

IBHOA/APUSH – Modern Society and Politics

(Period 9: 1980-present)

Note to Students – all items marked with an asterisk are directly related to the State of Georgia EOC in U.S. History.*

The 1980s – when most of your parents were in high school

Conservative politics returns – Goldwater (mid-60s), Nixon (early 70s), Reagan

The Reagan Presidency (R) 1980-1988 – background, outsider status, ends Iran Hostage Crisis*

Domestic Agenda/Events

- Conservative Movement expands – the “Reagan Revolution”, the New Right
- the “Moral Majority” – religious fundamentalism meets politics – Jerry Falwell/Christian coalition
- Reaganomics* – supply side economics – tax breaks for the wealthy and big business – to create jobs, “trickle down”
- Air Traffic controller strike 1981, Reagan fires 11,000
- Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 1986

Social Trends 1980s

- Yuppies/AIDS Crisis/War on Drugs – Nancy Reagan
- Music/fashion – punk/New Wave, emergence of rap/hip hop culture, color, big hair

Foreign Policy

- Evil Empire/Defense spending/SDI (Star Wars)
- Mikhail Gorbachev – glasnost, perestroika
- **Iran-Contra Scandal** – sold arms to Iran to fund an anti-communist revolution in Nicaragua, testimony of Oliver North
- *Collapse of Soviet Union – end of the Cold War – Reagan and Bush

The George H.W. Bush Presidency (R) 1988-1992

- Berlin Wall and the *Collapse of Soviet Union – end of the Cold War
- Persian Gulf War vs. Iraq in Kuwait – Saddam Hussein
- “Read my lips, no new taxes”

The 1990s

The Clinton Presidency (D) 1992-2000

- Election of 1992 – Clinton’s characteristics, character

Domestic Agenda/Events

- Health Care Reform – HRC appt’d – delayed/obstructed by Repubs in Congress
- World Trade Center bombing Feb 1993
- The Republican Revolution of 1994 – Rep majorities elected in House and Senate – “contract with America” – led by conservatives – Newt Gingrich (GA)
- Oklahoma City bombing April 1995
- Women Firsts – Janet Reno/Ruth Bader Ginsburg/Madeline Albright
- “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” – sexual orientation issues and the military

Foreign Policy/Events

- NAFTA – with Canada and Mexico
- Trouble Spots – Somalia, Bosnia – eastern Europe, Iraq – Saddam Hussein
- Clinton recognizes Vietnam
- Chemical weapons banned – Congress supports
- Embassy bombings – Kenya, Tanzania

2nd Term

- *Impeachment Dec. 1998 – Monica Lewinsky scandal, on trial for perjury and obstruction of justice, acquitted by the Senate
- Balanced budget for first time in 30+ years – budget surplus, leaves a strong economy
- VP Al Gore – Dem. nominee for President 2000 election

The 1990s – Social/Economics Trends and Events

- Racial tensions – Rodney King 1991, the verdict in the trial of OJ Simpson 1995
- *new technological developments – personal computer, the Internet, social media – 1990s – effects on modern society
- Music/fashion trends – grunge, hip hop

The 2000s

The George W. Bush Presidency (R) 2000-2008

2000 Election vs. Al Gore

- Role of the press – Recount controversies – Supreme Court decision

*September 11, 2001 – attacks on NYC and Washington D.C.

- Creation of the Department of Homeland Security
- USA Patriot Act

*“War on Terror” – Iraq – “weapons of mass destruction” – Operation Iraqi Freedom

- Death of Saddam Hussein 2006
- *“War on Terror” extends to Afghanistan – Operation Enduring Freedom vs. the Taliban

No Child Left Behind Act 2001

Federal response to Hurricane Katrina 2005

Economic Bubbles – technology/real estate – bank/Insurance economic crisis 2007-2008 – the “bailout”

***The Election of 2008 and the Obama Administration (D) 2008-2016**

- *Barack Obama defeats John McCain *Significance of election
- Reaction to the Election
 - Congressional Obstruction of Obama’s policies – Republican opposition
 - “Tea Party” conservatism
 - Veiled racism – “birther” controversies
- Affordable Care Act 2010 – Supreme Court ruling on ACA
- Death of Osama bin Laden 2011
- Social trends – the “graying” of the baby boomers, redefining sexual identity, *hazards of social media in politics, education, pop culture