Unit 8: The Modern Era

I would be more partisan if I wasn’t so moderate.
Civil Rights Movement
CRM and political affiliations

- Civil Rights Movement is considered to be “liberal”
- Civil rights advocates are challenging the conservative status quo
- Democrats support the Civil Rights Movement
- Conservative southern democratic now joining the Republican party
Context of the Civil Right’s Movement
Review:

Martin Luther King Jr. will refer to the Declaration of Independence as a “Promissory Note” - How was the Declaration of Independence a failed promise for African Americans?

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir... America has defaulted on this promissory note in so far as her citizens of color are concerned.

(Martin Luther King, Jr.)
Review:

How did Reconstruction fail to execute the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments (Jim Crow South)?
Review:

- FDR passed the Fair Employment Practices Commission to do what? But what happened to these jobs after WWII?
Segregated soldiers experienced what for the first time during military training in the South?
Review:

- American public began questioning race relations after seeing the horrors of the Holocaust.
- The Cold War meant the US needed support of nations in Africa and Asia, requiring them to live up to their Constitutional Principles to avoid hypocrisy.
Strategies of the Civil Rights Movement
Early in the 20th Century, groups such as the NAACP called for court cases that would become the precedents for Brown vs. the Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas.

Ex: Missouri ex.rel. Gaines v. Canada (1938): At a graduate school, inequality was found to give specific benefits to white students were denied to Negro students of the same educational qualifications, unacceptable.
Early 1950s, the NAACP sued the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas because it wouldn’t let a black girl, Linda Brown, attend an all white school near her home.

To argue their case in court, the NAACP turned to a young and gifted attorney named Thurgood Marshall.
In *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)*, the Supreme Court reversed the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* decision and ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

The court, led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, found that separate facilities were inherently unequal because they did not present minority students with the same opportunities that were offered in white schools.
Thurgood Marshall

- The case alone made Thurgood Marshall well known
- He eventually became the first black man on the Supreme Court
Non-Violent Resistance

- **Basis:** Gandhi’s Non-Violent Independence movement
- **Idea of Civil Disobedience:** refusal to obey unjust laws without resorting to violence
- **Martin Luther King Jr.** will become the leader of the Civil Rights Movement effectively using this method
- Used direct non-violent action to show the nation and world the real face of racism
  - Caused people to support the movement and push for government change
- **TV/media will propel the movement** as people were constantly shown images of violent reactions to non-violent protesters
Leadership of the Movement

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) becomes a national figure after leading the Montgomery Bus Boycotts.
- King, an incredibly intelligent man, PHD, and a Minister and a gifted public speaker.
- He was greatly influenced by his religious faith.
Death of a Hero

Eventually shot and killed in April of 1968 as he stood on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray
Examples of the Non-Violent Movement
Montgomery Bus Boycott

- Segregation laws in the city of Montgomery, Alabama required African American passengers to sit in the back of public buses.
- Blacks were also expected to give up their seats to White passengers if the bus was crowded.
- On December 1, 1955, a bus driver ordered **Rosa Parks** to give up her seat to a white woman.
- When she **refused**, he called the police and she was taken to jail.
This event unites the African American Community of Montgomery.

NAACP leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association and selected the young black minister Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to lead them in a boycott of city buses until Montgomery desegregated its public transportation.
50,000 blacks united in walking to work or carpooling rather than riding buses

Cost the city large amounts of money

It lasted over a year until, in November 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that buses in Montgomery must be integrated (desegregated)
1960, four black college students at North Carolina A&T University protested racial segregation in restaurants by sitting at a “whites only” lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. When the manager ordered them to leave, they peacefully refused. Within weeks, "sit ins" or non-violent protests in which blacks sat in segregated places until they were served or arrested, had spread to cities throughout the South.
In 1960, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was illegal in bus stations open to interstate travel.

In 1961, the Congress Racial Equality (CORE), an organization founded in 1942 and devoted to social change through nonviolent action, organized "Freedom Rides" to test the Court's decision.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxe9dJoZ-AQ
That summer, an integrated group of black and white “Freedom Riders” boarded a bus in Washington, DC and traveled south. The trip was mostly peaceful until the bus reached Anniston, Alabama. In Anniston, a white mob attacked the bus and set it on fire. Then they beat the passengers as they fled the burning bus.
Freedom Rides

- Many of the riders later continued their journey
- When they reached Jackson, Mississippi, State officials arrested them
- Federal government sent US Marshals to protect the riders
  - They didn’t interfere with these arrests for fear of public disorder
- While the Freedom Rides resulted in the desegregation of some bus stations, perhaps their most important contribution was in drawing national attention to the cause of civil rights
Civil Rights protests continued in the South throughout 1962 and 1963

Wanting to keep pressure on President Kennedy and Congress to pass civil rights legislation, national civil rights leaders planned a march on the nation’s capital

On August 28, 1963, MLK stood before the Lincoln Memorial at the March On Washington

There he addressed a crowd of more than 200,000 civil rights supporters delivering his “I Have a Dream Speech”
Birmingham Campaign

- Consisted of sit-ins, marches, and boycotts in protest of segregation
- Peaceful demonstrations-violently attacked
  - Hit with high-pressure hoses
  - Police dogs released on men, women, and children
- “Begins the End” of the struggle for freedom when in May of 1963 officials remove “White Only” “Black Only” signs

President John F. Kennedy would later say, "The events in Birmingham... have so increased the cries for equality that no city or state or legislative body can prudently choose to ignore them."
1964 Civil Right’s Organizations organized a voter registration drive in Mississippi.

Black Mississippians and 1000 mostly white volunteers from out of State faced constant abuse from the local population. KKK coordinated arson, beatings, false arrests, and even murder of these activists.

Managed to open Freedom Schools but could only get 1200 African Americans to register to vote.
March 7, 1965- Protesters decide to **march from Selma, Alabama to the capital of Montgomery 50 miles away for voting rights**

- 200 State troopers **attacked** the protesters with clubs, whips, tear gas, and dogs, killing a Black Minster (Bloody Sunday)

- The Federal Government ordered Alabama to allow them to continue, meeting their goal on March 9th
This was all caught on Camera

Televised scenes of the violence shocked people all across the country.

This caused many, many more people to support civil rights.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6OhPpYqkBU
Threats to Non-Violence: Black Power Movement
Inspired by the teachings of Malcolm X, some reject nonviolent protest as being too slow and ineffective.

Called for stressing African heritage and cultural pride, desiring to protect and empower African Americans.

More of a movement of Northern Urban African Americans dealing with defacto-segregation and poverty.

Not opposed to the use of violence.
Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam

- Preached that white people were “devils” who enslaved non-whites mixing Muslim religion with militant African message.
- Secure freedom by any means: sponsored riots in Northern Cities often alienating the American public and undermining government action.
- Famous figure: Malcolm X
  - Born Malcolm Little, Malcolm X (the X was meant to replace what he saw as a slave name) was converted to the Nation of Islam’s teachings while in prison.
He then went on a Muslim pilgrimage (a journey for religious purposes) to the Islamic holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Sees both blacks and whites praying together—began to soften his militant views.

February 1965 assassinated by 3 African Americans as he began to speak at a non-violent rally in Manhattan.
In 1966, a militant group was born.

- Sought to end de facto (in practice) as well as de jure (by law) segregation.
- They advocated for African Americans leading their own communities and demanded that the federal government take action to rebuild the ghettos of the nation’s big cities.
- While the Panthers did have some violent encounters with police, they also made positive contributions by setting up programs to aid poor, urban blacks.
Presidential Support for Civil Rights
Support of Civil Rights:
- Worked towards **Anti-lynching legislature** after watching African American Vets be lynched as they returned to Southern Military bases
- Signed an Executive Order to **desegregated the Military**

Effect
- Lead to split in the Democratic Party
- **Dixiecrats** are formed: mostly Southern conservative Democrats supporting segregation (South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond will be their presidential Candidate)
- Disappears in the 1970’s as Republican party advocates for their policies
Eisenhower

Presidency shows struggle between National Federal Government and the State Governments (especially the South) over Civil Rights

Ex: Little Rock 9- Federal Court ordered Little Rock Central High School integrated

Arkansas State Governor: uses National Guard to prevent 9 students from entering the school

Eisenhower sends the National Guard home, sending the 101st Airborne to enforce the ruling, admitting the 9 students into the school
Will send **federal** authorities to **desegregate** many Southern Colleges (University of Mississippi)

Supports March on Washington by not calling for troops to stall march

 Begins push towards Civil Rights legislature and Voting Rights legislature before his assassination
Following Kennedy’s assassination, the new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, strongly urged Congress to pass these laws in honor of the late president.

Despite fierce opposition from southern members of Congress, Johnson pushed through the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
Voting Rights Act of 1965

- Authorized the president to suspend literacy tests
- Sent federal officials to register voters if not followed
- Led to an increase in African voter registration and increase in the number of African American candidate elected to public office
- The Voting Rights Act and the 24th Amendment were seen as huge victories by civil rights leaders who had always felt that the key to advancement was securing the vote
The Civil Rights Act of 1964

- **Prohibited segregation** in public accommodations (hotels, restaurants, and theatres that served an interstate clientele)
- **Prohibited discrimination** in education and employment
- Gave the president the power to enforce the new law
- In 1964 ratified the Twenty Fourth Amendment:
  - Protect blacks’ voting rights by making the **poll tax illegal**
LBJ’s Great Society

**Great Society:** extended the New Deal and showed the continued commitment of the Federal Government to deal with Social Welfare, especially poverty and racial discrimination.

**Great Society Programs:**
- Medicaid and Medicare to provide health care to elderly and poor.
Fair Housing Act of 1968

- Battled de facto segregation-ending the right of landlords/banks to discriminate on the basis of race

Affirmative Action: gave minorities preferential treatment in jobs, universities, etc. to force organizations to hire and admit these groups (must have certain percentage of minorities)
LBJ’s Great Society

- **War on Poverty**
  - Reduced Poverty Rate
  - **Head Start Program:** proving free pre-school for poor

- **Effects of LBJ’s Great Society**
  - Helped **eliminate** economic problems for **minority** groups
  - Won the **African American** vote for Democrats
  - Alienated the **white** Southern Democrats - turned to the Republican Party
LBJ’s Great Society

Liberals felt the Great Society Programs were being robbed by the money spent on the Vietnam War.
Unlike Kennedy and Johnson, Nixon was conservative—Looks to Middle Ground

Ran and won in 1968 on a “Law and Order” campaign saying he would:

- **End** the Vietnam War
- **Limit** the Great Society Programs
- **Limit** enforcement of Civil Right’s Laws

Seen as his “Southern Strategy:” gained Southern Conservative support for the Republican Party making the South a Republican strong hold from this point forward
Nixon

- Fails to end Vietnam War for 5 years
- Causes inflation
- Economic growth is stagnating
- Leads to “Stagflation” - inflation and unemployment rising at the same time
  - Puts in wage and price controls, further outraging conservatives

- Oil Embargo
  - 1973- OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) refuse to sell oil to the United States because of their continued support of Israel
  - Will manage to get OPEC to back down
GAS SHORTAGE!
Sales Limited to 10 GALS. OF GAS PER CUSTOMER
Oil Shortage!

- As a result, US citizens sat in long lines waiting to pay high prices for the tiny bit of gas that was available.
- Fortunately, the embargo was lifted after only a few months.
- But it served to cause even more economic hardship.
- And exposed our heavy dependence on foreign oil.
Environmental Changes

- The **oil crisis** also reminded US citizens that natural resources were not limited.
- This **contributed to the rise of the environmental movement** in which Americans advocated conservation and government policies designed to preserve and protect the environment.
- In response Congress passed legislation to maintain clean air.
Democratic Congress means:

- Doesn’t limit Great Society programs
- Actually Passes Ground Breaking Environmental Legislation after Earth Day is celebrated for the first time
  - Clean Air and Clean Water Acts
  - Endangered Species Act
  - Environmental Protection Agency
- Alienates some Conservative Republicans who believe these environmental laws will cost businesses millions (to meet new environmental standards) hurting job creation
Civil Rights Movement Inspires Others
Civil Rights Movements and other Minorities

- Inspired other social movements as well other minorities, women and those promoting political change
Latino Rights

- The United Farm Workers (UFW) was founded in 1962 by Cesar Chavez.
- Supported the rights of migrant farm workers, many of which were poor Hispanic immigrants.
- Chavez went to great lengths to improve the conditions under which migrant workers worked.
- He personally conducted hunger strikes.
Boycotts and Non-Violence

Chavez and the UFW used the same type of non-violent protests proved effective by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Perhaps the most famous campaign of the UFW was its boycott of California table grapes which led to a 1970 labor agreement.

Unfortunately some Latino Activists turned violent and the movement died.
1968 saw the birth of the American Indian Movement (AIM), which fought for the rights of Native Americans.

In 1972, it protested past violations of treaties between the US government and Native American tribes by forming a caravan that traveled to Washington, DC.

There, they occupied the US Bureau of Indian Affairs for nearly a week.
In 1973, another confrontation took place at Wounded Knee when AIM members took over the village and demanded that the government investigate the treatment of Native Americans. They wanted them to look into the extreme poverty that existed on the reservation.
Federal authorities soon surrounded the area.

Over the three month siege, sporadic gunfire left two AIM members dead and several people, including two federal agents, wounded.

The standoff finally ended when AIM surrendered its weapons and agreed to leave.
Native American Advances

- Although many people in both the white and Native American communities criticized AIM for their militant tactics.
- They group did succeed in drawing attention to Native American concerns and helped bring about legislation intended to help Native Americans.
What were the expectations of women in the 50’s and 60’s?

Increased education and helping African Americans fight for their own rights will encourage women to seek their own equal rights legislation.
In 1963, Betty Friedan wrote a book called *The Feminine Mystique*. In it, she talked about her own experience in giving up a career to be a homemaker. She suggested that the idea of women being nothing but happy and fulfilled at home was a myth. She asked the question that rang true to many women living in suburbs across the country: “Is this all there is?”
Friedan’s views helped launch the Women’s Movement of the 1960s and 70s.

This movement often referred to as “Women’s Liberation” or Women’s Lib” rejected traditional gender roles and advocated or worked for equality between men and women.

Advocates for this cause were called “feminists”
Friedan also founded the National Organization for Women (NOW)

NOW devoted itself to political activism and promoting feminist causes
Equal Rights Amendment

- 1971 proposed an Amendment to the Constitution stating that **civil rights cannot be denied on the basis of sex**
- Amendment was given a 7 year deadline to be passed: **Never Passed**, not enough States ratified the amendment
- It has been proposed every year since, without success
1973- Roe vs. Wade

- Seen as a great victory for women’s rights.
- The Supreme Court ruled that State laws restricting a woman’s right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy to be unconstitutional
- Seen as giving women more control over their own health and reproductive rights
Vietnam War
Background

- Vietnam had been a French colony since the 1800’s
- After WWII attempted to reestablish control
  - Met resistance from the Viet Minh under the Nationalist Ho Chi Minh
  - Truman and Eisenhower attempted to aid France because of Ho Chi Minh’s ties to communism-Soviet Union and China
Vietnam divided between communist backed North of Ho Chi Minh and US supported South of the corrupt unpopular government of Ngo Kinh Diem until both sides could hold free elections.
South Vietnam

- Ngo Kinh Diem
- Had many enemies within his own country
- He imprisoned people who criticized his government
- US aid money goes to corrupt politicians.
- Alienated the mostly Buddhist population by trying to force his own Catholic beliefs on them
South Vietnam Breaks Geneva Accords

- South refused to hold elections, knowing Ho Chi Minh would win
- US under President Eisenhower supports this move under what parts of the Truman Doctrine?
  - Result: Viet Cong rebel group, aided by N. Vietnam, is formed to resist the S. Vietnamese government
  - US begins aiding and sending advisors to help the S. Vietnamese Government
Kennedy and Vietnam

- Kennedy is fresh from the Bay of Pigs Incident (meaning)
- Decides to increase **aid and advisors to S. Vietnam**
  - Quickly realizes, as support for the S. Vietnamese government continues to decline, that the communists cannot be defeated with such a corrupt government running the South
  - CIA supports a coup which overthrows and assassinates Diem
- Shortly after Kennedy is also assassinated
Nov 1963 LBJ becomes president and continues Kennedy’s policies in Vietnam
Johnson announces that North Vietnam had **attacked US ships in the Gulf of Tonkin**

- No clear details and later it will be found to be exaggerated but it gets Congress’s attention

- Congress passes The Golf of Tonkin Resolution giving **LBJ authority** to “**take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack** against the forces of the United States”

- LBJ uses this “blank check” to **build up troops** to help the South Vietnamese forces
By 1965, more poor South Vietnamese were drawn to the Viet Cong rebels due to the supplies they keep getting from the North Vietnamese.

These supplies made their way south by way of a route through Laos and Cambodia called the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

To try and cut off this support and in response to an attack that killed eight US soldiers, Johnson ordered an intense bombing campaign against North Vietnam.
Operation Rolling Thunder

- US dropped thousands of tons of explosives (more than in all of World War II)
- The bombings destroyed bridges, supply lines and villages
- Many civilians in the process will die in the process
LBJ Sends more Troops

Fearing Conservatives would see him as “soft on communism,” by 1967 LBJ had increased the soldiers in Vietnam to 500,000
Warfare inside Vietnam

- Guerilla warfare or a method of fighting designed to wear down an enemy by striking quickly and retreating before the enemy can respond.
- US fighting in the midst of a jungle.
Tet Offensive

1968 N Vietnamese and Viet Cong launch a major coordinated attack against the US and S Vietnamese forces.

Turning Point: showed the Communists could launch a strong successful attack anywhere, anytime against US soldiers.

Media at home heavily covers the event, showing the bombing and destruction, US public opinion turns against the war.
Use of chemical weapons in the Jungle Environment

- **Agent Orange** was a herbicide dropped to kill vegetation so the US forces could find Viet Cong hiding places.
  - Later studies revealed that Agent Orange also caused serious **health problems** like cancer.
  - Not only for the Vietnamese who were exposed but for the US soldiers, as well.
released onto forests to remove "enemy" forces during Viet Nam conflict
Napalm

Like a fireball dropped from the sky that destroyed thick vegetation, burned out of control.

Stuck to clothing and flesh, killing them or leaving them severely burned.
My Lai Massacre

March 1968 US Lt. William Calley ordered troops to execute between 175 and 400 S. Vietnamese citizens believed to be hiding Viet Cong members.

- Many were women, children, and elderly.
- Only stopped with a US helicopter spotted the horrific event and ordered them to stop.
- Lt Calley was sentenced to life in prison but this was reduced when many said he was just a “scapegoat” for someone higher up who may have made the call.
Nixon and Vietnam

- The stresses of Vietnam and a split in the Democratic party over the war causes LBJ not to seek reelection.
- Nixon takes office in 1969 saying he will end the Vietnam War but he cannot admit that the US cannot win the war.
- Starts Vietnamization: training South Vietnamese soldiers to take the place of US soldiers, reducing the number of US troops.
Will not Lose to Communism

- Withdrew troops but switched tactics in hopes of winning the war
  - Secretly begins **bombing raids on Laos** and later **invades Cambodia** where the Ho Chi Minh Trail led supplies into South Vietnam
  - Begins discussions with China and Détente (reducing arms) with the Soviet Union in hopes of splitting these allies and pulling their support for N. Vietnam
- Actions will **outrage American Citizens** furthering anti-war protests
Peace Agreements

Prior to reelection, Nixon announces a peace agreement between US, S. Vietnam, N. Vietnam, and the Viet Cong had been reached.

In 1973 US forces are withdrawn and POWs released.

By 1975 N. Vietnamese troops had captured the S. Vietnamese capital of Saigon, uniting the whole country under communism.

Containment had failed.
Vietnam’s Effects at Home
US divided over the War

- 2 groups the US will rise out of the Vietnam war
  - Hawks: conservative Republicans supporting the war
  - Doves: liberal Democrats against the war

2 Ways to Convert Hawks Into Doves by Eric Perl

1. War, War, War! No end in sight!  
   Great! Stay the course!

2. In order to stay the course, we must implement a draft!  
   Peace Now!!!

3. War, War, War! No end in sight!  
   Great! Stay the course!

4. In order to stay the course, a slight tax increase will be necessary.  
   Peace now!!!
Those who had previously fought against McCarthyism (meaning) and Civil Rights, and some returning Vets from Vietnam now turned their attention to the war.

Believed it was a “Poor Man’s Fight”- the draft was unfair because many people could avoid it with medical exemptions, college deferments, or joining the national guard- leading mostly poor (often African Americans) to be drafted.

Began provocative protests including burning draft cards to protest the war especially after the Tet Offensive (why)
Doves

- Upset over several war issues which questioned American values such as:
  - My Lai Massacre,
  - Use of Agent Orange and Napalm
  - Drug use among soldiers
  - Mistreatment of returning vets

- Led many to mistrust the government and a distrust between the older conservative generation and the younger liberal generation
Kent State Massacre

- Protest over Nixon’s invasion of Cambodia
- Occurs at Kent State University in Ohio
- Students begin attacking businesses and burned down the ROTC building
- National Guard is called in to stop the protest but it ended with the death of 4 students and injuries to 9 others
Pentagon Papers

- Documented American involvement in Vietnam
- Revealed that the executive branch had lied to Congress concerning the war
  - President made secret decisions and undertook unapproved military actions
- Led to mistrust in the government and the passing of the War Powers Act
War Powers Act

- States that the president must notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops abroad.
- If Congress does not approve the deployment within 60 days, then the troops must be withdrawn.
Divided America
Conservatives vs Liberals; 60’s-Today
1960’s Give Rise to “New Right”
Review

- Continued battle between Conservatives (Republicans) and Liberals (Democrats)
- Division over the appropriate power and role of the national government (Social liberals and conservatives over changes in values/ Fiscal liberals and conservatives over government involvement in the economy)
Overall Views of Modern Conservatives and Liberals

**Conservatives:**

- Believe Large government threatens liberties
- People have **personal responsibility** for their economic welfare
- Charity and **welfare** should be left to **private businesses and organizations** not the government
- A **Welfare state** (government welfare) makes people too dependent on the government and it is **too costly**
Liberals

- Believe government involvement protects minorities from local prejudices
- Government should have an active role in protecting rights and welfare of individuals and minorities
- Want government aid programs to help those least able to care for themselves
Events of the 1960’s Leading to a rise in Conservativism

- Women’s Rights Movement and Equal Right’s Amendment: challenge traditional values (against Liberal support for these)
- Roe v Wade: Right to Life Movement Begins (against abortion and against Liberal belief in a woman’s right to choose)
Events of the 1960’s Leading to a rise in Conservativism

- **Vietnam**
  - Conservatives outraged over peace marches and burning of draft cards
- **Intense Anti-communist movement**
  - when we left Vietnam and it fell to communism
- Conservatives believe US losing its spot as a world power
Events of the 1960’s Leading to a rise in Conservativism

- **Counter Culture of the 1960’s (Hippie Movement)**
  - Young College age Baby Boomers questioning ideas of gender, race, government, and morality
  - Protests against Vietnam, Poverty. And for Civil/ Women’s Rights
  - Wanted Radical Social Change
Events of the 1960’s Leading to a rise in Conservativism

- Woodstock Music Festival 1969: promoting peace and symbol of Social Revolution and divide between young and old
- Heavy Drug Use
- Divorce Rates Rise among youth
- Conservatives believe this is a sign of declining “Family Values”
The “New Right Movement”

- Fiscal Conservatives upset over Great Society spending and Environmental Legislature join with Social Conservatives opposed to abortion
- Fundamentalist Evangelical Christians take to the Media (TV and Radio) spreading message called Televangelists
- Organized Politically, financially supporting candidates supporting their values
- Fueled by the beginning of the 24 hr news networks like CNN-platform for both the far left liberals and far right Christians to spread political, partisan messages
1970’s Scandals and Crisis for Conservatives and Liberals
Scandal Threatens Conservative Political Control

- **Watergate Scandal**
  - Nixon fearful Democrats will undermine his government
  - Loyal Government Officials devise plan to wiretap the Democrat National Committee Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel
Scandal Threatens Conservative Political Control

- Police catch and arrest 5 men attempting to break into the room
- Nixon did not know about the plan but worked actively to cover-up the scandal
- After it becomes clear Congress would impeach and convict him, Nixon becomes 1st and only president to resign
In October 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned due to a separate scandal.

Nixon appointed Ford new VP then soon Nixon resigns.

Gerald Ford only man in history to serve as both vice president and president without being elected.

Watergate Scandal and Ford’s decision to pardon Nixon for his crimes, leads to an easy Democratic victory in 1976—Jimmy Carter.
President Jimmy Carter

- People like that he is a “Washington Outsider” - never worked for Fed Gov (Georgia Governor)
- Domestically left with **dealing with economic downturn** from the OPEC embargo (which was?), causing **decline in Middle Class prosperity** and found little support for more expensive welfare programs since The Great Society
President Jimmy Carter

Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Camp David Accords:

- Helps negotiate peace between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin
- Egypt regains Sinai Peninsula and agrees to accept Israeli’s right to exist as a country
President Jimmy Carter

- Foreign Policy in the Middle East
  - Iran Hostage Crisis
    - US supported but corrupt Shah (leader of Iran) is overthrown by extreme Islamic government
    - Carter gives Shah safety in the United States
    - Angry Mob takes US Embassy in Iran Hostage, agree to release hostages if Carter returns Shah to stand trial
President Jimmy Carter

- Carter refuses and the crisis continues for over a year after many failed rescue attempts (8 Americans killed)

- Crisis and Economic Problems will lead Carter to be defeated by Ronald Reagan in 1980 election

- When the Shah dies, an agreement is reached but as a final act of defiance, won’t release hostages until the day Carter leaves office and Reagan in inaugurated
1980’s and The Reagan Revolution
Appeal of Reagan Conservativism

- Moral is low with economic problems and Iran Hostage Crisis
- Reagan patriotic, has a can-do attitude, charismatic, extremely conservative, and a former actor
Gains support of fiscal conservatives who have been opposing government programs such as the New Deal and Great Society

President Reagan supports:
- Believes Government is not the solution of the cause of the nation’s problems
- Cutting taxes on the wealthy to promote investment and job creation
- Cutting government spending
Based on what is called the “Trickle Down Theory” of Economics

If you cut taxes and give more money back in the hands of the rich, these business owners will invest that money in building new factories and therefore hiring new workers.

This prosperity then trickles down to the middle and lower classes as there are more jobs and more supply of products for people to purchase with their new wealth.
Reaganomics

- **Deregulation of Banks**
  - **Limits** government regulations on banks, businesses, and **environmental protections** to stimulate free-enterprise and business development
  - Believes **increasing jobs** and businesses are more important than **environmental protections**
Believe wealthy should pay taxes based proportionately on their ability

Tax cuts and deficit spending during hard economic times should be given the lower and middle classes not the rich

Middle and Lower classes will use the extra money to buy more goods, an increase in demand will cause the Rich to invest, increase production, higher more workers, and therefore give people more jobs and economic prosperity will increase

Continue regulation of Banks and must balance protecting the environment and protecting jobs
Reagan on Foreign Policy

- Increases Defense Spending, arms building against the Cold War ($1.5 trillion) believing this will lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union
A new Friendship Emerges

- In 1985, a young and progressive leader by the name of Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the USSR.
- Despite Reagan’s misgivings about the Soviets, the two struck up an unlikely friendship.
The Iron Curtain Weakens

- Soviet economy could not sustain an arms race with the US
- Initiated *Glasnost* or political openness (with US and Soviet Satellite Countries in E. Europe begin Independence Movements)
- *Perestroika* or a restructuring of the economy to allow limited free enterprise but economy further collapses
On November 9, 1989, the East German government announced that people could freely travel to West Berlin. Germans flocked to the Berlin Wall and began tearing it down with sledgehammers and anything else they could find. The wall, and the “iron curtain” had come down.
The End of the Cold War

- Wall becomes symbol of the end of the Soviet Union and the Cold War by 1990
- Conservatives credit Reagan with the end due to defense spending
- Cause was the internal problems of the USSR
Reagan and The Middle East

- US continued support for Israel against its aggressive neighbors and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) - terrorist organization responsible for hijacking planes, ships, and conducting suicide bombings to raise awareness of the Palestinian Muslim desire to regain control of Israel.

- Reagan and other nations assist Israel by sending troops to stop the PLO using Lebanon (country to the north of Israel) to attack the country.

- Will be forced to withdraw troops when the PLO attacks US army barracks.
Impact of Reaganomics and Foreign Policies

- Initially **Economy improves** but...
- **Increased Military Spending** + **Lowered Taxes** leads to a tripling national debt
- **Deregulation of Banks and Businesses** lead many into bankruptcy causing the government to **bail many out**, increasing the national debt further
Impact of Reaganomics and Foreign Policies

- Low wages resulting from deregulation and the tax policy will widen the gap between the rich and poor.
- But consumerism and speculation will increase as economy continues to seem prosperous.
- Will be the next president George H. W. Bush who will have to deal with the economic problems of the debt.
Republican George H. W. Bush

Comes to presidency in 1989 under new media view of liberals and conservatives:

- Conservatives: party of economic growth and traditional values
- Liberals: party of wasteful spending and overwhelming government but call themselves “champions of the middle class”
In 1990, Iraq’s leader, Saddam Hussein invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait.

Due in part to the US’s reliance on oil from Kuwait and nearby Saudi Arabia, Saddam’s actions were very concerning to the US.

President Bush worked through the UN to coordinate an alliance of 28 countries that took militant action against Iraq after Saddam refused to withdraw back across the Iraqi border.
The war lasted only 42 days and resulted in the liberation of Kuwait.

Citing that he had only received UN approval to liberate Kuwait, President Bush elected not to push the attack into Iraq and allowed Saddam Hussein to stay in power.

It was a decision his son, President George W. Bush would feel the effects of a decade later.
H.W Bush and the Economy

During election stated “Read my lips no new taxes”

But the weight of the Reagan era debt forced Bush to raise taxes after all

This “inconsistency” will lead him not to be reelected in 1992
The 1990’s Economic Prosperity and Globalization
Bill Clinton Wins Election of 1992

- Democrat Bill Clinton successfully portrays himself as a moderate democrat to fix the economic problems of the Bush presidency.
- Third Party candidate Ross Perot further splits the Republican party leading to Democratic victory.
Globalization of the 90’s

- Globalization - the interconnection of global economies
- Many pros and cons about this issue
NAFTA and globalization

- NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)
  - Promoted free trade or no trade restrictions between the US, Canada, and Mexico
  - Many labor unions feared that the agreement would encourage US businesses to relocate to Mexico where they’d face fewer restrictions and be able to pay lower wages- process known as outsourcing
  - This of course would result in a loss of US jobs
Globalization and GATT

- **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades** - reduces tariffs between countries, encourages globalization
- Increasing Trade with other nations
- Also means US companies outsource their labor
- Eventually replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO)
European Union

- European Nations will create a **unified** market that cooperated politically, democratically, without trade restrictions, and creates a common currency.
  - Helps **develop** economy of Europe to rival the United States as largest economy.
Globalization and Technology

- Internet develops and becomes popular
- Cell phones become more available
- Makes communication and international business easier
Effects of Globalization

- **Greater Competition** with other nations over economic and political super power

- **Outsourcing**: lowered restrictions means businesses moved their production to less developed countries (China and Mexico) for cheaper wages and increased technology means they sent their low skilled service jobs (telemarketing) to India

- **Unbalanced Trade**: (US imports way more than it exports to countries like China)
Specific Effects on US Economy

- **Deindustrialization**: Factories ship overseas and **people lose high paying factory jobs**
  - Forced into **lower paying retail service jobs** that are increasing with the influx of cheap products made overseas
Specific Effects on US Economy

- **Unions Decline**: businesses like factories with unions decline

- **Rust Belt to Sun Belt Migration**: to stay in the US companies move South from the North East (Rust Belt) to the South East (Sun Belt) where there are Right to Work Laws (no unions) making production cheaper

- **People follow** and the South is now seeing a boom in population
Demographic Changes of the 1990’s

- Both parents working becomes the norm
  - Increased income, increased demand for services (day care, fast food-obesity rises)
- Advanced Medical Technology means longer life expectancies
  - Healthcare demands increase
  - Social Security is burdened by # of retirees
    - Leads to rising Health Care Costs and an attempt by Clinton for Government Healthcare Reform – stopped in the 90’s due to Republican Congressional Opposition
Clinton Economy

- Started with the **deficit from the 1980’s**
- By the end of his 2nd **term had created a budget Surplus**
- **Restricted Welfare** and entitlements: reducing spending and increasing Clinton’s popularity
- **Increased taxes** and income tax credits
- **Federal Reserve** keeps inflation low and **economy stimulated** through interest rates
- **Low Unemployment** (to 2%)
- But **Gap** between rich and poor widens further
- **Immigration increases** -causes controversy
Clinton Controversy

- Partisanism leads republicans to investigate Clinton’s past
- There evidence will lead the House to **Impeach Clinton** but insistent he did nothing wrong, rather than resigning he waits for the decision of the Senate’
- Senate does not convict him and Clinton **maintains presidency**
The 2000’s Second Bush and Obama
Election of 2000

- Closest Election in US History
- George W Bush Republican vs Clinton’s Democratic VP Al Gore
- Gore wins the popular vote but Bush wins the electoral vote after controversy over votes counted in FL – GW is not confirmed as the winner until months after election the Supreme Court calls for the recount to end
Father’s Legacy Returns

- After first Persian Gulf War, the first President Bush left military in bases in Saudi Arabia to secure US Oil and allies
- Support of Israel continues through Clinton and Bush
- Effect in the Middle East: Radical Muslim extremist groups such as the Taliban and al-Qaeda unite increasing efforts to eliminate US and other western countries influence in the Middle East
- Begin Terrorist attacks against the US including embassy bombings in Africa and attacking the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000
Life in the US changed forever on September 11, 2001. That morning, people across the country watched in shock as terrorists flew hijacked commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Their attack killed thousands as the Twin Towers of the Trade Center came crashing down, and the Pentagon burst into flames.
Aftermath of 9-11

- In one day, four planes were hijacked, the World Trade Center was destroyed, and the Pentagon was badly damaged.
- Far more tragic, however, were the many lives that were lost.
- 9/11 brought the reality of terrorism home to the US and shook people’s sense of national security more than any event since the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
The War on Terror

- Result: US invades Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban for supporting, aiding, and hiding Osama bin Laden and other top al-Qaeda officials.

- Overthrows the Taliban but fail to catch Osama bin Laden.
The War on Terror

- **2nd Iraq or Persian Gulf War**
  - Convinced Iraq, still under Saddam Hussein, is harboring al-Qaeda terrorists and building weapons of mass destruction (chemical/biological warfare)
  - US, without the support of the UN invades Iraq
  - **21 Days successful**, capture, and Hussein is sentenced and hanged for his crimes against his people
  - **No weapons are found** though, hurting support for the war at home
Because of **Globalization** passes **No Child Left Behind** to increase academic standards and testing to make the United States **more globally competitive** educationally as a result of
George Bush Domestic Policy

- **Economically**
  - Passes “Bush Tax Cuts” on the wealthy to stimulate economy (What economic theory? Started by whom?)
  - Deregulations on Banks and Businesses

- **War of Terror increases defense spending exponentially**

- Result of low taxes and increased spending?
The Great __________

- **Worst Economic Downturn since Great Depression**
- Unemployment hits higher than 10%
- **Housing Market burst** with many people foreclosing and losing their homes as a result of lenient loans from deregulations

**Bush Deficit Spending**
- Passes Stimulus Package including tax credits to Americans and **Bank Bailouts**
Election of 2008

- Horrible Economic Conditions lead to the election of Democrat Barack Obama, first African American president over John McCain
- Passes a 2nd Stimulus Bill with additional bailouts but without ending Bush Tax Cuts
Stimulus does little at first but the Great Recession does end, however confidence in the economy remains low as Europe still faces a debt crisis, the US deficit is rising, and consumers are still not spending as much.
Health Care Reform Act: with support of a democratic congress passes “Obama-care”:

- New Regulations on Healthcare Insurance coverage
- Requires all citizens to have health insurance
- Provides healthcare subsidies to low income
- Created a database to purchase private health plans
Obama Foreign Policy

- **Iraq and Afghan Wars:** withdrawing troops but continuing to support the country’s development and stabilization of democratic governments (Osama bin Laden caught and killed in 2011)

- **Arab Spring:** Provides economic and military support to Middle Eastern groups fighting for democratic rule (air strikes in Libya to overthrow dictator Muammar Gaddafi)

- Still working to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinian Territories as the presidents before him