

Chapter 40: The Resurgence of Conservatism, 1981-1992

You should be able to:

1. describe the rise of Reagan and the new right in the 1980s, including the controversies it generated over social issues
2. explain the Reagan revolution in economic policy and indicate its immediate and long term consequences
3. describe the revival of the Cold War in Reagan's first term, and Reagan's increased willingness to negotiate with Soviet leader Gorbachev in his second term
4. discuss the American entanglement in Central American and Middle Eastern troubles, including the Iran Contra affair
5. analyze the growing power of the religious right in politics, and the impact of issues like abortion and affirmation on the Supreme Court
6. describe the end of the Cold War, and the results for American society abroad and at home
7. explain America's growing involvement in the Middle East, including the First Persian Gulf War and its aftermath

Define:

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| 1. neoconservatives | 5. welfare state |
| 2. supply side | 6. leveraged buy out |
| 3. red ink | 7. logistics |
| 4. oligarchs | |

Answer:

1. What caused the rise of Reagan and the new right in the eighties, and how did their conservative movement re-shape American politics?
2. What were the goals of Reagan's supply side economic policies, and what were their short term and long term effects?
3. What led to the revival of the Cold War in the early 1980s and how did Reagan turn the conflict with the Soviet Union to American advantage?
4. Describe the major changes affecting American foreign policy from 1980 to 1992 in Central America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Which of these changes occurred as a result of American policy and which occurred primarily as a result of developments within those regions?
5. Some historians have compared the Reagan revolution with the New Deal because of the way it seemed to transform radically American economics and politics. Is this a valid comparison? Is it correct to see the Reagan legacy as a reversal or overturning of the New Deal and the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson?
6. To what extent were American policies responsible for the overthrow of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in 1989-1991?
7. Was the first Persian Gulf War fundamentally based on America's Wilsonian foreign policy of promoting democracy, liberty, and self determination for small nations, or was it primarily a defense of national self interest, e.g., in protecting oil supplies and strengthening America's allies in the Middle East. Supply evidence to support your answer.