

Ch. 39 Reading Guide: The Resurgence of Conservatism (pg. 933-954)

Learning Targets

Target #1: I can identify and describe examples of the continuation of social/civil reforms into the 21st century, examples of conservative response to 1960s and 1970s radicalism, American attempts to maintain world power status into the 21st century, and examples of economic and societal change as a result of a more globalized and technological world.

Target #2: I can analyze how mid-20th century economic and social/civil reforms maintained strength into the 21st century as well as brought about a wave of government conservatism in the late 20th century, America addressed its superpower status abroad following the Cold War, and the effects of a more globalized and technological world on America's economy and workforce.

Big Ideas:

- 1980 Presidential candidate, Ronald Reagan, offered up a new form of conservatism to Americans in response to the political, social, and economic turmoil seen in previous decades.
- Following the stagflation of the 1970s, "Reaganomics" attempted to restore stability to America's economy through tax cuts.
- Reagan, in his quest to win the Cold War, dramatically increased military spending at the expense of the numerous social programs passed by his predecessors.
- Although the Cold War ended between the U.S. and USSR, America was not without foreign concerns in its goal to maintain superpower status.

Prediction Statement (50 words or less): What is one prediction you have about what you will learn based on the big ideas above?

Key Questions:

The Election of Ronald Reagan, 1980 + The Reagan Revolution (pg. 933-936)

Know: Ronald Reagan, "New Right" conservatism, "big govt.," welfare state

1. What conservative ideals did Ronald Reagan run under in the Election of 1984?
(consider both foreign & domestic)

2. What economic concerns did Reagan and his fellow conservatives have about government spending dating back to the days of FDR?

3. How did Reagan intend to solve these concerns?

The Battle of the Budget (pg. 936-937)

Know: supply-side economics (Reaganomics)

4. Briefly explain how Reagan's tax cuts would benefit the American economy (...at least in theory).

5. What realm of govt. spending did Reagan actually increase during his time as President...AND...how was this contradictory to his initial platform?

<p><u>Reagan Renews the Cold War (pg. 937-938)</u> Know: Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars”) 6. Briefly explain Reagan’s strategy to “winning” the Cold War.</p>	
<p><u>Round Two for Reagan (pg. 938-940)</u> Know: Mikhail Gorbachev, glasnost, perestroika 7. Under Gorbachev’s guidance, how had the USSR changed from its early days?</p>	
<p><u>The Iran-Contra Imbroglio (pg. 940-942)</u> 8. Why was the Iran-Contra a political blunder for President Reagan?</p>	
<p><u>Reagan’s Economic Legacy (pg. 942)</u> Know: “Reaganomics” 9. Despite the issue of an extremely imbalanced budget and huge deficit, how was this indirect failure actually a success to Reagan’s initial goals?</p>	
<p><u>Conservatism in the Courts (pg. 945-946)</u> 10. In what ways did the Supreme Court wave its “conservative colors” in the 1980s and 1990s? (Support with examples)</p>	
<p><u>The Persian Gulf Crisis (pg. 950-952)</u> Know: Operation Desert Storm 11. What concerns/possibilities led the U.S. (and numerous other nations) to respond with force to Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990?</p>	

Summary Exit Ticket:

Argumentation: Who Ended the Cold War?

Excerpt #1: Margaret Thatcher, former British prime minister, 1995

“There was one vital factor in the ending of the Cold War: Ronald Reagan’s decision to go ahead with the Strategic Defense Initiative... That was a completely different level of defense. It required enormous computer capability, which he knew at the time the Soviet Union could not match. And that was the end of the arms race as we had been pursuing it”

Excerpt #2: Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet premier, 1995

“If you accept that reforms in the Soviet Union started under the pressure from the West, particularly as a result of the implementation of SDI, that would distort the real picture and offer the wrong lesson for the future...The first impulses for reform were in the Soviet Union itself, in our society which could no longer tolerate the lack of freedom, where no one could speak out or choose their own party or select their own creed...This was the decisive factor, not SDI.”

Respond to the following prompt on U.S. foreign policy in the Cold War era.

Prompt: *Evaluate the extent to which President Ronald Reagan brought about the end of the Cold War.*

Be sure to include a “qualifier” (large extent, some extent, no extent) and support your argument with specific historical examples.
