Ronald Reagan
The Great Communicator
The New Right

• In electing Richard Nixon in 1968, frustrated voters rejected_________ in favor of ___________ and the status quo.

• Fed by economic worries and unsettling social changes, the shift away from liberalism continued in the_________.

• Collectively, this shift led to a “___________” in American politics.
The Women’s Movement Faces a Backlash

- A weak economy with more women working outside the home stirred resentment among men worried about losing their jobs.
- Conservatives attacked “radical feminism” as pro-abortion and ______________.
- The proposed ______________ (ERA) brought these tensions to the surface.
Opponents of the ERA mobilize...

• In 1978, Phyllis Schlafly told a rally, “The American people do not want the ERA, and they do not want government-funded______________, lesbian privileges or ______________.”

• Her organization—______________—fought the ERA as “the entering wedge of a radical assault on morality and tradition.” (qtd. in Boyer 386)
The ERA is Defeated

- Led by Schlafly (on right), opponents charged that the ERA would force women into combat and require unisex toilets.
- Despite an extension to 1982, the amendment died________short of ratification.
Significance of Reagan’s Election

Left-right defined as accepted level of government intervention in the economy:
left = more gov’t intervention         right = less gov’t intervention
The Reagan Agenda:

1. _______________________________________

2. Gov’t was the problem, not the solution. Solution: shrink the gov’t (_________
   _______________)

3. Conservative social agenda (anti abortion, family values, “Just Say No” to drugs)

4. __________________________ & aggressive foreign policy vs. the Soviet Union
Balancing the budget was one of Reagan’s key goals. He was very critical of the budget deficit and national debt, which, under Carter in 1979, seemed very high.
We are a nation that has a government – not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government, which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed. It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people.
Arthur Laffer and

- Economist Arthur Laffer was the first to argue that cutting taxes for businesses & the wealthiest Americans would _____________________________.
- He argued that tax cuts would, over time, _____________________________.
- Wealth would ”__________________”/find its way into the middle and poorer classes making everyone better off (more jobs, opportunities)
- Ronald Reagan was a strong supporter of Laffer’s theory and put these ideas into practice as President.
Reagan believed that if he could cut taxes and public welfare programs, and eliminate as much regulation of business as possible, it would stimulate the economy and tax revenues would increase.
The Three Tiers of Reaganomics

• **Tax Cuts:**
  – Believed that lower taxes result in investment, greater productivity, more supply, lower prices
  – Congress decreases taxes by ______________________

• **Increased Defense Spending:**
  – ___________________ budget almost doubled; more than offset cuts in social programs.
  – Reagan asks scientists to create the Strategic Defense Initiative, an anti-missile defense system.

• **Budget Cuts:** maintained entitlement programs that benefited the middle class (_______________________ and ____________________) while cutting programs that benefited the poor, urban populations
Taxes: During Reagan’s first term, Congress passed the largest tax cut in history—along with military spending, the result was ____________.
DEFENSE SPENDING:
Reagan also built up the armed forces and increased military spending.

Congress embarked on a $1.6 trillion military expansion.
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPENDING*

*IN CONSTANT 2011 DOLLARS. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (MARCH 2010)
BUDGET CUTS: Programs directed at the poor and middle class were reduced by $41 billion. As a result, the gap between rich and poor grew tremendously.

What happened to incomes during the Reagan era?
Growth Of Family Income

1947-1979: We All Grew

- Bottom 20%: +116%
- Second 20%: +100%
- Middle 20%: +111%
- Fourth 20%: +114%
- Top 20%: +99%

1980-2007: We Grew Apart

- Bottom 20%: +15%
- Second 20%: +22%
- Middle 20%: +23%
- Fourth 20%: +33%
- Top 20%: +95%

Avg $1.9 Million/yr

- Only +31% When Top 1% Backed Out

©2011 Design by Witte Design, LLC • Tucson, Arizona • www.ConnectTheDotsUSA.com
What happened to the national debt? It increased from __________ in 1981 to ___________ in 1989. Reagan’s deficits total more than the deficits of all the presidents before him combined.

The National Debt Climbs

- Spending outstrips revenues; new 1982 taxes do not balance budget
- National debt almost doubles by end of Reagan’s first term
Reaganomics: Revenue vs. Deficit

What happened to the U.S. deficit vs. revenue as a result of the 1981 tax cuts?
What happened to the U.S. national debt as a result of Reaganomics?
Reagan was anti-tax, anti-union, and fiercely anti-communist. Early in his term, he took strong action against the Professional Air Traffic Controller’s Organization (PATCO).

In August 1981, PATCO called an ______________, which shut down the nation’s commercial airline traffic.
• Although PATCO _________________________, the President threatened to fire any striker who did not return to work within 48 hours.
• Much to PATCO’s surprise, Reagan carried out his threat and fired __________ striking air traffic controllers.
• Military personnel were called in to oversee the air traffic system until new air traffic controllers could be hired.
Impact of the__________________

• Workers represented by unions had been falling since the_________; Reagan’s response to PATCO encouraged employers to ______________________.

• The number of strikes fell dramatically after_______, as workers became increasingly concerned about losing their jobs.

• Union membership fell sharply as well; by _______, only about_______ of private sector workers were unionized.
Social Concerns in the 1980s

• Health Issues
  – AIDS: destroys immune system, makes body prone to infections, cancer
    • 1980s, epidemic grows; increasing concern over prevention, cure
    • Access to good health care is not equal to that in most developed nations. AIDS is ignored as it develops into a national epidemic.

• Abortion
  – 1980s, battle over abortion intensifies
  – 1989, Supreme Court rules states may place restrictions on abortion
Judicial Power Shifts to the Right

• Supreme Court Appointments:
  – Other Reagan, Bush appointments make Court more conservative

• Court places restrictions on civil rights, abortion
Re-election 1984

• The_______________________________
  – Reagan forges large coalition of diverse groups: businesspeople, Southerners, Westerners, Reagan Democrats

• Democrat Walter Mondale chooses Geraldine Ferraro as running mate (first woman on major party’s presidential ticket)

Reagan/Bush wins by landslide.
The “Morning in America” Campaign Ads

• In 1984, the economy_________________. Oil prices were low and the mounting federal deficit caused little public concern. Public confidence in the__________________.

• The Reagan ads for the campaign, collectively known "___________________" were particularly effective.

• With brightly lit montages of idyllic scenes of suburban life and swelling music, the ads evoked a Norman Rockwell vision of the country, suggesting that President Reagan had restored __________________________.

• By asking, “Do we really want to go back to where we were four short years ago?” the ads also gently attacked the Democratic candidate, ________________________________ ____________________________, by linking him to the Carter presidency.
Middle East Trouble Continues

• The Iran-Contra Scandal
  – 1983, terrorists loyal to Iran take 7 Americans hostage in Lebanon
  – Reagan says no negotiating with terrorists; instead sells arms for hostages
  – Staff then diverted some of the profits to fund the Contras, a revolutionary group trying to overthrow the pro-communist Sandinista govt. in Nicaragua
    • This action violated Boland Amendment, passed in 1984 to ban the Defense Dept. and CIA’s use of military aid to fund military actions in Nicaragua.
  – Though Reagan denied any involvement, Oliver North testified before Congress that both Reagan and Bush knew of the events and their cover-up. No evidence was ever founding linking Reagan to the sale.
  – 1987, Congressional committees hold joint TV hearings
  – 1988, several staffers indicted; 1992, Bush pardons Reagan officials