

Period 9: 1980–Present Political and Foreign Policy Adjustments in a Globalized World

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TIMELINE

- 1976 Election of Jimmy Carter
- 1978 Panama Canal Treaty
Camp David Accords
- 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear accident
Formation of the Moral Majority
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
Iranian students seize U.S. embassy; hold hostages for over a year
- 1980 United States boycotts Olympic games held in Moscow
Election of Ronald Reagan
- 1981 Release of American hostages held in Iran
Reagan fires striking air traffic controllers
- 1984 Reelection of Ronald Reagan
- 1985 Founding of the Democratic Leadership Council
- 1987 Iran-Contra hearings
- 1988 Election of George H. W. Bush
- 1989 Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm
Collapse of the Soviet Union
- 1993 Fighting in Mogadishu, Somalia
Ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- 1994 House Republicans issue the "Contract With America"
Both houses of Congress shift from Democratic to Republican control
- 1995 Peace treaty signed in Ohio between Serbian, Bosnian, and Croatian leaders
- 1998 Impeachment of President Clinton
- 1999 NATO Bombing of Serbia in response to violence in Kosovo
- 2001 Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

"Whip Inflation Now"

President Gerald Ford attempted to address the economic malaise of the 1970s, but his solutions struck the public as inadequate. Ford's most public initiative was the promotion of the Whip Inflation Now (WIN) campaign. The campaign encouraged people to be more disciplined with their money. Supporters were encouraged to wear "WIN" buttons.

The OPEC Oil Embargo and the Energy Crisis of the 1970s

Starting with the OPEC oil embargo in 1973, fuel prices rose dramatically in the 1970s. America had to confront a stark reality—there are limits to the amount of fossil fuels, particularly petroleum, available in the world, and much of it comes from the volatile Middle East. Up until the 1970s, Americans assumed that petroleum was a cheap, inexhaustible commodity. The 1970s saw a dramatic spike in petroleum prices and long lines at gas pumps.

Nuclear Energy and Three Mile Island

Some Americans put faith in nuclear energy as an alternative to fossil fuels. Electricity is generated by the spinning of turbines. In power plants, steam spins the turbines. The problem is generating energy to boil water to produce steam. In a nuclear power plant, a nuclear reaction generates that energy, rather than the burning of coal or oil. The material needed for nuclear power, such as uranium, is relatively cheap and plentiful, and the reaction does not produce the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. However, there are problems associated with the nuclear power. The waste product of a nuclear reaction is radioactive and must be safely disposed of. Also, accidents can occur that can have devastating effects on the environment. The worst nuclear accident in world history was in Chernobyl, Ukraine (formerly part of the Soviet Union) in 1986. The worst accident in United States history occurred at the Three Mile Island power plant in Pennsylvania (1979). These accidents raised significant concerns among Americans about the safety of nuclear power and the government's ability to effectively regulate it. Currently, nearly 20 percent of electricity is generated by nuclear power in the United States.

Foreign Policy "Failures" of the 1970s

President Jimmy Carter (1977–1981) faced a number of foreign policy challenges with mixed results. In one area, pursuing peace in the Middle East, Carter achieved a major victory. In regard to the Panama Canal Zone and the Iran hostage crisis (1979–1981), the results of Carter's foreign policy were more mixed and provided an opening for Republicans to assert that Carter had left the United States in a weaker position.

The Camp David Accords (1978)

President Carter succeeded in providing a foundation for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The Camp David Accords are considered one of the few triumphs for President Carter's troubled presidency. Since the founding of Israel in 1948, tensions have existed in the Middle East. The Arab nations refused to recognize Israel's right to exist. Four wars occurred between Israel and its neighbors between 1948 and 1973. In 1977 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat broke with the other leaders of the Arab world and flew to Israel to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Negotiations ensued between the two leaders but they were unable to come up with a peace treaty. President Carter invited the two leaders to

troubled by the assertiveness of African Americans in the 1960s, and pined for an early time, in which everyone "knew their place." The public nature of drug-consumption in the 1960s also angered cultural conservatives.

Opposition to *Roe v. Wade*

The issue that propelled the cultural conservatives from the margins to prominence was abortion. In the wake of the 1973 decision, religious conservatives found their voice. The issue propelled evangelical Protestants to put aside their long-held suspicions of Catholicism, and create a broad Christian conservative movement.

The Moral Majority and Focus on the Family

The religious and cultural wing of the New Right found voice in several grassroots organizations. The Moral Majority was founded by the Reverend Jerry Falwell, a Southern Baptist pastor, in 1979. In the mid-1970s he embarked on a series of "I Love America" rallies. These rallies broke a traditional Baptist principle of separating religion from politics. Falwell asserted that this separation was at the heart of the moral decay that was afflicting America.

Focus on the Family was founded in 1977 by psychologist James Dobson. The organization is interdenominational, bridging the traditional divide between Catholics and Protestants. The organization promotes an abstinence-only approach to sexual education, the reintroduction of prayer into the schools, and reinforcement of traditional gender roles. The organization has stood against the expansion of rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people; it has been vocal in its opposition to same-sex marriage. The organization is one of the leading voices in the movement against abortion.

II. The Achievements and Limits of the Conservative Domestic Agenda

The conservative movement achieved electoral successes in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s and witnessed the implementation of some of its policy and political goals. However, this period also made evident the limits of conservative reform—many of the government programs it sought to curtail or eliminate enjoyed broad public support.

A. REFORM IN THE ECONOMIC REALM; RESISTANCE IN THE SOCIAL REALM

The New Right achieved remarkable victories in terms of lowering taxes and deregulating business. The movement was less successful in implementing its moral agenda, meeting inertia and resistance.

The New Right and the Election of Ronald Reagan

The New Right achieved a remarkable victory in the nomination and election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. Reagan had been a well-known actor in B-movies from the 1930s to the 1960s. He was president of the Screen Actors Guild in the 1940s and 1950s. He became increasingly interested in politics, first as a New Deal Democrat. By the 1950s, he became increasingly anticommunist, and became an active Republican in the 1960s. He served as governor of California from 1967 to 1975.

Impeachment Proceedings

An important turning point in the deterioration of relations between the two main political parties was the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton. The proceedings demonstrated the growing strength of the more conservative elements within the Republican Party. Republicans doggedly pursued evidence of scandal relating to President Clinton. During his first term, Kenneth Starr was appointed as an independent council to investigate the Clintons' participation in a failed and fraudulent real estate project in Arkansas that dated back to 1978, when Bill Clinton was governor. Starr pursued the Whitewater case relentlessly, but never tied the Clintons to the fraud.

President Clinton, however, was not able to avoid implication in a more salacious scandal. Clinton was publicly accused of having a sexual affair with a White House intern named Monica Lewinsky. Clinton denied the accusations publicly and also before a federal grand jury. When Clinton was later forced to admit the affair, Congressional Republicans felt they had evidence of impeachable crimes—lying to a grand jury and obstructing justice. Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1998. Impeachment is the act of bringing charges against a federal official; it is parallel to indictment in the criminal court system. After impeachment by the House, the Senate conducts a trial, based on the charges listed in the “articles of impeachment.” Clinton was found “not guilty” by the Senate (two-thirds are needed for conviction). The entire incident reflected the tense relationship between the two major political parties. Clinton emerged from the affair largely unscathed. Many Americans disapproved of his personal misconduct, but resented the attempt by Republicans to remove him from office.

IMPEACHMENT

Impeachment is not synonymous with removal from office. Impeachment is the act of bringing charges against the president (or other federal official). It is parallel to indictment in the criminal court system. After impeachment by the House, the Senate conducts a trial, based on the charges listed in the “articles of impeachment.” If found guilty of these charges, the president is removed from office.

The Presidency of George W. Bush

The New Right achieved a major victory with the election of George W. Bush in 2000. Bush, the son of the forty-first president, George H. W. Bush, was governor of Texas and had little national exposure. He ushered the country through the aftermath of one of the most tumultuous events on American soil since the Civil War—the terrorist attacks of 2001 (see page 313). By the end of his second term, public approval of his presidency was at an historic low, hampering the chances of the Republicans to hold on to the White House.

The Election of 2000

The 2000 election for president reflected political divisions in the United States and was one of the most contentious elections in American history. The voting in Florida was split almost evenly between the Democratic candidate, Vice President Al Gore, and Republican candidate George W. Bush. This would not have been such a problem beyond Florida, but, based on the electoral votes of the other 49 states, neither candidate had 270 electoral votes, the number needed to be declared the winner. After several weeks of legal wrangling in Florida, the U.S.

tyranny. To some extent the movement is a creation of the media—heavily promoted by the Fox News channel, and to some extent it represents a grassroots sense of discontent with big government. The movement often exhibits hyperbolic language, predicting the onset of “tyranny,” “fascism,” and “communism.”

B. REDUCING “BIG GOVERNMENT”: RHETORIC AND REALITY

Republicans repeatedly declared the era of “big government” was coming to an end. However, Republican administrations witnessed an increase in the size and scope of the government, as it became evident that eliminating or reducing popular programs would be politically dangerous.

The Expansion of Medicare and Medicaid

Since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s “Great Society” (see Period 8), both programs have expanded. Medicare provides health insurance to those over sixty-five, who have worked and paid into the system, and to those with disabilities. Medicaid is a government insurance program for low-income people. Both programs have, over the years, added conditions and situations that would qualify for coverage. In addition, as people live longer—the “graying of America”—the costs to the Medicare program increase. Despite Reagan’s promise’s to end “big government,” he led the effort to pass a Social Security reform bill designed to ensure the long-term solvency of the program and supported the expansion of the Medicare program to protect the elderly and disabled against “catastrophic” health costs.

Growth of the Federal Deficit

President Reagan’s pro-business economic policies had mixed results. By cutting corporate taxes and taxes on wealthy individuals he cut government revenues. But, at the same time, he increased spending on armaments. This combination of increased spending and decreased revenues led to a doubling of the national debt from around \$900 billion in 1980 to over \$2 trillion in 1986. A large debt is a problem because it requires large interest payments. By 1988, the interest on the national debt had reached 14 percent of total annual government expenditures. This huge debt has hindered economic growth to some degree since and forced future administrations to make difficult decisions in regard to keeping the debt under control.

KEY CONCEPT 9.2

THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND THE REDEFINITION OF FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

The United States redefined its role in the world in the 1990s and 2000s and had to redefine its foreign policy as well. This change was a response to the ending of the Cold War and growing importance of global terrorism.

I. The End of the Cold War

President Reagan had gained prominence earlier in his career as a strong anticommunist. He brought this rhetoric to the White House, and pursued an aggressive anticommunist agenda. His interventionist approach to foreign policy set the tone for the following administrations.

gress, alarmed at reports of human rights abuses by the Contras, passed the Boland Amendment, to halt U.S. aid to the group.

Congressional action did not deter members of the Reagan administration from funding the Contras. An elaborate scheme was developed by members of the administration to secretly sell weapons to Iran and use funds from these sales to fund the Contras. In 1986, details of the Iran-Contra affair became public. Ultimately fourteen members of the Reagan administration were tried for violating U.S. law, and eleven were convicted. Among the convicted was Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Oliver North of the National Security Council, an architect of the program, was also initially convicted, but the convictions were overturned on appeal. Reagan himself claimed to not have direct knowledge of the program. Critics labeled him the "Teflon president," because accusations of wrongdoing did not stick to him.

President George Bush and the Persian Gulf War

President George H. W. Bush's main accomplishments were in the field of foreign affairs. It was during Bush's presidency that the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Union collapsed. After Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, invaded neighboring Kuwait in an attempt to gain more control over the region's oil reserves, President Bush organized a United Nations military coalition to challenge the move. The Persian Gulf War involved Operation Desert Storm successfully removing Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991. During the Persian Gulf War significant numbers of women served in combat roles for the first time.

Chaos in Somalia

President Bill Clinton deployed U.S. forces to aid a United Nations humanitarian mission in Somalia in 1993. Troubles in Somalia began earlier, in 1991, after the government was toppled and fighting broke out between competing factions. The fighting in Somalia resulted in widespread famine, with more than half a million people dying. The United Nations took the initiative to deliver food to Somalia, but much of it was stolen by the warring factions and sold for weapons. In December 1992, President Bush had approved the use of United States troops to aid U.N. relief activities. By 1993, these U.S. troops had come under attack, resulting in intense fighting in the capital, Mogadishu. American forces suffered nineteen deaths. The mission soon ended.

Democracy in Haiti

President Clinton took the lead in insuring a transition to democracy in Haiti in 1994. After decades of dictatorship, a democratic election brought Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in 1990. Subsequently, a Haitian army general ousted him. Clinton announced American intentions to use force, if necessary, to return Aristide to power. The United Nations authorized such a move, but former President Jimmy Carter was dispatched to Haiti to try to negotiate an end to military rule. He was successful, and Aristide returned to power in 1995.

Intervention in the Former Yugoslavia

The Clinton administration, like previous Democratic administrations, set out broad domestic reform goals but became enmeshed in foreign policy matters. Clinton became increasingly concerned about violence in the former Yugoslavia. Under communism, Yugoslavia had been a patchwork of different ethnicities. After communism fell in 1989, the country

deterrence and containment. Bush put forth a more aggressive approach in the fall of 2002 that called for preemptive strikes against nations perceived as threats to the United States. In a speech at West Point, Bush identified an "axis of evil" consisting of Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. This reliance on preemptive warfare is known as the Bush Doctrine.

President Obama and the Muslim World

President Obama has taken a variety of steps in regard to the Muslim world. Soon after coming into office, Obama made a major speech in Cairo, Egypt, pledging to mend relations with the Muslim world. He has committed additional forces to Afghanistan while beginning a withdrawal of troops from Iraq. During the 2008 campaign, Obama repeatedly pledged to commit United States forces to finding and killing Osama Bin Laden. That pledge was fulfilled in the spring of 2011.

In 2011, Obama spoke favorably of the changes brought about by the "Arab Spring" protests in the Middle East and North Africa. He committed United States forces, working with European allies, to challenge forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. Qaddafi was ousted and killed in 2011.

II. The United States in the Age of Global Terrorism

The terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 caused the United States to focus its foreign policy on the war on terrorism. The actions taken by the United States, both at home and abroad, have generated debate about security and civil liberties.

A. THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF 2001 AND THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE

Following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, a series of foreign policy and military initiatives began aimed at preventing future terrorist attacks. These initiatives included prolonged and controversial military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Terrorist Attacks Against the United States

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists working with the al-Qaeda network hijacked four domestic airplanes. The idea was to turn the airplanes into missiles that would destroy symbols of American power. One plane was flown into the Pentagon, inflicting heavy damage, and one plane crashed in a field after the hijackers were overtaken by passengers. The other two airplanes did the most damage, crashing into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The damage inflicted on each building weakened their structures so that both buildings collapsed within two hours. Approximately 3,000 people died in the four incidents, the vast majority of the deaths occurring at the World Trade Center.

War with Iraq

The terrorist attacks of 2001 were soon followed by President Bush initiating military action on two fronts—Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Iraqi Freedom, begun in 2003, was the attempt by the United States to remove Saddam Hussein from office and create a less belligerent and more democratic government in Iraq. President Bush insisted that Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction that could be used against the United States and its allies. U.S. forces failed to find evidence of such weapons. The administration also suggested that there was a connection between Hussein and the terrorist attacks of 2001. No evidence of

President Obama and the War on Terrorism

Some of the concerns about the way the war on terrorism was being carried out under the administration of President George W. Bush helped elevate Barack Obama to the White House in 2008, over Republican John McCain. In 2011, the Obama administration was able to report that a Navy "SEAL Team Six" had killed Osama bin Laden. However, to the disappointment of many of Obama's supporters in 2008, President Obama has continued many of the controversial antiterrorism policies begun during the Bush administration and has pursued some new programs. The Patriot Act, for instance, is still in effect. In 2011, Obama allowed for the extension of three controversial measures within the Patriot Act that were set to expire. During the election campaign in 2008, he called the reports of prisoner abuse at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp "a sad chapter in American history" and promised to close it down by 2009. As of 2014, he has not closed it down.

In addition, President Obama has generated a great deal of debate over the increased use of unmanned drone attacks on suspected terrorist targets. The program, begun under President George W. Bush, has been greatly expanded under the Obama administration, despite it being criticized as "extrajudicial killings," and "summary justice" by the United Nations. Finally, President Obama renewed a clandestine program known as PRISM, which allows the National Security Agency to conduct mass data mining of phone, Internet, and other communications—including, under certain circumstances, those of United States citizens. The clandestine program was exposed by a computer specialist and former NSA contractor, Edward Snowden, in 2013. The revelations revived the ongoing debate among Americans around the protection of civil liberties in the age of global terrorism.

KEY CONCEPT 9.3

CHALLENGES FACING THE UNITED STATES AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the United States faced a series of challenges related to a variety of social, economic, and demographic changes.

I. The United States, the Global Economy, and Public Policy

In the late twentieth and early twenty-first century the United States moved toward greater integration into the world economy. This move toward increased participation in globalization has been accompanied by economic instability and a series of challenges around ecological and social change, and around public policy.

A. THE PERSISTENCE OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

At the close of the twentieth century, the gap between the wealthy and the rest of the population widened in the United States. Workers in the United States experienced stagnation in terms of real wages as union membership declined and manufacturing jobs were eliminated.

The Growth of the Income Gap

Since the 1970s, economists have noted that the income gap between the wealthy and the middle class has grown increasingly wide. The income for the top earning 1 percent of households increased by about 275 percent between 1979 and 2007, while the middle 60 percent of wage-earners saw their income rise by just under 40 percent during the same period. The

tions, ensure workers rights, or protect fledgling industries from foreign competition. Clinton's championing of NAFTA represents a conscious decision by Clinton to try to move the Democratic Party away from its liberal traditions and toward a more centrist approach.

CLINTON MOVES RIGHT

Clinton frustrated Republicans, especially his opponent in the 1996 election, Bob Dole, by moving in a rightward direction. His embrace of NAFTA and welfare reform stole Republican thunder and assured his reelection.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has existed since 1948 but a controversial 1994 agreement was far-reaching in its commitment to free trade. The 1994 GATT agreement called into being the World Trade Organization (1995), which has served as a global trade referee committed to reducing barriers to trade. The issues of globalization and free trade have inspired vocal protests.

Opponents of the World Trade Organization have noted that the wealthy countries of the world have benefitted from new trade rules far more than the developing countries have. Some cite the inclusion of intellectual property in WTO rules as damaging to the developing world. The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) (1994), critics argue, made it more difficult for developing countries to gain access to new medicines and technologies. Subsequent WTO talks at Doha, Qatar (2001), called for a loosening of patent regulations so that developing countries could gain access to essential medicines.

Challenges to Globalization

President Clinton's embrace of NAFTA was part of a broader push toward the removal of trade barriers. Proponents of globalization argue that the elimination of trade barriers will lower prices of products and stimulate the global economy. However, the movement toward free trade has generated much debate. Labor organizations argue that eliminating trade barriers will lead to the loss of American manufacturing jobs as jobs gravitate toward countries where the going wages are the lowest. Also, environmentalists worry that free trade treaties will prevent the participating countries from enacting strong environmental protections. These opponents came together in Seattle, Washington, in November 1999 to protest at a meeting of the World Trade Organization, an international body charged with reducing trade barriers.

Changes in the Welfare System

In 1996, Bill Clinton adopted one of the planks of the Republican "Contract with America" by ending welfare as a federal program and shifting its administration to the state level. Clinton's embrace of welfare reform shocked many liberal Democrats. The Democratic Party had pushed for federal entitlement programs since the New Deal of President Roosevelt in the 1930s. Clinton perceived that many Americans were growing weary of programs that cost taxpayers money and did not seem to lessen poverty. Some Americans argued that welfare fostered a sense of dependency among recipients of welfare payments and stifled individual initiative. The reform required welfare recipients to begin work after two years—a stipulation known as "workfare."

argued for deregulation of major industries, including financial firms, and have resisted calls for increased government oversight. Republicans have argued that excessive regulation impedes risk-taking, competition, and economic growth. Democrats, on the other hand, argue that regulation is necessary to check reckless behavior on the part of the financial industry and to protect the economy from rapid fluctuations that can result from crises in the financial sector.

The Savings and Loan Crisis and Bailout

The issue of deregulation of the financial sector came into stark relief in the 1980s with the near collapse of the savings and loan industry. In the 1980s, the nation's savings and loans associations suffered from a spate of irresponsible and risky investments and a downturn in the housing market. Their situation was made worse by the deregulation of the industry in 1980. Legislation widened the options for S&Ls to invest their financial holdings, paving the way for riskier speculative investments. By 1989, more than 700 S&Ls had become insolvent. In response to this crisis, President George H. W. Bush signed a bailout bill that extended billions of dollars to the industry. Taxpayers ultimately paid more than \$120 billion for the bailout. Some economists believe that the bailout of the S&L industry created a moral hazard for other lenders—that is, it created a situation in which actors are more willing to take risks knowing that the potential costs of such risks will be borne by others. Thus, these economists see a connection between the S&L crisis and the subprime mortgage crisis of 2007.

C. ENERGY POLICY, CONSUMPTION, AND THE LIMITS TO GROWTH

A series of developments have generated debates in the United States around energy use and policy. Ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and overwhelming evidence of long-term climate change have generated concern about continued reliance on fossil fuels. In addition, many Americans have become increasingly concerned about the overall impact on the environment of mass consumption.

Climate Change and Energy Policy

Americans are by far the largest consumers of energy. In the aftermath of the Arab oil embargo of 1973 and the energy crisis that followed the 1979 Iranian Revolution, some American policymakers began to look for ways for the United States to reduce its consumption of energy (see Period 8). This push toward a reduction in energy consumption has been augmented in recent decades by growing concerns over climate change.

Since the early 1980s, scientists have become aware of a trend toward warmer global temperatures. Some became convinced that this warming trend was caused by trapped greenhouse gasses, which, in turn were caused by human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels. In the 1990s and 2000s, a virtual consensus emerged in the scientific community around the connection between global warming and the emissions generated by the burning of fossil fuels. Calls were made to limit the human activities that were linked to global warming. The 1992 “Earth Summit” in Brazil led to the adoption by most of the countries in the world of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol sets binding obligations on industrialized countries to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses. The United States signed, but did not ratify the protocol. Global climate change has generated debate in the United States between those who would like to see limits

A. IMMIGRATION AND THE GROWTH OF THE “SUN BELT”

Since 1980, there has been a significant shift in the population toward the states of the South and the West. The growth of these regions was partly the result of increased immigration from Latin America and Asia.

Changing Demographics in the United States

An important factor in the growth of the Southwestern states has been increased immigration from Latin America. After passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, immigration, especially from Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, increased significantly. Although the act added limits for migration from the Western Hemisphere for the first time, overall the impact of the act and of illegal immigration into the United States from within the Western Hemisphere have dramatically altered the demographics of the United States. Before the act, immigration accounted for less than 10 percent of population growth into the United States. Currently it accounts for approximately a third of population growth. For the thirty-five years before the act was passed, approximately 5 million immigrants came into the United States; in the 1970s alone, that number was 4.5 million, rising to more than 7 million in the 1980s, and more than 9 million in the 1990s.

Growth of the “Sun Belt”

The states of the “sun belt”—notably California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, and Florida—have seen remarkable growth. This trend can be seen as early as World War II when defense-related industries attracted large numbers of workers. Affordable air conditioning also played a role in attracting migrants from within the United States. Florida has become a prime destination for retirees from colder parts of the United States. Immigration from Latin America accounts for much of the growth of the region. Many immigrants have been drawn to agricultural work in California and to the cities of the sun belt. The political power of the South and the West has grown significantly since 1980. This has generally augured well for the Republican Party as national politics have come to reflect the more conservative views of those in the West and South. As a result of the most recent census (2010), Arizona, Nevada, South Carolina, Georgia, and Utah, each gained one member of Congress; Texas added four seats; and Florida added two. By contrast, some of the more liberal states of the Midwest and Northeast lost power in Congress. Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, each lost a House seat; New York and Ohio lost two seats each.

B. DEBATES AROUND IMMIGRATION REFORM

From the 1970s to the present, immigration into the United States has increased dramatically, increasing the size of the United States workforce, while also leading to intense political, economic, and social debates.

The Changing Ethnic Makeup of the United States

As the percentage of the American population composed of Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and Latin American immigrants and their children has grown, the percentage of the American population composed of non-Hispanic whites has declined—from 75 percent of the overall U.S. population in 1990 to just over 63 percent in 2011. It is estimated that by the

The Gay Rights Movements and Changing Public Perceptions

The gay rights movement grew in intensity after the Stonewall riots of 1969 (see Period 8). The growth and development of the movement, coupled with a strong conservative backlash against gay rights and public acceptance of homosexuality, has shaped debates around gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender identity, acceptance, and rights.

The AIDS Crisis

The gay community faced a major health crisis in the 1980s that brought into stark relief the public divide around homosexuality. Starting in 1981, news reports began to appear about a mysterious disease that seemed to disproportionately affect gay men, causing anxiety and sorrow in the gay community, but also resolve and action. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified the disease that would become known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in 1981. Soon it also found that the cause of the disease was infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), present in bodily fluids such as semen and blood. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government body within the United States Department of Health and Human Services, was slow to acknowledge and address the crisis. It was not until 1987 that NIH established a committee to research the impact of HIV.

AIDS swept through gay communities in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and elsewhere. On the one hand, AIDS became a lightning rod in the culture wars of the 1980s and beyond. Many Christian fundamentalists saw AIDS as God's punishment for those who practiced sinful behavior. On the other hand, the crisis galvanized the gay community and led to an outpouring of both grief and activism. The group ACT-UP popularized the slogan "silence = death," and staged militant protests in New York and San Francisco. In 1987, ACT-UP staged a "funeral" on Wall Street in New York, with participants lying in the street as deceased persons with AIDS—suggesting that this would be the rapid fate of millions of people if more resources were not devoted to research and treatment.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

The armed forces of the United States have historically discriminated against gays serving in the military. In 1982, the Department of Defense issued a policy which stated that, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service." In the following years, gay and lesbian members of the military, and those excluded from the military, began a campaign to change the military's policy. The Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project was founded in 1988. Finally, in 1994, the military implemented a policy that allowed gay and lesbian members of the military to serve, as long as they remained "closeted," keeping their sexual identity hidden from public view. Advocates for gays and lesbians insisted that the policy, called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," was discriminatory and that it limited the freedom of speech and expression of gay and lesbian members of the military. The policy was repealed by an act of Congress, signed by President Obama in 2011.

Same-sex Marriage

Perhaps the clearest indicator of the rapid changes in societal attitudes toward homosexuality can be seen in the changing legal status of marriage between same-sex couples. Although gay rights proponents have long demanded that the right to legally marry be extended to same-sex couples, the issue became part of the national dialogue in 1993, when the Hawaii

It is very difficult to debate the legacy of the very recent past. One topic that historians have begun to wrestle with is the origins of the toxic partisan atmosphere in Washington, DC. Some historians look to the impeachment process against President Clinton as a turning point in recent political history. The Republican-initiated inquest went beyond the usual jockeying between parties and made compromise between the parties increasingly difficult. Historians also note the unusual closeness of the two major parties in recent elections and in opinion polls. Both parties always feel like victory is in reach and seek to press any advantage they can to win points with the electorate. Future historians will have to put the election of the nation's first African-American president in a larger context.

Name: _____

Period: _____

PERIOD 9

Political and Foreign Policy Adjustments in a Globalized World

1. What factors contributed to the resurgence of conservatism? _____

2. Why was there a decline of public trust? _____

3. What was stagflation? _____
4. What is meant by "Whip Inflation Now"? _____
5. What is OPEC? What happened in the 1970's? _____

6. What happened at Three Mile Island? _____

7. What were the Foreign policy failures of the 1970's? _____

8. What were the Camp David Accords? _____

9. Describe the Iranian Hostage Crisis: _____

10. What is the Panama Agreement of 1977? _____

11. What is the New Right? _____

12. Describe the case Roe v. Wade: _____

13. What was the moral majority? _____

14. List the achievements and limits to the Conservative Domestic Agenda: _____

15. Describe the Election of Ronald Reagan: _____

16. What are Reaganomics? _____

17. What was the "Contract With America"? _____

18. Define impeachment: _____

19. What was Bill Clinton impeached? Describe the proceedings and outcome. _____

20. What happened during the Election of 2000? _____

21. What was "No Child Left Behind"? _____

22. Describe the Tea Party Movement: _____

23. Why do Republicans want to reduce big government? _____

24. How did Medicare and Medicaid expand? _____

25. What contributed to the growth of the deficit? _____

26. How did the Cold War end? _____

27. What was the Reagan Doctrine? _____

28. What was the Iran-Contra Affair? _____

29. Describe the Persian Gulf War: _____

30. Somalia: _____

31. Haiti: _____

32. Yugoslavia: _____

33. The Middle East: _____

34. What was the Bush Doctrine? _____

35. What did Obama do in regard to relations with the Muslim world? _____

36. What happened on 9/11? _____

37. Describe the War with Iraq: _____

38. What was the Patriot Act? _____

39. Describe the Department of Homeland Security: _____

40. What tactics were used in the War on Terror? _____

41. U.S. and Economics: _____

42. What is the income gap? _____

43. What is meant by deindustrialization of America? _____

44. Why was there a decline of Union membership? _____

45. Describe NAFTA and the push towards free trade: _____

46. What is GATT? _____

47. What changes were made in the welfare system? _____

48. Describe the path to Healthcare Reform: _____

49. What was the debate over Social Security? _____

50. What was the Savings and Loan bailout? _____

51. What is the debate over climate change? _____

52. How have demographics in the U.S. changed? What is the Sun Belt? _____

53. What are the debates about immigration? _____

54. What are the debates about identity? _____

55. The Aids Crisis: _____

56. Don't Ask, Don't Tell: _____
