
# Clinton Administration

- Bill Clinton's presidency included ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement.
- NAFTA brought Mexico into a free-trade (tariff-free) 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.



# Impeachment

- 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.
- Clinton denied the charges and the Senate acquitted him, allowing Clinton to remain in office and finish his second term.



- # 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, Bush 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 (The Patriot Act) also increased the ability of American law-enforcement agencies to search private communications and personal records.



# Response to 9/11

- Then he created the Department of Homeland Security and charged it with protecting the United States from terrorist attacks and with 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; however, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden escaped.





- **War on Terror**  
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



# Letter to Congress: Impeachment

- Students will take on the role of a member of Congress and write a letter in which they attempt to persuade other lawmakers to vote either for or against the impeachment of President Clinton.
- They must provide evidence and facts to support their position.
- **Something to think about:** compare Clinton's situation to earlier presidents who were impeached, or in danger of being impeached
- A well written letter should be about 1 page in length

# Computers, Internet and Social Media

- The 1990s marked a revolution in communications. Individual use of the Internet mushroomed from a handful of scientists and professors at the beginning of the decade to becoming widespread by the year 2000. Companies regeared their approaches for online commerce.
- Email and social media were a common new forms of communication between relatives, friends, and colleagues.
- Satellite dish networks challenged cable companies for business in telecommunications.
- The United States entered the 21st century as the leading users of Internet and satellite technology.

# Obama

- In 2008 Barack Obama made history when he defeated Republican Mitt Romney and became the first African American president. He later won re-election in 2012.