U.S. Politics: 1980-2000 Review

1. What crisis did Reagan “walk into” when he became president?

The Hostage Crisis where 66 Americans were taken hostage from the embassy in Iran.

2. What was Reagan’s platform for running for president?

A reduced role in the Federal Government and less social programs. He believed in strengthening the defense of the country and took a hard stance against the Soviet Union.

3. What did he believe was the key to America’s financial recovery?

The belief that individual initiative was the key to their success.

**4.** What term did Reagan use to describe the Soviet Union?

The Evil Empire

5. Why was Reagan called “the Great Communicator?”

Because of his ability to convey his ideas to the people.

**6.** What was supply-side economics?

The belief that steep tax cuts would encourage more saving and investments.

**7.** What was another name for this economic philosophy?

Trickle Down Prosperity

**8.** Why was it called this?

It was believed that if those more wealthy prospered then they would create more jobs for those in the working class.

**9.** What did this economic philosophy end up being called?

Reaganomics

**10.** What was a down side to Reagan’s economic policy?

He built up a massive deficit.

11. What else did he do to try and stimulate the economy?

He deregulated on the transportation and banking industries and cut programs that he thought were government waste.

12. What fears did Reagan inadvertently foster through his aggressive defense policies?

People had increased fears of a nuclear conflict.

**13.** What program did Reagan try to develop?

The Strategic Defense Initiative, also called Star Wars.

14. What did Reagan do to stop further encroachment of communism into central America?

He sent troops into Grenada to stop Cuban backed communist revolts.

**15.** What was the Iran-Contra Affair?

In 1984 and 1985, nine Americans in Lebanon were taken hostage by captors loyal to Iran.

**16.** What did President Reagan do that normally wasn’t done in situations such as this?

The U.S. negotiated with terrorists.

17. What controversial measure did he do?

He secretly provided weapons to Iran to fight its war with Iraq in exchange for hostages.

18. What discovery made the situation even more controversial?

Arms were being supplied to the Contras in Nicaragua to fight socialism.

**19.** What was Ronald Regan’s challenge to Mikel Gorbachev?

If you seek peace and prosperity, Tear down this wall!

20. How did Gorbachev respond to Regan’s influence?

He rewrote outdated policies that granted increased individual rights and addressed the countries economic policies.

**21.** What ultimately happened to East Germany?

In 1989, the communist government was overthrown and the wall was torn down.

**22.** Who won the election of 1988?

George Bush

23. What platform did Bush use to win?

He promised to continue the conservative movement.

24. What background did George Bush have that made him a good candidate for foreign affairs?

He was a former CIA chief and UN Ambassador to China making him well versed in foreign policy.

**25.** What ultimately came back to haunt him?

He pledged not to increase taxes, but did.

26. What is meant by the term downsizing?

The trend that began under George Bush where companies tried to fight inflation by cutting the number of workers in their companies.

**27.** What trade agreement did President Bush support?

North American Free Trade Act or NAFTA

28. What did NAFTA propose?

Eventually getting rid of tariffs and others barriers between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

**29.** What did Saddam Hussein do to gain oil revenue after his country’s oil fields were devastated by war?

He invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait.

**30.** What was United Nations response to this invasion?

An embargo on Iraqi oil.

31. What is an embargo?

Banning the sale or purchase of.

32. What did the U.S. do in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

It sent in 500,00 troops to take the country back.

**33.** Who won the presidential election in 1992?

Bill Clinton

**34.** What contributed to Clinton’s win?

Ross Perot running as a third party candidate, taking votes from Bush.

35. What did Clinton mean when he said he was a “new Democrat?”

He did not take on all of the traditional Democrat views. Clinton supported traditionally Republican views such as success being based on self initiative and welfare reform.

**36.** What was one of Clinton’s promises made right after becoming president

He promised affordable health care for every working American

**37.** Who did he appoint to oversee health care reform?

His wife, Hillary Clinton

38. What was her proposed solution for health care?

A giant government controlled medical system.

39. What happened to her proposed plan?

Congressional Republicans shot it down saying that it would limit health care choices.

**40.** What was the result of Clinton’s humiliating health care defeat and large tax increase?

The Republicans won both the House and the Senate

41. What did the Republicans promise the American people?

That they would restore the government to the way it was under Reagan.

42. What happened when the Republicans vetoed Clinton’s budget?

Public opinion favored Clinton leading to Republican defeat.

**43.** What was Clinton’s welfare reform bill?

It placed restrictions on AFDC and food stamps. It also placed limitations on how length of time you could be on welfare and offered incentives for working.

44. What did Clinton do that ended up getting him impeached?

He lied about an inappropriate relationship he had with an intern.

**45.** What was the result of the impeachment proceedings?

The House of Representatives impeached him, but the Senate acquitted him allowing him to finish out his term in office?

**46.** Who ran in the 2000 election?

George W. Bush and Al Gore

47. Who won the election?

George Bush by the most narrow margin in history.

**48.** What was George W. Bush’s presidential platform?

That he would embrace a policy of “Compassionate Conservatism”