CHAPTER 30

Conservative America in the Ascent

1980–1991
I. The Rise of the New Right

C. The Carter Presidency

1. Human Rights record and Camp David Accords
   - Israel and Egypt
2. Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
   - Can’t deal effectively with; Détente fails
3. Hostage Crisis
   - Iran boils over
   - Can’t negotiate an end…..looks weak

2. The Election of 1980
   - Carter sunk by economy and world events
   - Malaise Speech
Soviets in Afghanistan

- USSR invades in 1979 when communist regime is threatened by Shiite Muslim faction
- Soviets get bogged down & fight long & fruitless war
- US backs Muslim rebels at the time for anti-communism goals
- Carter boycotts 1980 Olympics and embargoes grain sales
- Soviets withdraw after 10 years
Afghanistan, an Islamic country along the southern border of the Soviet Union, had been run by a Communist, pro-Soviet government for a number of years.

However, a strong Muslim rebel group known as the mujahideen was intent on overthrowing the Afghan government.

Fearing a rebel victory in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union sent troops to Afghanistan in late 1979.

While the Soviets had superior weaponry, the rebels fought the Soviets to a stalemate by using guerrilla tactics and intimate knowledge of the country’s mountainous terrain.
Most of the rebels had been trained and supported by the CIA through SAM Rocket Launchers and American $$

After suffering thousands of casualties, the last Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan in February 1989.

Fighting between rival factions continued for years.

By 2000, the Taliban, a radical Muslim faction, controlled 90 percent of Afghanistan. (Much of the same mujahideen that we had trained and armed!)
The Iran Hostage Crisis

• In January 1979, revolution broke out in Iran, replacing its pro-American shah, Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlevi, with Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, an anti-Western leader.

• When Carter allowed the displaced shah to enter the United States for medical treatment, angry Khomeini followers seized the American embassy in Tehran, Iran’s capital. Fifty-two Americans were taken hostage and moved from place to place over the course of 444 days.

• Carter’s failed attempts to secure the hostages’ freedom decreased his popularity and made his chances for reelection appear slim.
Iranian Hostage Crisis

- Fundamentalist Muslim movement overthrows Shah of Iran for Ayatollah Khomeini

- US allows Shah in country for medical treatment

- Iranians take 52 Americans in embassy hostage - hold until Carter leaves office
American Hostages in Iran
Alain Mingam/Gamma/Zuma Press
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Carter’s “Malaise Speech”

- “In a nation that was proud of hard work, strong families, close-knit communities, and our faith in God, too many of us now tend to worship self-indulgence and consumption.”
- “This intolerable dependence on foreign oil threatens our economic independence and the very security of our nation. The energy crisis is real.”
- “Every act of energy conservation like this is more than just common sense -- I tell you it is an act of patriotism.”
- Rather than give us a “Pep Talk” it was seen as a scolding. We are no longer “Amerigu”
I. The Rise of the New Right

A. Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan: Champions of the Right
   1. *The Conscience of a Conservative*
   2. Grassroots Conservatives

Goldwater begins movement away from Liberalism and New Deal/Great Society

Reagan gives speech at 1964 National Convention and becomes new poster boy for party!
I. The Rise of the New Right

B. Free-Market Economics and Religious Conservatism

1. A three-legged stool
   a. Anticommunism
   b. Free Market Economics
   c. Religious revival

2. The Religious Right
   a. Anti-Moral Decay
   b. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson
   c. With chaos, this seemed OK
Ronald Reagan
Conservative Backlash, 1965-1980

- Conservatives react against changes in America during the 1960s
- Too far to the left and time to redirect in a conservative way.
- America had changed
Conservative Groups & Leaders

- Barry Goldwater, AZ
- Orrin Hatch, UT
- Strom Thurmond, MS
- Ronald Reagan, CA
- Jerry Falwell
  - Evangelical/Rel
- Phyllis Schafly
  - Women Backlash
Ronald Reagan

- Poor early life in Illinois
  - Life Guard
  - Sports Radio Announcer
- Movie Actor- B type Movies
  - Remember the Gipper!
  - SAG President
  - Public gets to know him
- Famous speech in 1964
- Governor Reagan of Calif
- Anti-communist
- Charismatic
- The Great Communicator
- Teflon President
A Dramatic Start to the Reagan Presidency

• On March 30, 1981, Reagan survived an assassination attempt by John Hinkley Jr, who shot the president in an effort to impress actress Jodie Foster. Reagan was more badly injured than the administration reported, but he remained optimistic and his approval rating reached 73%.
II. The Dawning of the Conservative Age

A. The Reagan Coalition

1. The core of the Republican Party
   a. White, affluent, Protestant
   b. Balanced budget, Anti-Big Gov, National Defense

2. Moral Majority
   a. Religious Right strongly backs him
   b. Reagan Democrats = Catholic workers join
Realignement

**New Deal Coalition**
- Democratic South
- African-Americans
- Union members
- Urban North
- Immigrant/newer ethnic groups
- Farmers

**Reagan Coalition**
- Midwest small towns
- Wealthiest Americans
- Hawks on foreign policy
- Blue Collar in North and Midwest (union and non-union)
- White Southerners
- Evangelicals
- Yuppies
Reagan’s Clarity of Message

- Strong Defense = Destroy the USSR
- Cut taxes = Too high
- Cut Gov Spending = Reduce Great Society programs
- Balance the Budget = Not gonna happen!
II. The Dawning of the Conservative Age

B. Conservatives in Power

1. Reaganomics
   a. Supply Side/Trickle down
   b. Cut Taxes, wealthy will take this $ and invest
   c. Short term will cut revenue but long term increase
   d. Not realistic

2. Deregulation= The problem is Government
   a. Cuts budgets and mission of large Gov agencies
Reaganomics

• A response to “Stagflation”

• Reagan espoused supply-side economic theory.

• Supply-siders favored simultaneous tax cuts and reductions in spending to encourage investors and entrepreneurs.

• Trickle Down
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME IN THE 1980s

Source: United States Census Bureau
FIGURE 30.1 The Annual Federal Budget Deficit (or Surplus), 1940–2009
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II. The Dawning of the Conservative Age

B. Conservatives in Power (cont.)

3. Remaking the Judiciary=3 new; O’Connor

4. HIV/AIDS=Slow response (religion) = 100,000 deaths in 1980’s
II. The Dawning of the Conservative Age

C. Morning in America = Prosperity and message
   1. Election of 1984 = Confidence - Defeats Mondale
      2. Return to Prosperity = Service Economy
      3. Culture of Success = Message of success - Iacocca/Trump
      4. The Computer Revolution = Apple and Microsoft
LOOK, DEAR!
WHILE WE SLEPT,
THAT NICE MAN WENT
AND PRETTIED UP
THE FRONT YARD!

DEFICITS

WAIT'LL THEY SEE THE
BACK YARD!

GEORGE FISHER
Courtesy Arkansas Gazette

Presidential Landscaping
George Edward Fisher/Arkansas Democrat Gazette/The Arkansas Arts Center and Special Collections at the University of Arkansas
Chapter 30, America's History, Eighth Edition and America: A Concise History, Sixth Edition
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III. The End of the Cold War

A. U.S.-Soviet Relations in a New Era
   1. Reagan’s Cold War Revival=Anti Détente
      a. Rearm and outspent
      b. CIA around world (Central America)
   2. Iran-Contra= Huge controversy over secret sale of arms to Iran and profits used to benefit Contra Rebels in Nicaragua.
      a. Reagan seems old and out of touch
      b. “I don’t remember”
Iran Contra

• Crazy Scheme:
  – Nicaragua has Socialist Government
  – Sell Weapons to Iran
  – Take Money and siphon it to rebels (Contras) in Nicaragua since Congress won’t allow it

• Who was in control?
• Did Reagan know?
• Looks old and out and of touch
III. The End of the Cold War

A. U.S.-Soviet Relations in a New Era
   3. Gorbachev and Soviet Reform
      a. Reagan starts with tough language
      b. Puts USSR and Eastern Block on notice
      c. Scares USSR with Defense spending
      d. Star Wars
International Events

• End of the Cold War

• Reagan: “Evil Empire”

• Mikhail Gorbachev
  • Glasnost=
    – Openness, transparency
  • Perestroquia
    – Rebuilding the relationship

• Fall of the Berlin Wall
  – Mr. Gorbachev Tear Down this wall!
**Star Wars**

- In 1983, President Reagan proposed his Strategic Defense Initiative
- Becomes known as “Star Wars”
- Technology = Not even close
- Soviet Union tries to broker deal = No Nukes if you give up SDI
- Reagan refuses
- USSR realizes they can’t keep up
The Ultimate Example

• **Berlin 1987**
  • “Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this Wall!”
Slowly Reagan backs off as he realizes that Gorbachev is trying to negotiate. Will begin meeting by 1985 and is now willing to talk. By 1991 USSR, Cold War is over and USSR falls apart.
Reagan and the Berlin Wall
III. The End of the Cold War

B. A New Political Order at Home and Abroad

1. Election of 1988 = George HW Bush wins on Reagan record

2. Middle East = New Hot Spot

   a. Bush puts together coalition to defeat in Persian Gulf War. Wins easily but doesn’t replace Saddam.
George I: 1988-1992

- Rich Connecticut Family (Yale)
- WWII Hero
- Director of CIA
- VP to Reagan
- Invasion of Panama
- Iranian Revolution and Iran-Iraq War
- Read My Lips= “No new taxes”
Middle East

- **Persian Gulf War of 1991**
- Iraq invaded Kuwait to take oil
- US Sent 200,000 troops to Saudi Arabia *(Desert Shield)* warn Saddam Hussein
- Increased troops to 430,000 and in February 1991 invaded Iraq to free Kuwait *(Desert Storm)*
- International Coalition
Bush I

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- 1991 Rodney King, police brutality, and “riots / rebellion” in Los Angeles
  - Police acquitted
  - Over 50 died, $1 billion in damage

“Read my Lips- No New Taxes”

Comes back to haunt him when he makes deal with Dems and .......raises taxes......
Bush I

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“Read my Lips- No New Taxes”

Comes back to haunt him when he makes deal with Dems and …….raises taxes…..