

Chapter 31: From the “Age of Limits” to the Age of Reagan

Overview

As president, Gerald Ford worked to heal the wounds of Watergate and restore respect for the presidency. His pardon of Richard Nixon was probably the most controversial act of his caretaker period in office. Jimmy Carter turned out to be a more effective campaigner than president. His administration was marked by an inability to set a tone of leadership. He made no significant strides toward solving the energy crisis and took only halting steps toward his goal of making the federal government more efficient. His last year in office was dominated by the Iranian hostage crisis, which at first boosted his popularity but later may have cost him another term. An upsurge in conservatism came from demographic shifts to the Sunbelt, the activism of the Christian right, the ideology of the neoconservatives, and effective tactics by right-wing organizers.

Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election by riding this conservative crest and by exploiting deep-seated feelings of resentment over America's seeming weakness abroad. Congress quickly passed his supply-side economics plan of tax reductions and spending cuts, but a year later, the nation was mired in recession. However, the downturn proved brief and with the return of prosperity, Reagan won easy reelection.

Vocabulary Terms

Gerald Ford	Election of 1976	Jimmy Carter
Camp David Accords	Iranian Revolution	Sunbelt Politics
Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan	Sagebrush Rebellion	Evangelical Christianity
Moral Majority	Christian Coalition	New Right
Ronald Reagan	Tax Revolt	Election of 1980
Reagan Revolution	Neo-Conservatives	Reagonomics
Recession of 1982	National Debt	Reagan Doctrine
“Star Wars” Strategic Defense Initiative	Grenada	El Salvador
Sandanistas	Beirut Bombing, 1983	Terrorism
Election of 1984	Mikhail Gorbachev's <i>Perestroika</i>	Tiananmen Square
Savings and Loan Crisis	Iran-Contra Scandal	Election of 1988
George Bush	Recession of 1990	Gulf War
Election of 1992	Ross Perot	

Focus Questions

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper AFTER you have finished reading the chapter. DO NOT simply Google the questions. This will not aid you in your understanding of the text, reading strategies, or long-term comprehension. Include and **highlight** the vocabulary terms.

1. How did the presidencies of Ford and Carter fail to restore confidence in the government?
2. What issues were addressed by the New Left?
3. Did a Reagan Revolution take place?
4. Analyze the domestic and foreign policies of president Reagan

Reading Notes

As you read, write AT LEAST 5 important facts from the section referenced on the left. All vocabulary terms used should be highlighted. If multiple sections are combined, make sure facts and terms are included for both sections.

The Ford Custodianship	
The Trials of Jimmy Carter	
Human Rights and National Interests	

The Year of Hostages	
The Sunbelt and Its Politics	
Religious Politics	

The New Right

The Tax Revolt

The Campaign of
1980

The Reagan
Coalition

<p>Reagan in the White House</p> <p>“Supply-Side” Economics</p>	
<p>The Fiscal Crisis</p>	
<p>Reagan and the World</p>	

The Election of
1984

The Fall of the
Soviet Union

Reagan and
Gorbachev

The Fading of the
Reagan
Revolution

<p>The Election of 1988</p> <p>The Bush Presidency</p>	
<p>The First Gulf War</p>	
<p>The Election of 1992</p>	