

AP United States History

Domestic Issues of 1970s and 1980s Introduction

- Rise of Nuclear Energy
 - Americans seek alternative to fossil fuels like coal and oil
 - Uranium produces significantly less greenhouse gasses, although nuclear waste
 - Though major accidents, like Three-Mile Island, Chernobyl, cause long-lasting damage
- Title IX — 1972
 - Prohibits gender discrimination in such areas as sports and right to enroll in classes
 - Means that colleges had to fund women sports equally as men
- Changing the Constitution
 - Equal Rights Amendment almost passes but southern states block it
 - Demonstrates how federal government takes role in cementing civil rights against state action
 - Continuity over 20th century since populism and progressivism
- Phyllis Schlafly
 - National leader of the conservative movement since publishing of her 1964 best-selling book, *A Choice not an Echo*
 - Leader of pro-family movement since 1972, opposed the ERA
- Roe v. Wade
 - Rules that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (*Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by Fourteenth Amendment
 - Decision gives woman total autonomy over pregnancy during 1st trimester and defined different levels of state interest for 2nd + 3rd trimesters
- Bakke Case
 - No Racial quotas in college admission
 - Reverse discrimination case brought by a white student who claimed he did not get in against black student with worse scores
- Moral Majority: New Right
 - US political action group composed of conservative fundamentalist Christians

- Reverend Jerry Falwell mobilized religious conservatives
- Reaganomics and Tax Cuts
 - Trickle-Down Economics (Supply-Side Economics)
 - Lower taxes for the wealthy and big corporations
 - Falsely believes that economic growth at top leads to creation of more jobs and money to the poor
- Smaller Federal Government
 - Conservative beliefs regarding the need for traditional social values and reduced role for federal government advances in US politics in 1980s
- Milton Friedman
 - Economist who inspired Reagan's opposition to Keynesian economics
 - Friedman was an advisor to republic US President Ronald Reagan
 - His political philosophy extolled the virtues of a free market economic system with minimal intervention
- Deindustrialization
 - Most industry leaving American and loss of union membership
 - Leads to an urban decline
 - Cheaper labor overseas, decline in the Rust Belt, and capital flight in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago
- Inner City Decline
 - Crack Cocaine epidemic hits many cities
 - AIDS, extreme poverty, long sentences for drug offenders leads to War on Drugs
- Reagan and Supreme Court
 - Appointment of 3 conservative justices to the Supreme Court
 - O'Connor, Scalia