



Modern America

Welcome!

These mini-lectures are an overview of your assigned readings—they should provide better understanding of what you are reading!

Just listen (if audio is provided, it plays automatically), then read the slide, and use the next arrowhead. If you are viewing this in PDF, use the down arrow at the top of the pdf.

Contents:

Reagan & conservatism

SDI

James Watt & the Environment

Reaganomics & Supply Side economics

Deficits

Reagan Doctrine & foreign policy

Iran-Contra Affair

Ending the cold War

NAFTA

Gulf War

ARPANET, dot.com economy

Don't Ask, Don't Tell & Impeachment

Growth of Terrorism & Immigration

A brief post test.





- Growth in evangelical churches.
- Televangelists
- Pat Robertson, 700 Club
- Jerry Falwell
- Wealthy donors.

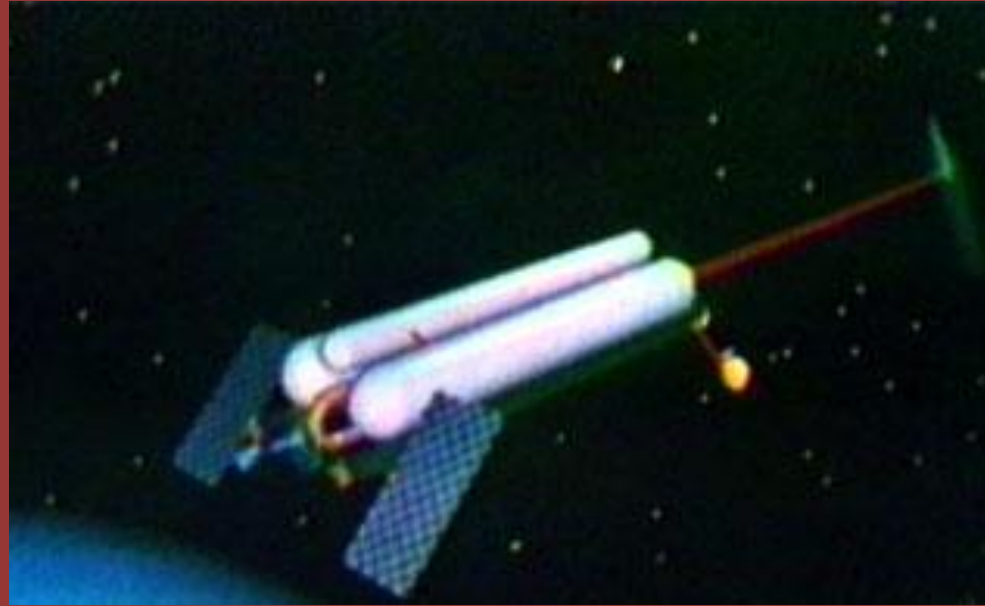
Reagan Popularity?



- He survived.
- Wife Nancy.
- Prosperity for middle class & rich.
- “There you go again.”

“Star Wars” Defense

- Very costly.
- An interception of offensive strikes anywhere in the world.
- Not approved.
- SDI debated still.



“Raped” the environment

- EPA head restricted action.
- James Watt, Interior Sec., sold oil rights to drillers to scenic coastlines.
- Millions outraged.
- Reagan vetoed Clean Water Act.

Reagan's Staff blamed

- James Watt resigned after this:
“I have a black, I have a woman, I have a Jew, and a cripple”.
- Other cabinet members and advisors left or were in trouble with courts.

Savings & Loan Disaster

- Congress deregulates S&L's after huge campaign contributions made. (1982)
- S&L's invested in riskier funds.
- Reagan reduced the number of regulatory examiners.
- S&L's went crazy. Millions lost money.

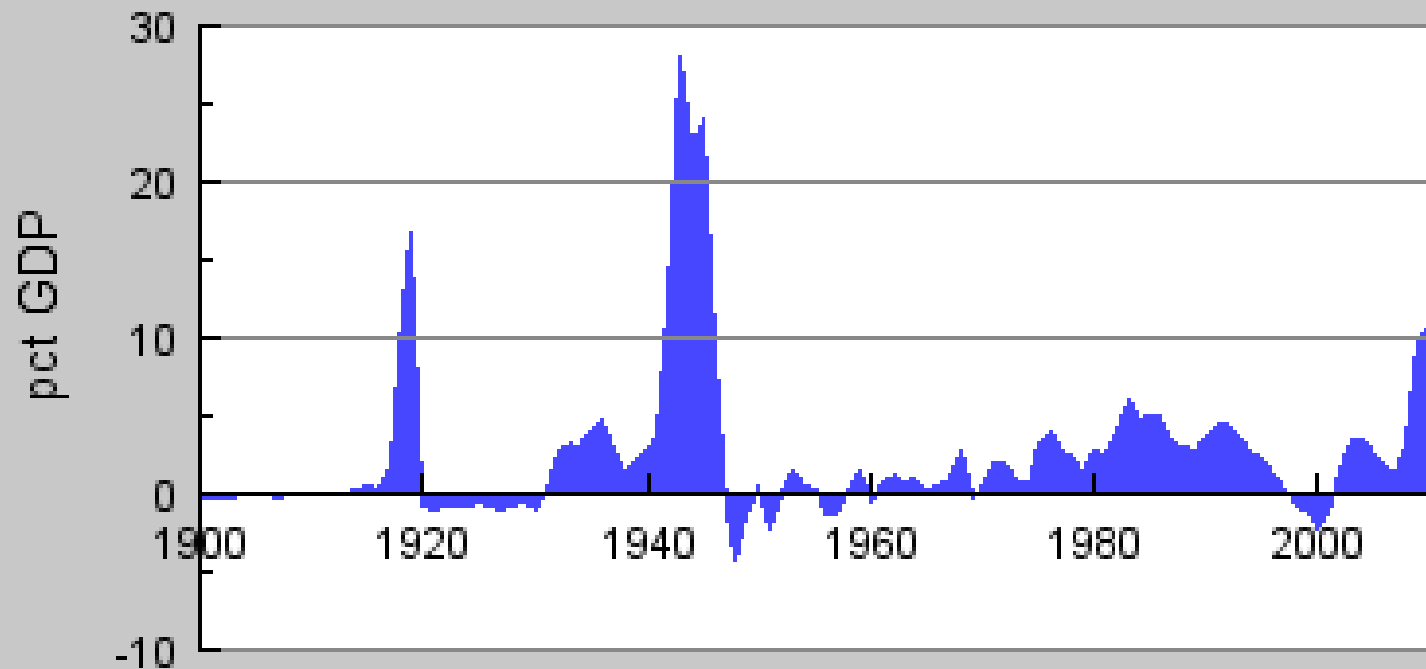
Reaganomics: 5 Goals

- Emphasize “supply side” –
- Cut taxes for the wealthy
- produce more goods (the “supply”)
- Profits would “drip down” to benefit all
- Government, reduced except for defense

Result: Deficit

- 1981 deficit: \$78,936,000,000
- 1985: \$212,260,000,000
- 1989: \$153,319,000,000
- Tax breaks went to luxury goods and homes, not investment.

US Federal Deficit As Percent Of GDP US from FY 1900 to FY 2010





Reagan borrowed more than the
previous 39 Presidents.

Prosperity Changed

- 1981 tax bill for incomes above \$500,000:
 - \$301,072
- 1988 tax bill for high incomes:
 - \$166,066
- Government revenues dropped 131 billion dollars.
- Low income housing aid dropped from \$32 billion to \$7 billion

Defense Contracts

- Paid \$7,417 for a pin costing 3 cents.
- \$2,543 to Hughes Aircraft for a circuit breaker costing \$3.64
- U.S. Air Force paid \$10,186.56 for tool kit worth \$92.44





HIV/AIDS

- Cumulative U.S. AIDS deaths:
 - 1981: 159
 - 1982: 619
 - 1983: 2,122
 - 1984: 5,620
 - 1985: 12,592 (Rock Hudson dies)
 - 1986: 24,669
 - 1987: 41,027 (Liberace dies)
 - Reagan uses the word for the first time.

Tough Guy Foreign Policy

- 1982—U.S. builds up weapons in Europe, but Russia outpaces American creating a new arms race .
- 1986—U. S. renounces SALT-I.
- SDI (Star Wars) system defeated.
- Re-commissioned battleships fail.
- \$30 billion B-1 bomber fails.

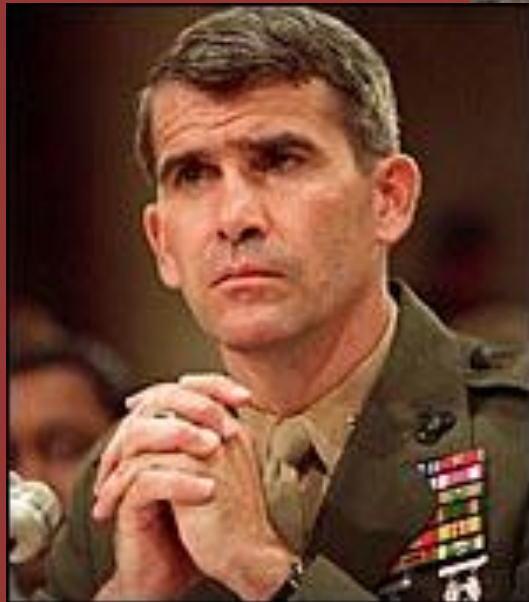


More Ineffective Agendas

- Reagan Doctrine—Russia=evil empire
- Aids radical Anti-Russian Muslims in Afghanistan
- Aid sent to Lebanon then withdrawn
- Ineffective bombing of Libya
- Interference in El Salvador & Haiti

IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

- Arms illegally & secretly sold to Iran for exchange of hostages held by Islamic Terrorists in Lebanon, with the profits illegally and secretly going to the CIA sponsored “Contras” fighting in Nicaragua.



1981—Reagan pronouncements label Iran a “sworn” enemy; and indicate Reagan will oppose any “neighbor” nation becoming “socialist”. Reagan also boasts he will never “negotiate with terrorists”.

1981—Congress also passes first Boland Amendment prohibiting funds to the CIA or DOD for any purpose related to “Contras”.

December 1981—US thru CIA aides fight of the “Contras” against the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua.

Spring 1984—Congress, feeling public pressure and fears of another Vietnam, passes two laws strictly prohibiting aid to the Contras; and Reagan signs the laws.

1984—Congress adopts stronger Boland Amendment further prohibiting funds to the CIA or DOD for any purpose related to “Contras”.

1985—National Security Council (NSC) staff begin to raise private funds to aid “Contras”.

Summer 1985—NSC diverts sales of arms to Contras; but reports to Congress that no laws were being broken.

The National Security Act required Congress to be informed of all covert actions.

President Reagan officially signs a “finding” authorizing NSC to aid the Contras

June 1985—Iran proposes an exchange of missiles for hostages.

NSC staffers John Poindexter and Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North organize sale

Arms...to Israel...sold to Iran...negotiations for hostages break down...profits fund the “Enterprise” (assisted illegally by the CIA) to fight the war in Nicaragua.

President’s staff like Weinberger and Schultz opposed, but North in control.

1986—Lebanon paper exposes profits deal and use of funds by Contras.

Public & Congress outraged, calls for investigation, even impeachment loom.

...President appoints committee that finds Reagan did know of the deal...

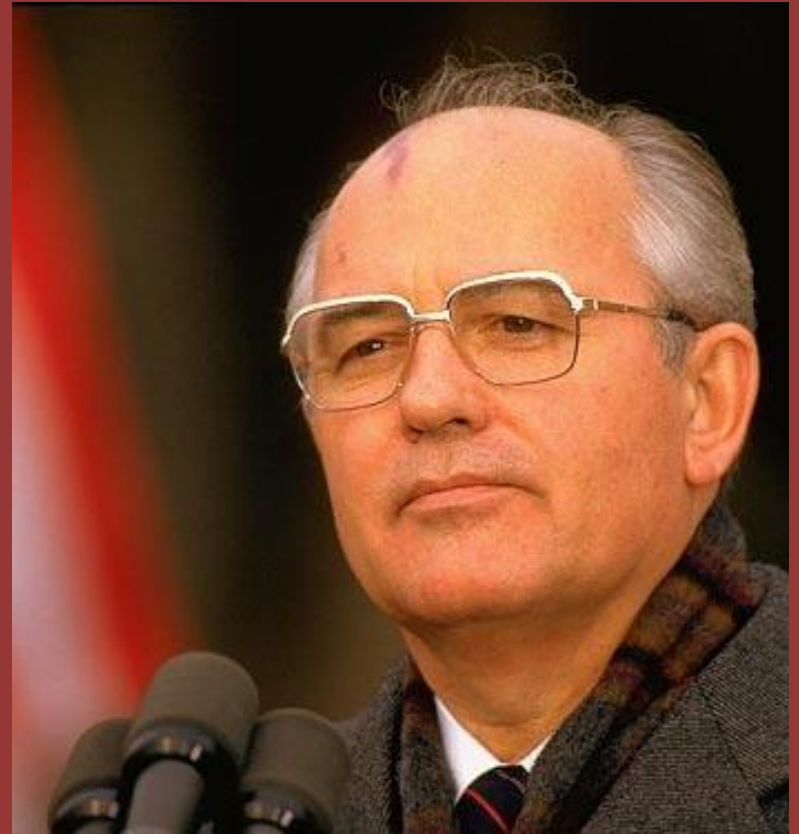
...North testifies he is a “patriot” and was following “orders” ...

...Eventually 14 people were accused, several sent to brief jail terms then pardoned by President Bush.

...Reagan’s popularity declined, but impeachment talks die off

End of the Cold War

- Mikhail Gorbachev
- 1985 Summit
- Arms Reduction
- 11.1989 Berlin Wall falls
- “Glasnost” openness
- “Perestroika” economic change



First George Bush

- NAFTA
- North American Free Trade Agreement



Bush Foreign Policy

- 1989 Noriega ousted from Panama
- Troops in El Salvador
- Supports Aristide in Haiti



Invasion of Kuwait

- August 2, 1990 Iraq invades Kuwait
- Saudi Arabia threatened
- U.N. resolutions
- Congress narrowly votes for action



Winning the War—CNN war

- Norman Schwarzkopf
- 42 day victory
- Hussein in power, but air limits
- 145 Americans killed
- 425,000 U.S. troops
- 118,000 U.N. troops
- “kicked the Vietnam syndrome”



Computers

- ARPA—Advanced Research Project Agency—est. 1957 after Sputnik
- IPTO—Information Processing Techniques Office, 1962
- Group nicknamed time share computing “Intergalactic Network”
- ARPA became ARPANET—more than a “arithmetic machine”
- Today—83% of homes have a pc—those have 1.6 pc’s!

Dot.Com economy

- IPO's weekly
- Growth
 - Yahoo, 239%
 - Sony, 136%
 - Nasdaq, 50%
- 2000, stock crash caused \$2 trillion loss



Domestic Violence

- 1997—16 yo kills Mother and family
- Schools erupt in Kentucky, Arkansas, & Oregon
- 1999 Columbine, 13 dead



Clinton in Office

- 1992, Bush, Clinton, Perot
- Clinton wins with help from Perot
- Promises health care and lower deficits
- “Don’t ask, don’t tell” for gays in military
- 1996--Whitewater and Paula Jones

Clinton & Foreign Affairs

- 1993 failure in Somalia
- Successful U.N. operation in Kosovo
- 1993 Agreement between Israel and Palestine—later failed
- 2000 new peace accord in Palestine

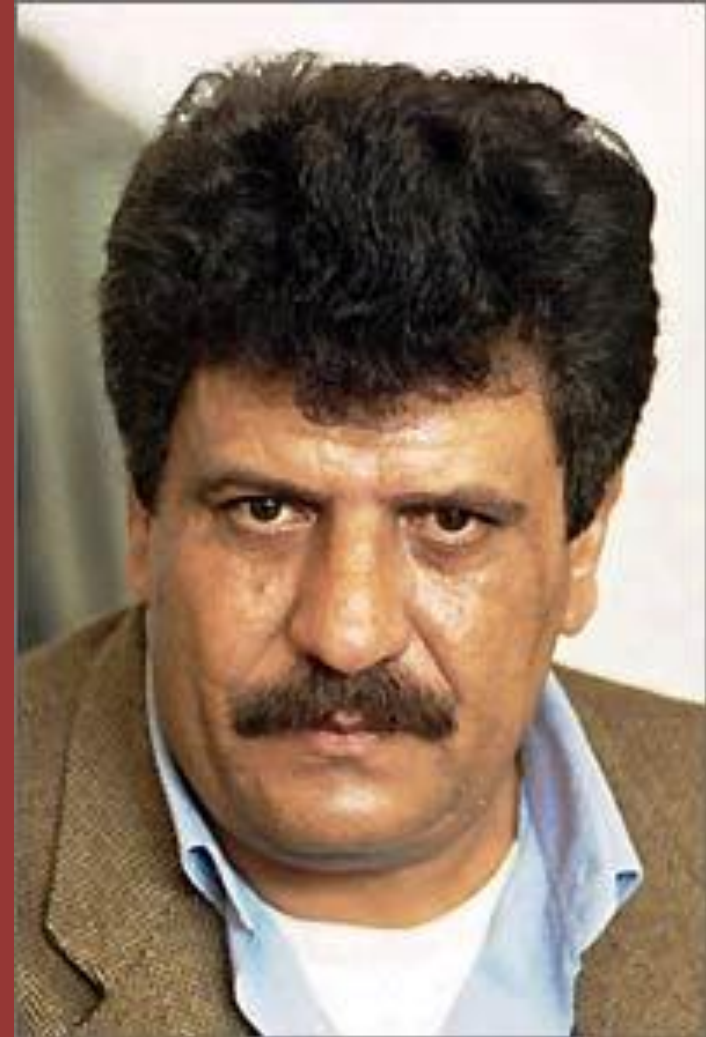
Impeachment

- Testimony in Jones case
- Led to Lewinsky
- Clinton denies relationship
- Rebutted by Lewinsky friend
- Clinton charged with perjury
- Five day Senate trial, acquittal



Tracing Terrorism

- 1985 Achille Lauro
- Abu Abbas
- American killed
- Terrorists given passage to Libya
- U.S. planes capture some
- Libyan terrorists bomb nightclubs, Reagan retaliates



PanAm 103, 1988

- 270 killed
- Libya blamed
- U.N. embargo
- 2002 Qaddafi hands over suspects



World Trade Center 1993

- 6 killed
- car bomb in garage
- 1,000 injured
- Ramzi Ahmed Yousef convicted and jailed



Oklahoma City

- April 1995
- Truck bomb outside federal building
- 169 killed, 850 injured
- Terrorists blamed
- Timothy McVey convicted



Saudi Arabia

- Large American “compounds”
- 1995—car bomb kills 6
- Militants caught and beheaded by King
- Dharam, 19 soldiers killed

Kenya & Tanzania

- Trucks with bombs approach U.S. camps
- 224 killed—24 Americans, 5,000 injured
- Terrorists with ties to Al-Qaeda arrested

U.S.S. Cole

- Oct. 2000
- Yemen
- Terrorist in rubber raft
- 17 Americans killed



How did we react?

- Attacks far away
- Non-threatening
- Most not on our soil
- Many terrorists caught and punished

Older America

- 1900 = 4% over 65
- 2000 = 13% over 65
- Life expectancy
 - 63 in 1930
 - 78 (81 females) in 2010
- By 2030, 20% over 65
- Only 12% below poverty line
- 70% own homes
- Average income \$21,000
- 70% vote regularly

Immigration Growth

- 1950s—1 million
- 1960s—2.25 million
- 1970s—3 million
- 1980s—4 million
- 1990s—6 million



1970-1990

- Asia—4,451,000
- Mexico—2,290,000
- Caribbean—1,653,000
- South America—1,330,000

Recent Immigration Law

- 1965—preference to families
- 1980—political refugees accepted, but not economic refugees
- 1987—defined “illegals” in broad terms



Truth About Immigrants

- Most incorporate quickly
- Vast majority use English
- Most are employed and pay more taxes than they use
- 1998—42% of Americans viewed immigration as “bad for the nation”.

Trends

- Mexican-Americans poorest
- Asian-Americans wealthiest and best educated
- Growing Mexican immigration
- Education a telling issue

Education

- Hispanics, h.s. = 57%
- Non Hispanic white, h.s. = 88%
- Hispanics, BA = 11%
- Non Hispanic Whites, BA = 28%
- African Americans, BA = 1%
- Asians, BA = 47%

A divided America?

- Top 1% earners saw income grow 200%
 - Poorest 20% saw income drop 6%
- African Americans are twice as likely to be victims of violent crime than Asians
- White Americans are twice as likely to own homes as Black Americans
- Divisions over social, economic, and foreign policies?



A Brief Post Test! Read the question, then click on the best answer to see feedback.

1. President Reagan's agenda fit well with conservative religious views. True. False.
2. One of Reagan's military failures was the failure to pass SDI. True. False.
3. The Reagan Doctrine focused on Mexico. True. False.
4. Reagan's supply side economics helped the poor the most. True. False.
5. Reagan dramatically increased the budget deficit. True. False.
6. The Iran Contra affair involved missiles for hostages exchanges . True. False.
7. The Iran Contra affair resulted in no funds going to the Contras. True. False.
8. The NAFTA treaty promoted free trade in North America. True. False.
9. The Gulf War was a secret CIA operation. True. False.
10. President Clinton was impeached but found not guilty of perjury. True. False.
11. A small rubber raft from a terrorist group disabled the *USS Cole*. True. False.
12. Among recent immigrants, Asians are most prosperous. True. False.





Good! That is Correct!

**[Click to return to the Post
Test!](#)**



Yikes! Try that again!

**[Click to return to the Post
Test!](#)**