

Week 6 Distance Learning

US History

1970s- 9/11/01



Learning Goals:

1. I can explain the political concerns that emerge in the 20th/21st Century.
2. I can explain the economic concerns that emerge in the 20th/21st Century.
3. I can explain the social concerns that emerge in the 20th/21st Century.
4. I can identify the trade agreements the US enters into in the 20th/21st century and their functions.
5. I can assess the effects of foreign and domestic terrorism on the American people over the last 20 years.

Dear Students,

In this packet you will find:

- an article about the presidencies of Ford, Carter and Regan
- a chart on the presidencies of Ford, Carter, Regan.
- An article on 9/11
- Questions on the article about 9/11

You will use the articles provided, your workbooks, online textbook (if you have access to it), and any other course materials you have to help you complete the chart and the questions.

If you are printing, this packet from home, you only need to turn in the vocabulary page and the question page. So, you do not need to print the entire packet if you are able to read the article on an electronic device. You can answer the questions on notebook paper, by writing on these pages provided, or by typing in this or another word document.

You may turn this work in the following ways:

- Photo of your hand written work to your teacher via Remind, email, or Focus
- Typed in word document of your work to your teacher via Remind, email, or Focus
- Printed or hand written hard copy to the school.

We hope you are staying healthy! We miss you!

Sincerely, Coach Read, and Ms. Sears

The Presidencies of Ford, Carter, and Regan

Compiled from Khan Academy.

Directions: As you read the information below, fill in the chart on Ford, Carter, and Regan.

Gerald Ford:

On August 8, 1974 Nixon resigned rather than face impeachment. His successor, Gerald Ford, immediately pardoned Nixon for all crimes, discovered and undiscovered. Ford became the first and only person to have served as both vice president and president of the United States without having been elected to either office. Ford's connection with the disgraced Nixon ensured that he would not be elected to a second term.

The presidency of Jimmy Carter

- Democrat Jimmy Carter served as president of the United States from 1977 to 1981.
- Carter was unable to solve most of the problems plaguing the country during his administration, including an ailing economy and a continuing energy crisis.
- Although Carter brokered the historic **Camp David Accords** between Israel and Egypt, relations with the Middle East broke down after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Iranian extremists seized the American embassy in Tehran and held 52 American hostages captive there for over a year.

The election of Jimmy Carter

The election of 1976 fell on the bicentennial of the United States, but few people felt much like celebrating. The economy was in bad shape, and the [Watergate](#) scandal had eroded Americans' trust in their elected officials. Incumbent president Gerald Ford, who had ascended to the highest office in the land after Nixon's resignation, had little chance of retaining his position given his association with the disgraced ex-president.¹

Into this bleak political landscape stepped **James Earl "Jimmy" Carter Jr.**, former peanut farmer and governor of Georgia. Carter was such a long shot at the start of the race that when he told his mother he planned to run for president, she asked, "President of what?" But strategic victories in early primaries led Carter to win the 1976 Democratic nomination, along with running mate Walter Mondale.

Carter campaigned as a Washington outsider, a pious and forthright man who promised voters that he would never lie to them. His message resonated just enough to put him in office by a narrow margin, 50.1% of the popular vote to Ford's 48%.

The Carter years (1977-1981)

Carter, as a breath of fresh air after the Nixon and Ford years, enjoyed an initial burst of popularity in 1977, but his ratings slipped as it became increasingly clear that Carter was unwilling to work with Washington to achieve results. He surrounded himself with advisers from his native Georgia and refused to delegate any authority whatsoever: in the first six months of his presidency Carter even personally reviewed requests for use of the White House tennis court.

Carter crafted legislation packages concerning crucial fixes to the energy crisis and the economy in secret, and then rained them down upon an increasingly hostile Congress. As a fiscal conservative, he alienated the liberal wing of the Democratic party by refusing to spend much money to invigorate the economy or to fund social programs. He alienated conservatives by pardoning some 10,000 [Vietnam War](#) draft evaders, negotiating the return of control of the Panama Canal to Panama, resuming diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and halting the construction of new nuclear weapons.

The economy [continued to slump](#) in the late 1970s. Inflation soared to a staggering 13% and gas shortages once again plagued the country after violence erupted in the Middle East. After cloistering himself with advisers for days in summer 1979 in order to determine a solution to these woes, Carter emerged offering nothing more than a highly-critical speech that blamed Americans for causing the present 'malaise' through a loss of moral virtue.

Foreign policy and the Iran Hostage Crisis

As a president deeply committed to human rights around the world, Carter achieved some victories in international relations. Significantly, Carter brought Israel's Menachem Begin and Egypt's Anwar Sadat together at the presidential retreat in Maryland to negotiate the **Camp David Accords**, which stipulated that Egypt would recognize the state of Israel in return for regaining control of the Sinai peninsula.

But elsewhere, things took a turn for the worse. US-Soviet relations, which seemed on the verge of a breakthrough when Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev announced their agreement to a second **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II)**, broke down yet again when the USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Consequently, the US Senate never ratified SALT II, and the United States even boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Middle East rapidly destabilized in January 1979 when followers of **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** overthrew Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, the shah of Iran. The shah had been installed as dictator with the help of the CIA in 1953, and Khomeini's Muslim fundamentalist followers sought to purge Iran of secular, Western influences.

In November 1979, Iranian militants seized the US Embassy in Tehran, taking 66 Americans hostage. They demanded that the United States return the shah (who had fled to New York for medical treatment) and his assets to Iran and issue an apology. Though 14 hostages were released within a few months of the siege, negotiations to free the 52 others dragged on for over a year. A complex rescue attempt failed, killing eight American soldiers in a helicopter crash. Finally, the United States agreed to pay the captors nearly \$8 billion to end the hostage crisis. To add insult to injury, Ayatollah Khomeini did not release the hostages until January 20, 1981: Ronald Reagan's inauguration day.

Republican challenger [Ronald Reagan](#) defeated Carter in the presidential election of 1980, making him the first elected president to be unseated by the American people since Herbert Hoover in 1932.

Although Carter's years in office were rocky, his post-presidential career as a diplomat and human-rights advocate earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

Ronald Reagan: Election and domestic policies

Overview

- Ronald Reagan, a conservative Republican, won the 1980 presidential election in a landslide. He won reelection in 1984 by one of the largest margins in US history.
- Reagan's campaign brought together a "**New Right**" coalition of economic conservatives, members of the Christian Right, working-class whites, and supporters of a more aggressive Cold War foreign policy.
- President Reagan initially engineered large tax cuts, but as deficits grew proposed select tax increases. Over the course of his presidency, inflation and unemployment fell, while the national debt nearly tripled.

The political career of Ronald Reagan

A two-term President (1981-1989), **Ronald Reagan** headed one of the most successful coalitions of political conservatives in American history. Born in 1911 in northern Illinois, a graduate of Eureka College, Reagan was a Hollywood actor—and six-term head of the Screen Actors Guild—before taking up a job as spokesperson for General Electric Corporation in the 1950s.

Though he had been a liberal Democrat into his forties, Reagan became a free-market political conservative in the 1950s, and formally switched party affiliations to become a Republican in 1962. During his two terms as governor of California (1967-1975), Reagan was a vocal critic of the expansion of government.

In his 1980 campaign for the US presidency, Reagan promised to cut taxes, increase defense spending, promote deregulation, and balance the federal budget. Reagan also promised to end the double-digit inflation that characterized [Jimmy Carter's presidency](#), and restore both Americans' faith in their country and America's status in the world. "Let's make America great again," the candidate and his campaign posters declared.

Reagan also addressed key concerns of the **Religious Right**. He called for a “return to spiritual values” as a means of strengthening traditional families and communities, advocated a Constitutional amendment to ban abortion, and another Constitutional amendment to permit organized prayer in public schools.

President Reagan earned the nickname “**The Great Communicator**” for his plain-spoken, self-effacing, and humorous manner of public speaking. In both his first and second terms he exuded an upbeat optimism about the nation’s domestic and international future, an attitude captured in both of his inaugural addresses as well as in his 1984 reelection campaign television commercial, “**Morning in America.**”

Reaganomics

President Reagan’s supply-side economic policies, often called **Reaganomics**, set out to grow the economy by cutting taxes and deregulating some industries. Supply-side economics depended on the idea that corporations and wealthy individuals would reinvest the money they saved by paying lower taxes to build businesses, create jobs, boost profits, and spur economic growth. In Reagan’s first year in office he engineered a three-stage 25 percent income tax reduction. In the **Tax Reform Act of 1986**, the top marginal rate (the tax paid by the highest income earners) was lowered to 28 percent.

Reagan often said that "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem," and memorably quipped: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help." In practice, however, Reagan was more moderate than his language let on. He cut taxes when possible, but aggregate tax receipts during his presidency remained similar to those of his more liberal predecessors.

Although Democrats blocked many of his efforts to limit government expenditures through cuts to social welfare programs, Reagan succeeded in making cuts to spending on food stamps, low-income housing, and school lunch programs. He also reduced the percentage of federal expenditures on education and promoted the transfer of some federal control and expenditures to state governments.

Ronald Reagan: Foreign policy

- In foreign policy, President Reagan sought to assert American power in the world. He denounced the Soviet Union as an “evil empire,” and authorized the largest military buildup in US history.
- Reagan's administration funded anti-communist “**freedom fighters**” in Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua, and elsewhere in order to effect a rollback of worldwide communist influence.
- Despite Reagan's strong stance against communism, US-Soviet relations warmed during Reagan’s second term. In 1987 Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the first-ever nuclear arms reduction treaty. By the end of Reagan's second term the **Cold War** was coming to an end.
- President Reagan’s second term was roiled by the **Iran-Contra affair**, in which the Reagan administration secretly sold weapons to Iran and used money from the sale to covertly fund the Contras, a group opposed to the government of Nicaragua.

The Iran-Contra affair

- In the **Iran-Contra affair**, the Reagan administration secretly sold weapons to Iran to effect the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.
- Money from the Iran weapons-sale then was used to fund the Contras, a group of guerrilla “freedom fighters” opposed to the Marxist government of Nicaragua.
- Both the sale of arms to Iran and the military aid to the Contras were illegal, and Colonel Oliver North and others in the president’s administration were dismissed and charged with breaking the law.

Emergence of the AIDS crisis

- The disease **AIDS** (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) first appeared in the early 1980s, and rapidly became an epidemic among homosexual men. Intravenous drug users who shared needles, blood transfusion patients, and women with infected sexual partners were also at risk of contracting AIDS.

- Activists, particularly in the gay community, responded by creating care and education centers, and by calling for increased government funding to help in the crisis. Though the US government at first did little to respond to the crisis, it eventually committed millions of dollars to research, care, and public education.
- Fear of contracting the disease and discrimination against those with AIDS persisted throughout the 1980s and 1990s, even though the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ruled out the possibility of transmitting AIDS through casual contact in 1983.
- AIDS deaths increased throughout the decade. In 1986, 12,000 Americans died of AIDS. By 1988, that figure had grown to 20,000. AIDS also proved deadly in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

	Ford	Carter	Reagan
Election Significance			
Foreign Policy			
Domestic Policy			
Scandals/Controversies			

Name: _____ Class: _____

9/11/2001

By Mike Kubic
2017

In this article, Mike Kubic, a former correspondent for Newsweek, discusses the infamous attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. As you read, identify the effects of the terrorist attacks on American society.

- [1] The deadliest terrorist attack on the world's foremost superpower got underway at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, according to "The 9/11 Commission Report" by The National Commission on the Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.¹ The countdown started when two Arab men boarded a flight from Portland, Maine to Boston. They were followers of Osama Bin Laden — a Saudi Arabian millionaire and religious zealot who founded the extremist Islamic organization al-Qaeda.

Upon arrival at Logan International Airport, they and three other members of an al-Qaeda boarded the 7:45 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 bound for Los Angeles. At the same airport, five other al-Qaeda terrorists checked in for the 8 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175, also bound for Los Angeles.



"The north face of Two World Trade Center (south tower) immediately after being struck by United Airlines Flight 175" by Robert J. Fisch is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

In the meantime, another five al-Qaeda conspirators² were waiting at the Dulles Airport outside Washington, D.C. to board a third plane bound for Los Angeles, the 7:15 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77. And shortly after 8 a.m., four more members of al-Qaeda's crusade against Western "infidels"³ departed for San Francisco — in their case, aboard United Airlines Flight 93 flying from the Newark airport in New Jersey.

So, on that early morning there were 19 suicidal terrorists in the air. They were ready to destroy some of America's most critical targets by crashing four airliners carrying nearly 300 passengers and crews, loaded in total with 11,400 gallons of highly flammable jet fuel.

- [5] The long-planned, almost flawlessly executed mayhem started at 8:14 a.m. when the hijackers aboard American Airlines Flight 11 used knives and box cutters to subdue the flight attendants, kill the captain and co-pilot, and have one of the assailants take over the controls of the plane.

1. a report called for by the U.S. Congress to reveal why the attacks were possible and what the U.S. government needed to do to prevent future attacks
 2. **Conspirator (noun):** a person that takes part in a secret plan
 3. Infidel is the term al-Qaeda uses to refer to a person that does not believe in Islam.

All of the al-Qaeda hijackers followed the same plan. The terrorists used mace and pepper spray to force the first-class passengers to move to the rear of the plane. With the exception of United Airlines Flight 93, they apparently managed to keep control of all the passengers by slashing and beating some of them while telling others that there was “a bomb” aboard the plane, but that they wouldn’t be harmed if they remained seated.

Three of the Los Angeles-bound planes under the direction of the half-trained hijackers abruptly changed their course toward New York City and Washington D.C., and with the throttles advanced to the maximum power they struck their targets. At 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 rammed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Minutes later, American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower. Shortly after 9:35 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77 dove into the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, some of the 33 passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 received alarming phone calls from friends and relatives about the carnage⁴ in the skies. They chose to fight when their plane was hijacked 35,000 feet above eastern Ohio. At 9:57 a.m., they stormed the cockpit and the pilot plunged the plane into the ground. They crashed outside Shanksville, a small community in Pennsylvania. Thus, the passengers of Flight 93 stopped the plane from reaching the terrorists’ intended target — likely the White House or Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The carnage wrought by the 19 suicidal conspirators set a new record for terrorism. In less than two hours, a total of 2,977 people lost their lives. The vast majority who died were civilian office workers, but the toll also included 383 enormously brave first responders who rushed into the burning Twin Towers to rescue the victims. The fires fed by the jet fuel were so fierce, they melted even metal.

America’s Response to the Attacks

- [10] The human and economic costs of the attacks were horrendous. As of August 2016, six out of every 10 dead bodies in the twin Towers had not been identified. They were either completely burned or so disfigured that their names could not be established with certainty.

Thousands of other New Yorkers, and the victims of the attack on the Pentagon, still suffer from their injuries. The damage to buildings ran into billions of dollars. 15 years after 9/11, the construction of three new World Trade Towers was still far from finished.

And throughout the shocked Western World, governments took unprecedented⁵ measures to prevent more terrorist atrocities.

Air travel across the United States and Canada was almost completely suspended for three days; from coast to coast, communities, sports clubs, and other organizations cancelled or postponed events that could attract large crowds and offer targets for terrorists. Similar precautions were taken by some European countries. In the United Kingdom, for instance, civilian aircraft were forbidden from flying over London for several days after the attack.

The U.S. government was reorganized and put on emergency footing. The Congress created a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tasked with a huge mission: preventing terrorism disasters, and managing border security, immigration, customs, and cybersecurity.

4. **Carnage** (*noun*): the killing of a large number of people

5. **Unprecedented** (*adjective*): never done before

- [15] Within 10 years, DHS became the government's third largest component, with 240,000 employees and a budget of \$98.8 billion. Judging by the number of attempted or completed terrorist incidents in Europe, Americans became safer than many of their European counterparts as a result of these investments.

The attacks launched America's "War on Terror," declared by President George W. Bush the day after 9/11 as he stood atop the smoldering ruins of the Twin Towers. The brunt of this War on Terror was carried out by special U.S. military units and the CIA. While there were some initial setbacks, these groups eventually found success tracking down and eliminating the planners of the attacks, along with other rising terrorists.

For the CIA, Afghanistan was a familiar part of the Middle East. During the 1980s, when the country was at war against an occupation by the Soviet Red Army, CIA helped fund the native "mujahedeen"⁶ through the Pakistan intelligence services and a program known as Operation Cyclone. It was a successful operation — the Red Army was forced to leave Afghanistan in 1989 — but some critics charged that the CIA-supplied weapons also fell into the hands of al-Qaeda, and thereby aided the terrorists.

The allegations were vehemently⁷ disputed by American officials and reporters who had covered the war, and were forgotten two decades later when special CIA and U.S. military units returned to Afghanistan to try to capture bin Ladin. After some initial setbacks — including his escape from Afghanistan — the hunt on al-Qaeda was joined by other Western nations and performed brilliantly by tracking down, and eliminating, most of the planners of the attacks and many other terrorists.

The crowning triumph of these operations was a May 2011 helicopter-launched raid on Bin Laden's secret hideout in Abbottabad, a town near the capital of Pakistan and close to a major training base of the Pakistani army. The mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks was shot dead by an elite unit of U.S. Navy SEALs.

- [20] But, in the way of all wars, the fight against terrorism spawned⁸ unintended consequences. For one thing, al-Qaeda and other extremist Islamist groups proved to have deep roots. Crushed in their original haunts in the Middle East and unable to repeat their attacks on the U.S., many terrorists have moved their operations to Western Europe where they attacked British, French, German, and Spanish civilians.

Worst of all, the U.S. crusade on terror led to large-scale invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. The U.S. wars in these two countries severely destabilized a region that has not known stability since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I.

The resulting upheavals of the past decade inflamed⁹ divisions among ethnic and religious groups in Iraq, led to bloody Civil War in Syria, and unleashed a dramatic emergence of the anti-Western group called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).¹⁰ The Civil War in Syria and carnage in ISIL-controlled territories of Iraq and Syria resulted in a massive flight of Muslim refugees to Europe.

6. Afghanistan soldiers that wanted to remove the Soviet Union, who were given weapons by the United States

7. **Vehement (adjective):** showing strong feeling; forceful, passionate, or intense

8. **Spawn (verb):** to create

9. **Inflame (verb):** to provoke or intensify

10. also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

Aside from creating the DHS, Congress passed only one other major anti-terrorism law. The USA Patriot Act of 2001 was a far-reaching act with what many saw as a justifiable purpose: to enable the nation's protectors to trace patterns of behavior that could help identify potential enemies within the country and predict terrorist activities.

America's security agencies now had the ability to collect and process massive amounts of information about every individual in the United States.

- [25] But when leaked documents revealed the full extent of security agencies collecting massive amounts of private information from citizens, outrage forced Congress to act. When the Patriot Act expired in 2015, the new USA Freedom Act placed restrictions on agencies' access to private information and erected barriers protecting citizens' privacy. It still allowed surveillance, but within limits.

In the wake of the attacks, one thing that exemplified the best qualities of America was a call from many Americans for religious tolerance in the face of rising prejudice and Islamophobia. One week after 9/11, President Bush called on the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., and assured the gathering that the United States knows the difference between terrorists and good citizens.

"America counts millions of Muslims amongst our citizens," he said, "and Muslims make an incredibly valuable contribution to our country. [They] are doctors, lawyers, law professors, members of the military, entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, moms and dads. And they need to be treated with respect. In our anger and emotion, our fellow Americans must treat each other with respect."

The feeling is still seen today. As the sister of one of the victims of 9/11 attack wrote in the Washington Post, a "murderous act does not justify discrimination against people based on race, religion or nationality. It does not justify banning refugees and immigrants. These cruel actions may not be done in my name, or in the name of my dead brother."

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9/11/2001

<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/9-11-2001>

1. Why are the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 considered “infamous”?
2. Who was Osama Bin Laden?
3. Why is Al-Qaeda considered a terrorist organization?
4. How many “suicidal terrorists” were in the air on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001? How many airplanes were hijacked to attempt to orchestrate this attack?
5. What was the goal of the terrorists in this attack?
6. Why was Al-Qaeda targeting the US?
7. What was the hijackers plan to take over the planes? What types of weapons did they use? How might this relate to current rules in place for screening passengers at airports?
8. The LA bound planes changed course and attack what landmarks? How did they attack these landmarks? What was the result?
9. What happened on United Airlines flight 93?
10. Explain the human cost and economic costs of the attacks.
11. When and why was the Department of Homeland Security created? What is the purpose of this agency?
12. Describe Operation Cyclone. How is it related to these terrorist attacks? Why did American officials dispute this relationship?
13. Describe the unintended consequences of the US War on Terror.
14. Why did this cause a massive Muslim flight of refugees to Europe?
15. What were the criticisms of the Patriot Act? How were these corrected?